



Title: Debden

Distance: 6¾ miles

Time taken: 2½ hours

Location: 3 miles south of Saffron Walden

OS Explorer Map: 195

Grid Ref.: TL 551 332

Parking: (Limited) St Mary's Church car park: please visit the church.

Bus: Route 313 Saffron Walden - Gt.Dunmow (bus stop ¼ mile from start)

Train: Newport (Liverpool St. - Cambridge)

Refreshment: The White Horse, Newport
The Plough, Debden

PEAR Rating: 

Walk Description

If travelling by vehicle or bus, the walk starts at Debden Church passing through the old Debden Hall estate with lake. From Debden, the walk emerges from woodland into varied open countryside with wonderful views as you approach Newport. Rail travellers can start the walk in Newport. Crossing the bridge at Newport Station, the walk takes you over a small ford to open fields and a farmland track back to more woodland, meadows and horse paddocks. Although there are some gradients, this is a relatively easy walk with good surfaces in dry weather.

Directions

A. The Church car park (P) is accessed via Church Lane, a turning off the High Street adjacent to Debden's C of E Primary School. The 13th century church is usually open and certainly worth visiting. From the church, go north east from the graveyard for about 150 yards until you pass a house on your right and a track leading to a bridge on the left (1).

For walkers arriving by train, start the walk at point (6) in #F

B. Cross the bridge and follow the track south west up to the wood (2).

C. Follow the track through the woods until you reach the gated exit.

Immediately upon leaving the wood, turn right onto a byway (3). Carry on along the track for about a third of a mile until you reach Waldegraves Farm.

- E.** Stay on the farm track past Waldegraves Cottages until you reach the corner of a road (4). Keep straight on (west) for 100 yards of road walking and where the road bends to the left, take the track on the right.
- F.** Enjoy the views as the byway descends towards Newport (5). After passing a quarry, you reach Newport Station (6). Cross the bridge over the railway and walk to the High Street along Station Road. Immediately opposite is Frambury Lane (7).
- G.** Walk up Frambury Lane and turn right at the T junction. After 60 yards, take the tarmac lane between houses on the left (8).
- H.** At the end of the lane, still heading west, is a narrow enclosed footpath (9). After about a fifth of a mile, the path turns right as it meets a banked hedge bordering a field. (If the footpath is overgrown, the field edge also provides a way through). The footpath emerges onto a gravel clearing alongside the B1038. Immediately opposite the clearing is the continuing footpath north which takes you to a ford (10). Cross over it and head north.
- I.** As you head north, you pass through a small wooded area and then onto a more established track past the WRP Timber Moulding building where 60 yards further the track curves around to the right (11). This byway is Bury Water Lane which leads eastwards towards the north part of Newport.
- J.** After about one third of a mile, Bury Water Lane becomes a tarmac-surface road, which joins School Lane, and continues east (12) past the Grammar School to the T junction with the main road which runs north-south through Newport.
- K.** Immediately opposite, across the road, is a track. Follow this track down to pass under the brick railway bridge to a row of houses where you should turn right (13). Keep walking south along the pretty row of houses, staying east of the railway, and look for the footpath squeezed between the railway arches and the end house called "Brookside" (14). As you pass the house and take the concrete pathway east.
- L.** At the Water Treatment Plant, the track turns into a grassy field-edge footpath. After nearly half a mile, the footpath forks. Take the right fork, keeping the wooded area to your left (15).
- M.** After 250 yards you pass through a small wood (16) and then emerge on the other side into scrubby meadow land heading east. On your right the hedgeline conceals a stream (Debden Water). Keep going for about a quarter of a mile. You will need to get to the other side of the stream/ditch at some point. There is a north route on the Harcamlow Way but this was overgrown and obstructed when we last visited so we took the well worn path over the stream and turned left with a large wood on the hillside to our right (17). With the stream on your left, walk along the meadow for another quarter of a mile until you reach the point where footpaths merge at a crossing over the stream/ditch.

N. With the fence on your left follow the footpath round and cross over a stile into a horse paddock (18). Follow the path on the left edge of the paddock and at the end of the field turn towards the house and barn at the east-most corner of the field (Midsummer House).

O. Cross over a pair of stiles by the barn (19) and walk south east past Midsummer House, cross over another stile, and immediately turn hard left, away from the road, and walk up the tree-lined track towards Brickhouse Farm. Just before the farm, the footpath turns right, skirting around the property. As you leave the trees on your left, the footpath joins a farm track which heads north east for 280 yards (20).

P. This tracks joins a bridleway running downhill to the right (21).

Q. Take this gravel track down (south east) to the main road and cross over by Newport Lodge (22).

R. Pass through the wooded area and follow the wide grassy track southwards for another quarter of a mile. A tree-lined track gives way to a fenced track between fields, where you will see Debden Church in the distance on the left (23).

S. After 300 yards you will see the bridge and footpath from Point (1). Return to the church via the footpath on the left.

[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](#).