

THE PINES AND THE PONDS WALK

Walk Overview

Distance: 1.5 miles (2.4km)

Time: 1-1.3 hours

Description: Heading in a South Easterly direction passing heathland, pines and ponds, including the ruins of the old ice pit which used to serve Chilston Manor.



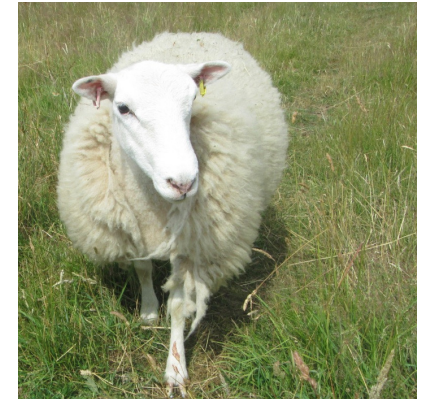
1. The gates to the ponds



2. The ponds once used for ice



3. The old ice pit for the manor



4. Sheep grazing



5. The gate from the ponds



6. Gate to Lenham Heath Rd

WALKS OF THE WISFUL THINKER NO. 1

Chilston Ponds once formed part of the main entrance to Chilston Park (Chilston House is now a hotel) and dates back to the 18th century. Ancient oaks still survive in this historic parkland. The remains of the Ice House, once used to keep food fresh for the main house, can also be seen. The pond that was used to gather the ice is home today to a wide range of insects, plant life and Great Crested Newts. The grassland is being grazed by sheep and cattle, which will help to restore a range of wild flowers. Leaving The Wishful Thinker turn left and then immediately right in the direction of Boughton Malherbe onto Boughton Road, passing Home Farm on your right.

After approximately one hundred meters take the turn style on the left into Chilston Pines and Ponds. (If you are with a dog please keep on the lead as there may be sheep grazing) A conservation area. Follow the footpath down to the left passing the ponds on your right. You can continue past the ponds and the turnstyle under the Redwood pine tree, which was brought to England during the Victorian era.

Continue up the access road to see the ruins of the old ice pit dug deep into the hill on the left. This used to serve Chilston Manor with ice from the ponds. Return to the turn style now on your right, under the Redwood pine tree, and pass through the gate. Follow the footpath up and continue across the valley for approximately three hundred yards. Continue up for 400 yards and cross to the right in a north easterly direction. The conservation area finally funnels into a gate.

Curve around to the north west before this and follow the path back along beside the fence on your right by the railway line passing the pond to your left. After approximately 600 yards go through the lynch gate. This will bring you onto Lenham Heath Road. Turn left up the road and after approximately 400 yards you will arrive back to The Wishful Thinker.

WALKS OF THE WISFUL THINKER NO. 1

