

Photographs Malcolm Stuart

Historical details from Essex & Suffolk Water and Essex Record Office

Visitor Guide-- Essex Wildlife Trust

Walk devised by Malcolm Stuart & Jenny Sullivan. Layout by Patricia Stuart.

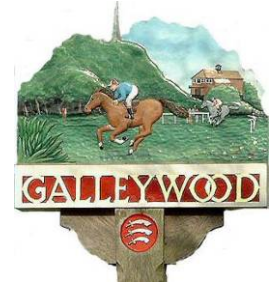
© Galleywood Parish Council, August 2009. E&OE.

Round Hanningfield Reservoir

15km (10miles) - 5hours. A long but rewarding walk to circumnavigate Hanningfield Reservoir.

Mapping: Galleywood Parish Footpaths Map.

OS Landranger™ 167



Start from the east end of Bakers Lane, (TL712 016). Limited space for car parking is available on the lane verges outside the industrial area.

Join **FP53** at the east end of Bakers Lane and walk north-east for 100 metres over a stile by Poolman's yard and through a kissing gate into a paddock to join **FP59** marked by a log section in the turf. Turn right onto **FP59** and cross the stile at the hedge marking the parish boundary and into the grounds of Gay Bowers Farm. From the stile the path continues straight ahead as West Hanningfield **FP4 (WH FP4)** alongside the old tennis court to join the farm approach drive at a marker post. Turn left and follow the drive for 40m to Gay Bowers Farm. The path continues on your right for a further 60m between Temple Grove and the farmhouse garden to a stile which brings you out into a paddock. Turn right at this stile and follow the eastern boundary of Temple Grove for 250m down to a stile. A field crossing marked by white topped posts takes you 150m to a field boundary corner where you bear right along the hedgerow and after 100m come out at the entrance to Little Peverals. Cross the approach drive and the path continues south-south-east along the side of Little Peverals grounds to a corner where a marked field crossing takes you 250m down to a bridge over a stream. The path continues up alongside the line of old hedge oaks for 250m to meet West Hanningfield Road at the junction with Hall Lane. Follow West Hanningfield Road south for 600m to Wantz Corner where it joins Ship Road. Cross Ship Road and join **WH FP16** at the start of a farm track. Follow the farm track for 200m to meet a copse and continue for a further 200m round the west side of the copse to come out onto Lower Stock Road opposite Slough House Farm. Turn left and follow Lower Stock Road for 450m to a triangular junction with Pynnings Farm Lane (turn left here if you want to visit the Three Compasses PH at West Hanningfield as it is only 100m off route).



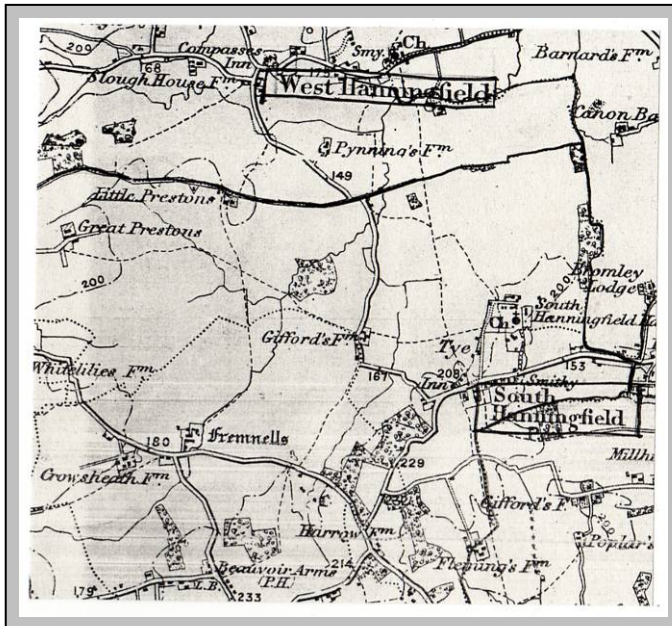
A Male Tufted Duck

Hanningfield Reservoir Nature Reserve gained SSSI status in 1996 because of its populations of Gadwell, Pochard, Shoveler, Teal, Tufted Duck and Shelduck

