



Title: **Bocking**

Distance: 6 Miles

Time taken: 2½ hours

Location: 1½ miles north of Braintree

Parking: Outside St Mary's Church Hall, Bocking

OS Explorer Map: 195

Grid Ref.: TL 757 256

Transport: First in Essex Bus Number 132, half-hourly to Braintree Bus Station

Refreshment: High Garrett: The Hare and Hounds

Bocking: Church Street: The Rose & Crown, The Retreat

Walk Description

This is a simple, gentle walk through open farmland in the heart of Essex. The paths are clearly marked and well defined, and for most of the route you will be walking along well drained farm tracks wide enough for two people to walk side by side. The route is fairly flat although there are still some nice views to be enjoyed, and the countryside feels blissfully remote and quiet.

Bocking Churchstreet itself is lovely, with a ridiculously big and grand church, some elegant Victorian houses and many historic buildings dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Directions

A. From the car park (P), go north through some imposing gates into the grounds of Bocking Hall. Walk up the drive and turn right immediately past a fish pond (1) to walk along a narrow path leading into a field.

B. Go straight on across the field (2) until you approach a small lane (Fennes Road).

C. A couple of yards before the lane bear left to pass between the trees (3) into another field. There are plans to turn this sloping field into a wildflower meadow.

D. Walk diagonally up this field towards the north west corner. There is a concrete track running along the top. Bear left along this track heading north west (4).

E. After 300 yards you will see a small triangular copse to the right of the track. Turn right in front of the copse, leaving the concrete track and walking along a grassy path along the field edge (5).

F. Continue along this grassy path heading north for a little over half a mile, until hedge line curves slightly to the left. Follow the hedge round and walk along the wide grassy green lane you will see leading north from the corner of the field (6).

G. Continue along the lane to a T-junction. Turn left then right along a stony farm track, passing an open barn on your left (7).

H. Just past the barn you will come to the edge of a field. Turn right to walk around the field edge (8).

I. Continue around the edge of the field keeping the trees on your right until you come to the end of the woods. Turn right along a stony track (9).

J. Walk along this track alongside Bovingdon Wood for a quarter of a mile. The large wooded area ahead of you is Parkhall Wood. Where the woods meet, bear right along the track to pass between them (10).

K. Stay on the stony track beside Bovingdon Wood for 250 yards then continue ahead along the track with a hedge on your left. When you reach the facing hedge go through a gap and turn right along the bridleway (11).

L. Keep going along this path through Shoulder of Mutton Wood then along a lovely green lane to a T-junction. Turn left past an uncomfortable looking seat (12) and walk along the lane heading eastwards.

M. After 300 yards, continue eastwards over a staggered junction with the hedge on your left. Keep going until the track peters out. There is a hedge in front of you. Fork left to walk ahead with the hedge now on your right (13).

N. Continue eastwards along the field edge for a further 300 yards then follow the hedge line sharply round to the right then to the left (14).

O. As you reach the edge of the woods you will see a narrow enclosed path ahead of you (15). Walk south east along this until you come to the road.

P. Turn right along the road (High Garrett) and look for a footpath on the right 140 yards later opposite the MDS engineering works. The Hare and Hounds is about 125 yards further on down the road.

Q. Turn right along the footpath (16) and walk ahead along the field edge. Go through a gap in the facing hedge then turn right to walk around the field. Keep going until you are opposite the entrance point, then look for a wide gap in the hedge on the right with a farm track on the far side (17).

R. Walk along this track for 500 yards passing the steep grassy slope around the Hill and Black fishing lake on your left, then turn left beside a small parking area, still with the fishery on your left (18).

S. Walk south along an enclosed path, then along a field edge, then along a narrow path with trees either side (19). Go straight on over a footbridge and continue ahead into Bocking Churchstreet.

T. Turn right on Church Street and walk down the hill (20). To get a good sighting of Bocking Windmill take the enclosed footpath about 200 yards later on the left side of the road (beside some bungalows set back from the road), and follow it out into the fields.

U. Carry on down Church Street passing the Rose and Crown on the left. Better yet, go in. It's a lovely, unspoiled pub with a glorious beer garden, open all day and well worth a visit.

V. Continue down the road past The Retreat to the parking.

[ROUTE DIRECTIONS at www.essexwalks.com](http://www.essexwalks.com)

The ROUTE MAP and ROUTE PHOTOS **also** need to be downloaded and saved on your computer for printing.



The Route Map PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Description & Map](#)



The Route Photos PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Photos](#)

This route description is not meant to be used in **isolation**, it is one piece of a three part guide to the walk. The other two pieces are the route map, and the numbered photographs. The walks work best when the description, map and the photos PDF are printed off and used in conjunction with each other.

The numbers in brackets in the description refer to specific points along the route, marked with numbered symbols and these in turn are matched to illustrative photographs which show you the lie of the land.



These symbols are shown at strategic points along the route, overlaid on a 1:50K Ordnance Survey map: [Online OS Map at www.essexwalks.com](#).