



THE BORE PLACE WALKS

BORE PLACE TO BOUGH BEECH RESERVOIR



2 MILES (3.25KM)



EXPLOREKENT.ORG

LOCATION: Bore Place,
Chiddingstone, TN8 7AR

DISTANCE: 3.25km (with option
to extend by 2.5km)

TIME: allow 1.5 hours

EXPLORER MAP: 147

STILES AND GATES: several stiles,
squeeze gaps, gates, electric
fences

PARKING: Bore Place car park
(free)

REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:
the nearest pub is The
Wheatsheaf in Bough Beech

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: the nearest
train station is Penshurst. For
local bus and train services in
Kent, check out Kent Connected

STEP COUNT: 3,300

FARMING AND WILDLIFE AT BORE PLACE

Farming sustainably is at the heart of the Bore Place ethos. Since 2000, we have been certified as organic by the Soil Association. We have a strong commitment to protecting the environment and managing the woodlands, ponds, hedges and small unimproved grassland areas to enhance their value for wildlife as part of the whole farm plan. The farmland extends almost to Bough Beech Reservoir where it meets the nature reserve managed by Kent Wildlife Trust. Well-connected areas of good habitat encourage plants, fungi and animals to survive and thrive. This circular walk guides the keen wildlife watcher and enthusiast to some of the best local spots to see special species like the nightingale, as well as showing how Bore Place and Bough Beech link up in the landscape.



Sarah Medway

LOOK OUT FOR

- **Species-rich hedgerows**
- **Fallow deer**
- **Kingfishers**
- **Song of nightingales and cuckoos in spring**
- **Great crested grebes**
- **Wildflowers**

For other walks from Bore Place go to: www.boreplace.org/walks

WALK DESCRIPTION

Setting off from Bore Place car park and using the map and public footpath waymarkers to guide you, turn right and follow the farm track past the milking parlour, bearing round to the right and then straight ahead until you reach a large barn on the left where woodchip is stored. This is used to fuel the biomass boiler to heat Bore Place's hot water and buildings. Turn left here and head up onto a narrow wooded path which leads over a stile, through a squeeze gap and into a field with the wind turbine. Walk diagonally across the field keeping the turbine on the left and aiming for the stile at the edge of the wood beyond. Cross the stile and follow the right-hand edge of the field, leaving it at the far end. Pass out under some tall oak trees where you will be greeted by a great view

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 15 miles of species-rich hedgerows crisscrossing the farmland, 60 acres of managed woodlands, 29 ponds, as well as small wildflower meadows at Bore Place. These act as important refuges for rare and special plants and animals.

Bough Beech Reservoir, built in 1968, was created to help meet the water storage needs of the local water company, now Sutton and East Surrey Water. It is mostly filled with water abstracted from the River Eden.

The reservoir is recognised as a key breeding site for frogs, toads and the Great Crested Newt.



Selwyn Dennis

To facilitate the building of the reservoir, two beautiful and historic early 16th century buildings, Bayleaf and Winkhurst Farm, were removed and reconstructed at the Weald and Downland Living Museum. Bayleaf was once part of the Bore Place estate.



over Bough Beech Reservoir. Continue straight down the right-hand edge of the field, through a small metal gate, along a narrow sloping wooded path to the minor road at the bottom, after crossing another stile.

Take great care when crossing the road to reach the pavement on the other side and turn right to follow the path as it leads to a causeway with views of North Lake to the right and the shoreline of the main reservoir on the left. This is a good place to stop at all times of year to birdwatch, with over 150 species of birds being recorded here regularly. It's a famous site for ospreys passing by on migration in spring and autumn, and is also popular with flocks of winter visiting ducks, like wigeons.

Continue on to the far end of the causeway, and just beyond it look for the entrance to the KWT Bough Beech Education Centre on your left. At this point, you can choose to extend your walk by turning left down the driveway towards the centre to connect with two short circular nature trails. *For details go to the Kent Wildlife Trust At Bough Beech section.* Or to continue back to Bore Place, walk up the road with care for 175m looking for a gate in the hedge on the right signed by a footpath waymarker post. Cross into the field here and follow the right-hand edge of the field, cross over a small stream and continue up the slope on the other side, enjoying views of the wooded Greensand Ridge to the north and the reservoir to the south. Bear left on approaching the top of the field and look for a stile to cross on the right shortly after. Now turn right to head down the track, following it all the way back to Bore Place and the car park.

KENT WILDLIFE TRUST AT BOUGH BEECH

At the northern end of the reservoir lies the Kent Wildlife Trust education centre and 50-acre nature reserve. Reserves like this form an important part of the Trust's vision of a Living Landscape, where wild places are protected, restored and reconnected for the benefit of wildlife and people. The centre is a 19th century oast house. Here you can access bird hides and feeding stations, find out about wildlife on the reserve, and join two circular trails.

The Winkhurst Farm Trail (0.9km) and Nature Trail (2.5km) start and finish at the centre and are signposted by Kent Wildlife Trust and public footpath waymarkers. Both paths take in more views of the reservoir, ancient hedgerows, and hay meadows managed for wildflowers.

To find out about events and activities at Bough Beech please visit www.kentwildlife.org.uk

Please....

- Keep to the trails.
- Take litter home.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Don't touch electric fences.
- Walk single file through fields of long crops.
- Keep dogs under control. In fields with cattle or other livestock, please keep dogs on leads and walk well clear of the herds.
- Respect wildlife.

Please note that cars are parked at owners' risk.

The Commonwork Trust is not liable for theft or injury while walking the trails.



Bore Place Road,
Chiddingstone, Kent, TN8 7AR
01732 463255
www.boreplace.org

Home of the Commonwork Trust (reg. charity 1160725 & company 09254227)
& Commonwork Organic Farms Ltd (reg. company 1977080)

