



Title: The Centenary Circle - Springfield to Broomfield

Distance: 3¾ miles

Time taken: 1½ hours

Start Point: Outside Sainsbury's, Colchester Rd, Springfield

OS Explorer Map: 183

Grid Ref.: TL 733 086

Transport:

To Springfield: Buses 54,56 & 71 from Chelmsford Bus Station

From Broomfield: Buses 42,47 & 70 into Chelmsford

Refreshment: Sainsbury's

Walk Description

The first section of this walk goes through a housing estate in Springfield, but thereafter this is a rural route. Although there is some road walking it takes place on very quiet lanes, and the surrounding countryside is pleasant and open. The views of New Hall school add some historical interest along the way, and there is a long, wide bridleway to walk along, to provide shelter and some woody contrast to the field edge walking.

The stroll through a water meadow beside the Chelmer is surprisingly lovely, although our perceptions might have been influenced by that fact that we were walking through on the hottest day of 2011 (we sweltered through the entire route on one day), and the local 'water buffalo' were splashing around enjoying themselves in the water - we briefly thought about joining them...

Directions

- A.** From the corner of the A130 Colchester Road by Sainsbury's in Springfield, walk north west across the supermarket access road (1).
- B.** Cross the road bridge over the A138, using the pavement on the right hand side of the road. Walk past the entrance to New Hall and continue alongside the main road for a further 80 yards.
- C.** When the Centenary Circle was originally designed, the route continued along the side of the main road (A130) for a further 150 yards. Nowadays the route goes along the pavement slightly to the right, parallel to the main road, going between hedges for the first 50 yards, then along the edge of the Beaulieu housing estate before going back between hedges again for another 30 yards.

D. At this point the pavement slightly changes direction to the right, and if you look to the left you can see the old footpath coming in through the hedge from the A130, where the finger post once pointed to open fields before Beaulieu Park was built. Instead, follow the pavement north along the residential road, Frances Green (2).

E. After a little more than 100 yards, cross Frances Green to carry on walking north along the pavement across a grassy area and then continue beside the road again until the road turns hard right. At this point turn left along a passage between two brick walls towards Beaulieu Boulevard. Turn right to continue north along the pavement for 75 yards.

F. Bear left at the grassy roundabout to walk into Louvain Drive.

G. At far end of Louvain Drive, go straight ahead past another grassy roundabout into Braganza Way. Continue northwards for 170 yards, passing the junction with Fleetwood Square, until you come to the junction with Albemarle Link (3).

H. Continue along Braganza Way for a further 40 yards then take the pedestrian/cycle path leading to the right, between the houses. At the far end of this you will see the residential road continuing ahead, and a farm track slightly to the left. Cross onto the farm track.

I. Continue north for a few yards then turn right just before the Old Lodge Farm entrance to walk west along another track, with a wooden fence and the houses on your right (4).

J. Just past the houses bear left across a field then right to walk alongside the high wall heading west for 375 yards (5).

K. You will pass the entrance to New Hall School. Continue west for another 150 yards, now with a hedge on your left.

L. Walk past a house to a set of traffic lights on General's Lane, then turn left heading north (6).

M. 180 yards later go straight on past a turning on the left and an access road on the right, and continue along the lane. Go past the entrance to New Hall Farm on the left, then past a cottage. About 40 yards later, look for a footpath on the left over a footbridge and stile (7).

N. Walk west across the field and climb over the stile in the facing hedge, then continue west with a hedge on your left.

O. After almost half a mile you will come to a large gap in the hedge (8). Continue west but with the hedge now on your right, for a further 150 yards.

P. Walk straight ahead across the next field and through a gap in the facing hedge, then bear right towards the north west corner of a field, to the right of a pylon (9).

Q. Cross a stile onto a bridleway and resume a westerly direction, passing the pylon on your left (10).

R. Walk along the bridleway for about a third of a mile (you will pass a trig point after the first quarter of a mile), to the A130 Essex Regiment Way. Go straight across the road and along the green lane opposite (11).

S. At the far end of the green lane, turn left on Back Lane and head south for about 200 yards. Take the footpath off to the right through some trees (12), just past a weatherboarded building.

T. Walk along the footpath heading west and downhill, and cross a bridge into the water meadow beside the Chelmer (13).

U. Bear right and follow a line of bridges towards a road, then turn left over the road bridge beside Broomfield Mill (14).

V. Walk along Mill Lane, past a gate, for about 75 yards then turn left along an enclosed footpath heading south adjacent to Ladyhope House.

W. Turn right after 120 yards and cross a field. Go through the facing hedge and walk a few yards to the left, then turn right and cross the recreation field between football pitches towards Broomfield (15).

X. Continue west with a hedge on your right, passing to the right of a small pavilion building. Walk along an enclosed path between walls to the B1008 Main Road, where this section of the Centenary Circle ends.

Y. For The Angel, turn left to walk south along Main Road for about 100 yards.

[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](#).