

St Mary the Virgin Bocking

Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Walks series, circular walks around Bocking.

Walk No2 Panfield and out toward Rayne

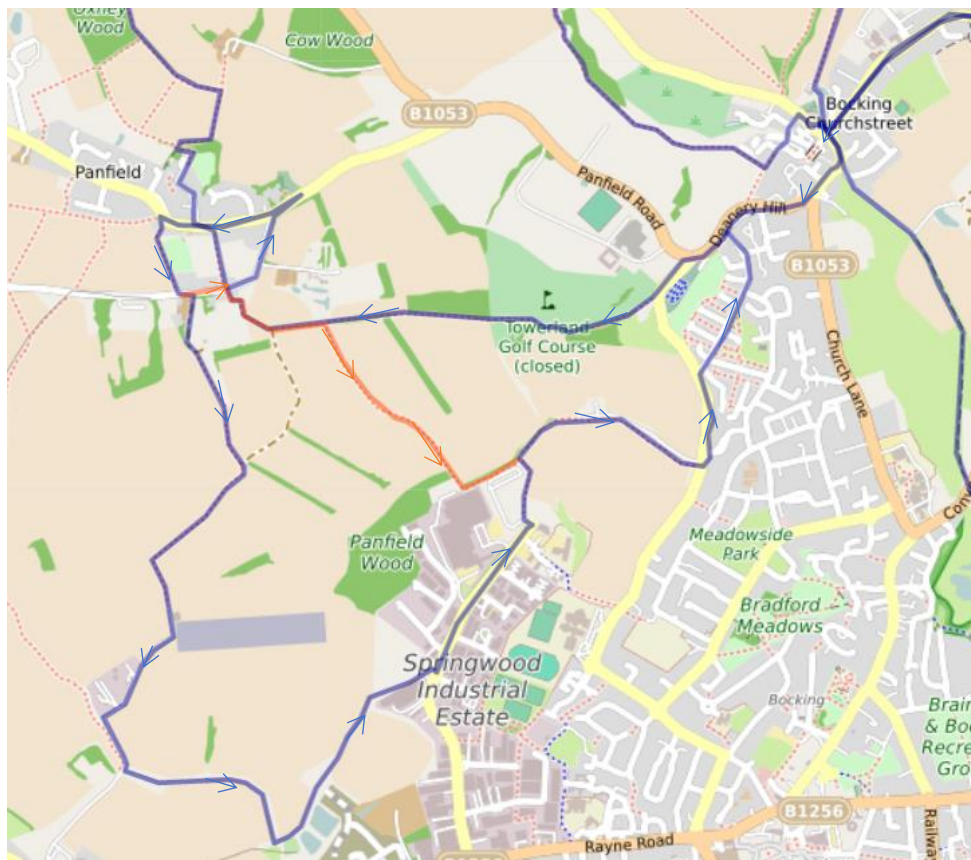
Distance 8 miles, 2 ½-3 hours of comfortable easy-going walking, with wide vista's near to Rayne Hall Farm Airfield.

Description: Countryside circular walk on footpaths, tracks and a short section of road walking at the beginning and end. Footpaths can be muddy, wear clothing and footwear suitable for the weather. Follow the countryside code (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>), stay on the paths and keep dogs on a lead, as you may encounter livestock and some of the abundant wildlife.

Start and finish at St Mary the Virgin Bocking. The Church is normally open and is well worth a look inside. Any donations help to preserve the fabric and character of this wonderful building, are much appreciated. Refreshments can be found at the Retreat public house and in the Coop in Church Street, at start and finish, there is the Bell Public house in Panfield. Toilets are available in the church hall if open, or in the Retreat if you are a customer. Public transport is the 38 bus which stops by the church and links with Braintree town centre and for the nearby railway station, also toward Halstead.

Sights: St Marys Bocking, and St Mary's and St Christopher Panfield, distant views of All Saints Rayne, Rayne airstrip, wide views with Bocking Post \Mill in the distance. There is abundant wildlife (see Bocking and beyond on Facebook for some wonderful pictures) for Bocking Windmill (<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/bockingwindmill/>)

Map : Alternative short cut back shown in orange.



Start: St Mary's church, proceed from the church gate down Church Street towards Kings Bridge and continue up past the New Deanery care home, cross the road at the junction Deanery Hill, passing on the right the current Deanery and on the left the now famous (Beth Shriever Olympic champion) BMX track. At the Junction cross the road ,Panfield Lane, and follow a short stretch of road walk along Panfield lane to the footpath by the houses.