WALK
23

Turn right into Pynnings Farm Lane for 50m past two old cottages on your right, and join **WH FP33** (St Peter's Way) at a stile after the second cottage. St Peter's Way goes south-west for 700m to a field boundary where the path turns left and follows the west side of the hedge for 400m down to Seamans Lane. Turn right onto Seamans Lane (**WH BR46/Stock BR57**) and follow this for 300m to the junction with **Stock FP49**. Turn left onto **Stock FP49** which follows the west side of the reservoir but does not offer any views because of the tree shelter belt, **Stock FP49** goes south for 100m on a field crossing to a footbridge over a ditch and continues as a field crossing for a further 400m to another footbridge where the path turns right for 50m along the hedgerow to a junction with **Stock FP50**. Turn left here and **Stock FP49** continues along the hedgerow for 180m to a waymark post where the path turns right and continues west as a field crossing for 150m. At the end of this field crossing turn left and follow the hedgerow south for 150m to a bridge over a ditch. Cross the footbridge and bear left keeping close to the reservoir boundary fence for 350m until you come to an access gap into the reservoir tree shelter belt. Turn left through the gap onto **Stock FP51** which takes you for 350m through the woods to emerge at a sharp corner on Hawkswood Road. Waymarking through this wood is provided by Essex and Suffolk Water with white painted dots on the trees. Turn left at Hawkswood Road and walk uphill for 650m to pass the entrance drive of a large house called Fremnells. Continue for 300m to the start of the Fremnells Causeway across the southern end of Hanningfield Reservoir. Cross the 400m causeway and a further 100m on the left is the entrance to the Hanningfield Reservoir Visitors Centre and Nature Reserve. Go through the carpark to the Visitors Centre where you can pick up a visitor guide and make a voluntary contribution to the work of Essex Wildlife Trust. Access to the Nature Reserve is by the rear door of the Visitors Centre, near the toilets.

Using your visitor guide walk through the Nature Reserve for 2.2kms to the Fishing Lodge taking in the Lyster Hide, Chestnut Wood, Rawl Hide, Peninsular Wood and the edge of Lodge Bay where you will get a view of the Fishing Lodge ahead. At the Fishing Lodge you can get views of the reservoir and a good meal at the Café on the Water or picnic in the field by the car park but beware of the predatory geese. From the Fishing Lodge go up the access road for 300m to join South Hanningfield Road turning left and following the road past the Old Windmill PH to the junction with Middlemead. Turn left into Middlemead and follow it for 2.3km round the east side of the reservoir crossing the road to the east side where the pavement runs out at the start of the dam just before the entrance to the Middlemead Treatment Works. When you reach the middle of the straight section of Middlemead under the dam wall a metal gate gives access to **WH FP26** which takes you down 500m past a pumping station and up to meet Church Road. Bear left for 50m and cross at St Mary and St Edmund Church into Church Lane (**WH BR38**) going north past the churchyard for 250m to meet St Peter's Way. Turn left onto St Peter's Way for 70m then turn right as **WH FP38** continues north for 300m to meet Blind Lane. Turn left into Blind Lane for 400m to the top of the hill where **WH FP19** crosses the lane. Turn right onto **WH FP19** and follow it over four stiles down to a brook. Two footbridges take you over the brook and the path continues north along the hedge for 350m up to the start of a field crossing. Bear left and follow the field crossing for 200m up alongside the electricity pole route to the junction with **WH FP17**. Turn right onto **WH FP17** and go north for 250m to meet Tanfield Tye approach drive. Cross the drive and continue north for 200m down to a field boundary then keep straight ahead following the electricity poles for 250m to the hedge where you turn left towards Peveril Hall. After 100m at the boundary of Peveril Hall the path crosses to the north-east side of the hedge and continues for 150m along the Hall boundary to West Hanningfield Road. Turn left and follow the road for 500m to a sharp bend. Turn right onto **WH FP3** at the wide farm gates and follow this north-west for 450m to **FP57** on the Galleywood Parish boundary where you can get a good view of the village from the flint clad pillar "Church's View". Turn left onto **FP57** and walk south-west along the Parish boundary to Ecclesiastical Parish boundary stone No 4. **FP57** continues for 300m to meet **FP53** in a field corner. Turn left over a stile into a paddock to join **FP53** at a sunken log in the middle. Turn right and **FP53** takes you south-west for 100m through a kissing gate and over a stile and out onto Bakers Lane and back to your starting point.



Sandon Valley before the reservoir, based on the 1939 OS Map

The original Elizabethan Fremnells House at the SW end of the reservoir was demolished as part of the construction works in 1950. The sweeping oak staircase and oak panelling were removed and used in the construction of a new Fremnells just to the west

Other buildings demolished were Giffords Farm, Pynnings Farm and the Hamlet of Peadowns



The Fishing Lodge

Hanningfield Reservoir was constructed between 1950 and 1955 in the wide valley of Sandon Brook. It took 200 days to fill and became operational in August 1956 with the official opening on the 19th September 1957. The maximum depth is 55ft. and the length of perimeter 6 miles. 100% capacity is 26 billion litres and the lowest recorded level was in November 1996 at 39.2% capacity