

■ PLUMBEROW MOUNT

is owned by Rochford District Council and can be reached from Plumberow Avenue, Hockley. Immediately to the north is PLUMBEROW WOOD, a privately owned wood which, unusually for South-East Essex, is dominated by ash trees. A sixteenth century map shows the north of the wood existed in a landscape of small fields and broad hedges.

A footpath runs north-south along the western edge of Plumberow Wood, linking Lower Road, Hullbridge with MARYLANDS WOOD.

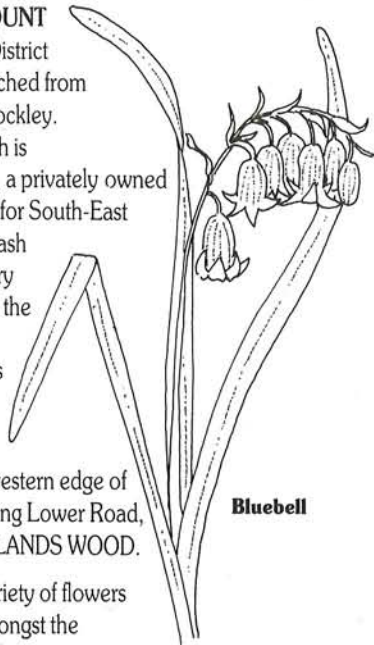
This wood has a rich variety of flowers with several orchids amongst the commoner woodland plants.

A further path branches west from this footpath at the corner of the playing field, across farmland towards and through CRABTREE and HOCKLEY-HALL Woods.

Surprisingly there are few crabtrees in these woods; Crabtree Wood is a fine bluebell wood in early summer.

The path continues through Hockley-Hall Wood, past scrub, horse pastures and nurseries before dividing. To the right or north the path continues to the thirteenth century Church of St Peter and St Paul Hockley; to the left the path goes along a broad grassy track eventually reaching a footbridge over the railway.

Many of the hedges in this area have fine pollarded oak trees, the largest, which is at least 250 years old, is just east of Hockley Church.



Bluebell

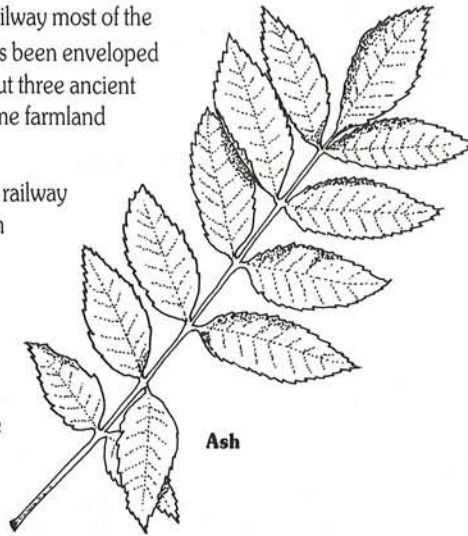


Butterfly Orchid

South of the railway most of the countryside has been enveloped by suburbia, but three ancient woods and some farmland survive.

Once over the railway bridge the path divides again.

Continuing straight ahead the path goes along the tree-lined lane into Folly Chase.



Ash

To the left it passes through HOCKLEY-HALL WOOD SOUTH and then from the south east corner of this wood cuts across farmland to FOLLY WOOD; the oaks in the centre of the field mark the line of the path, which then passes between the school playing field and Folly Wood into Manor Road, Hockley.

BETTS WOOD lies to the east of Folly Wood in the Betts Farm Estate. This ancient coppice woodland is owned by Rochford District Council and can be explored from Westminster Drive or Marlborough Walk. A small area of recent coppicing in the centre of the wood is surrounded by hornbeam with birch, cherry, oak and wild service trees.



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This leaflet is one of a series published by the South-east Essex Woodland Project. This project was established by Rochford and Castle Point District Councils and the Countryside Commission with the aims of helping land owners manage their woods, developing the educational use of woodland and increasing opportunities for woodland recreation. For further information contact the Woodland Project Officer, Council Offices, South Street, Rochford, Essex.

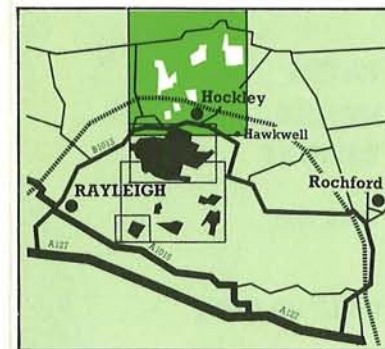
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WOODLAND WALKS

IN SOUTH-EAST ESSEX

PLUMBEROW

■ A WALK BETWEEN HOCKLEY AND HULLBRIDGE WITH FINE VIEWS OVER THE CROUCH VALLEY



ACCESS
FROM PLUMBEROW AVENUE, HOCKLEY FOLLY CHASE, HOCKLEY AND ST. PETER'S ROAD, HOCKLEY





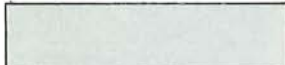
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PLUMBEROW

WALK TWO

FROM THE IRON AGE tumulus of Plumberow Mount there are fine views over a varied landscape. Plumberow Mount stands on a ridge of hills which run from Rayleigh to Ashingdon; to the north the ridge drops away steeply to the valley of the River Crouch; to the east recent woodland merges into the ancient Beckney Wood; to the south the ancient woods of Betts, Marylands and Folly, survive as relics of an older countryside amongst modern suburbia; to the west the large fields of the modern agricultural landscape are fringed by the ancient woodlands of Crabtree and Hockley-Hall Woods.

A network of footpaths crosses this landscape and provide an opportunity to view the surviving countryside. Some of these paths are muddy and may be difficult to walk in wet weather.

-  PATHS
-  HEDGES
-  RAILWAY
-  WOODS
-  BUILT UP AREA