Take the footpath and follow it between initial gardens and then a woodland edge with the now disused golf course. The golf course and equestrian centre is now zoned for housing.



You pass a pond on the right.



Follow the path there are signs which indicate that wandering onto the old golf course is not permitted.



The path exits the edge of the golf course and follows the field edge with woodland edge on the right-hand side.



Head straight on toward the shelter belt of trees in the distance. Follow the path through the gap and continue along the field edge. As you leave the wooded edge you can see views of Panfield Hall on the right.



The path crosses the farm track and heads diagonally across the field through the crop.



Through this gap in the hedge and follows in between paddocks and hedges is quite narrow and then opens out to exit onto to a quiet lane, Hall Lane.



You can take a breather on the bench, head right down the lane (Hall Road) which shortly joins a larger lane heading into Panfield, if you wish to visit the church you need to turn right at the junction a short walk the church is on the left, then re-trace your steps.

To continue the walk, turn right and follow Church End passed the Bell public house.



A short walk passed the pub brings you to a fingerpost indicating to footpaths, you'll first notice a well trimmed tree behind the fingerpost.



Take path 21 between the houses and opens out onto a field finally ending at a return to Hall Lane. Turn left at this junction and you will see a fingerpost indicating a bridleway which if you are continuing on the main walk you take.

If you wish to take the shorter route follow Hall Lane further along to return to the path by the bench and retrace your steps along the outward path to a point where you saw Panfield Hall , which is now on your left, you will come to the farm track and hedge line crossing point.



Take the farm track / path now on the right, this path heads towards the buildings of the Springfield Industrial Estate in the distance. You re-join the main walk at the Industrial estate, as you pass by the back of the recycling centre.

Back to the main walk.

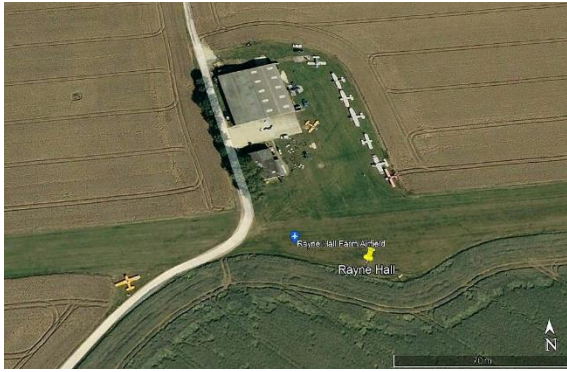


Take the Bridleway and head towards the open country, follow the way-markers, and stick to the path other farm tracks are clearly marked as private property. As you head out into farm land the views open up, with Skylarks for entertainment.



Follow the blue Bridleway markers.

The Bridleway turns 90 degrees south towards Rayne Hall Farm Airstrip, follow the path which goes close to the buildings and crosses the runway so watch out of planes!



The bridleway is now a concrete farm track and heads towards Pods Brook passing the waste water treatment plant on your left.



The path heads for the gap in the trees and crosses Pods Brook, immediately across the bridge take the path on the left and follow the course of Pods Brook.



Pods Brook to your left and if you turn round, which you should do often on any walk, you catch a view of All Saints Rayne passed the trees.

Continue to follow Pods Brook until you come to a foot bridge over the stream, take this bridge and then follow the path which almost immediately passes through the hedge line, to continue between the fields and new housing.



The path continues, between first housing on the right and the field edge through trees on the right, until you meet the Industrial units of the Springfield Estate. This part of the path suffers from abundant littering so watch your step. There is also graffiti on the buildings, sadly not by Banksy. There is a short pavement walk along Springfield Road towards the recycling centre, make your way along the entrance roadway to the recycling centre to pick up the footpath on your right. Follow the path with a small stream on your left with the recycling centre further to the left behind fencing. The path opens out on to what is now farm land, however this is zoned for housing. To the left the short cut path is joined by our path with views over open country.



Follow the field edge path used frequently by dog walkers, the view over the River Pant valley is quite pleasant. You pass some farm buildings and the start of a track down to Panfield lane.



At the Farm buildings take a moment to take in the view across Bocking set in the Pant Blackwater valley and pick out the Bocking Wind Mill in the distance.



Continue along the path which runs along side the farm track to Panfield Lane. Turn left at Panfield Lane and pavement walk until you reach Churchill Road, follow Churchill road to Deanery Hill and retrace your steps this time down Deanery Hill to Kings Bridge and St Mary's Bocking and the walks end.