



**Title:** Clavering

**Distance:** 8½ miles

**Time taken:** 3 hours

**Location:** 6 miles south west of Saffron Walden

**OS Explorer Map:** 195

**Grid Ref.:** TL 474 317

**Parking:** (Very limited) A small lay-by at Stortford Road, Clavering CB11 4PE, o/s Christian Centre (one car only)

**Bus:** No regular bus service

**Train:** No train service

**Refreshment:** Arkesden: Axe and Compasses (01799 550272) CB11 4EX

Wicken Bonhunt: Ananta (Thai Food Pub) (01799 543519) CB11 3UG

Clavering: Fox and Hounds (01799 550321) CB11 4QR

**PEAR Rating:** 

## Walk Description

This walk takes you through some of the prettiest parts of Essex. It's a circular route, with detours to four beautiful, ancient churches, most of which are open during the day. The paths are generally well signed and maintained, and the scenery is lovely: rolling hills, thatched cottages, ancient churchyards, open fields, hedgerows, and quiet lanes. This is a landscape at ease with itself. Little seems to have changed in the last 200 years except there are a few less hedges and some extra pylons. Wide farm tracks lead the eye over verdant meadows, the trees and hedges are full of blossom and birdsong, butterflies dance around the wild flowers at the field margins and larks sing their hearts out high above the fertile farmland.

There are two pubs and a Thai restaurant (maybe some things have changed over the years!) en route.

## Directions

**A.** From the lay-by (P), head 100 yards north to the B1038 junction. Turn left on Pelham Road for the church detour or right to continue the circular walk.(1).

**B.** Walk along the roadside towards Newport for 200 yards. You will see white railings on the left as the road crosses the River Stort. Turn hard left past the railings. 70 yards later, turn right into Colehills Close and immediately bear left along an enclosed byway (2). The byway goes uphill initially, then across open countryside for half a mile, to Stickling Green.

- C.** At the roadside, turn left, passing a thatched cottage on your right. 120 yards later turn right over a stile into a field, and head north with a hedge on your left (3).
- D.** Continue around the field edge and over another stile. 200 yards after the stile, the hedge and ditch on the left stops, there is a gap, and then another hedge and ditch begins. Cross to the other side of the hedge and continue north, now with the hedge on your right (4).
- E.** Keep going roughly northwards. After about 400 yards keep straight on over a footpath crossroads. You will pass some chestnut trees on the right, marking the grounds of Wood Hall. The only visible sign of the hall is the electricity wires (5).
- F.** Continue northwards ignoring the turning on the right. As you approach Arkesden you can see St Mary's Church across the fields ahead of you. Keep going north until you reach the roadside by Parsonage Farm Cottage, and turn left for the church detour or right to continue the circular walk. (6). **G.** From Parsonage Farm Cottage walk towards the Axe and Compasses with a low white fence on your left. Continue past the pub then 200 yards later, bear left over a weak bridge, along Wicken Road (7).
- H.** 75 yards later, turn left uphill along a small lane, marked with a No Through Road sign and fingerpost. Go past Hill Farm and Christiana when the lane becomes a grassy path. Follow the path eastwards up into the fields. 400 yards later, bear left with a fence on your right (8) and 250 yards after that, bear right by a waymarker, with a hedge on your left (9).
- I.** Continue along this path, passing through a small copse at one point. There are lovely views across the fields all along this stretch. After about half a mile you will pass under some electricity cables and 200 yards later, you will reach a T-junction with the M11 visible in the distance to your left. Turn right, away from the motorway (10). The fields on the left are owned by the Quendon Estate.
- J.** Head south with a hedge on your right for half a mile; then continue southwards along the track with a hedge now on your left, towards an open barn (11).
- K.** After the barn continue ahead into Wicken Bonhunt along a sunken track sloping downhill (12). You can see St Margaret's Church on your right. At the roadside, turn right, and turn hard right to go behind an old pub for the church detour, or go down towards the pub restaurant to continue the circular walk. (13).
- L.** Take the bridleway opposite the old Coach and Horses, now the Ananta Thai Restaurant, heading south up a gravelly then grassy track to the right of 'Greenacre'. After a quarter of a mile, turn right with a hedge on your right (14).
- M.** At the facing hedge turn left then go through a field entrance to continue ahead, now with the hedge on your left (15).
- N.** Continue beside the hedge for a quarter of a mile, then carry on southwards along a gravelly track through open fields, for another half a mile (16). Go straight on to the roadside, passing some tall trees on your left.
- O.** Turn right at Church End Farm, past the farmhouse (17). 250 yards later, turn right into All Saints Churchyard, Rickling (18). Go in through the porch for the church detour or stay on the path to continue the circular walk.

**P.** Go past the church tower towards the north west corner of the churchyard, climb over a stile and continue to the facing fence, then turn left over a second stile and head westwards towards Rickling Road with a hedge on your left. At the roadside, turn right.

**Q.** 200 yards later, turn left into a field and walk northwest towards the red-tiled roof of Orchard Farm (19) and cross a 3-plank bridge into some scrubland.

**R.** Getting through the scrubland is a bit of a trial, there are some saplings and brambles in the way and the path is not clear. But it's only 100 yards. Exit the scrubby area over another 3-planker (20).

**S.** Walk ahead with a hedge on your right for 110 yards ignoring the gap on the right half way along which leads towards Orchard Farm. At the footpath sign, turn right through a large field entrance to walk north for 150 yards with a hedge on your right (21).

**T.** At the facing hedge, near the farm greenhouses, turn left to walk westwards with a hedge on your right. Go through the facing hedge, past a trigonometrical point, into an open field. Continue straight ahead, passing about 60 yards to the north of a pylon (22).

**U.** About 200 yards past the pylon you will reach a field boundary. Ignore the clear path downhill to the right, and instead, bear very slightly left to cross the open field ahead, heading almost due west. The farmer clears a path but if it's not visible, use the single poplar tree in the middle distance to orientate yourself (23).

**V.** Continue ahead across another field towards a small copse and walk down the hill passing some trees on your right. Cross the Fox and Hounds car park to the roadside. Turn left and walk back along the roadside to the parking.

### [PHOTO SET at www.essexwalks.com](http://www.essexwalks.com)

The ROUTE MAP and ROUTE DESCRIPTION **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 Directions PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Directions](#)

This photo set 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 route description. 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 the photographs above 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](#).

The parking facilities available on this walk are very limited and not suitable for large walking groups. Parking cannot be guaranteed. If you are using a car, be considerate with your parking: parking areas in rural communities are primarily for local use: please don't abuse this and spoil it for others. It could result in parking controls being tightened, requiring the withdrawal of the walk route. For more see: [Advice: Courtesy](#)