



Title: **Earls Colne**

Distance: 4½ miles

Time taken: 2 hours

Location: 3 miles south east of Halstead

Parking: Earls Colne car park, off Queen Street, behind The Drum Inn

OS Explorer Map: 195

Grid Ref.: TL 857 290

Transport: Bus No 88 to Colchester, hourly

Refreshment: Earls Colne: The Drum Inn and The Lion

## Walk Description

This is a pleasant walk with varied terrain and some beautiful views. The field edge walking contrasts with a stroll through ancient woodland; there is a section of riverside walk and a wander through the water meadows; and the route goes through two separate nature reserves and across the Colne Valley Golf Course. You also go past Chalkney Mill, with its prize-winning Longhorn cattle and its astonishingly noisy mill race. The walk starts and stops in the peaceful and historic village of Earls Colne, where there are several pubs and cafes for refreshments afterwards.

## Directions

- A.** From the car park (P), walk to Queens Road and turn right to the High Street, then turn left on the High Street towards St Andrew's Church (1).
- B.** Enter the churchyard beside the war memorial, and bear right to walk away from the church (2).
- C.** Turn right by the lamppost to walk down an alleyway between two walls, to Park Lane. Cross the road and turn right for 50 yards.
- D.** Turn left into a grassy track running downhill alongside the school (3).
- E.** Walk down the track and go through the metal kissing gate at the bottom, then continue ahead through a second gate. Keep to the right hand side of the field and go through another gate on the right into an area of woodland (4). This is part of the Brickfield and Long Meadow Nature Reserve.
- F.** A few yards into the woodland, look for a footpath on the left heading up the slope. Take this path and continue until the slope levels out, then carry straight on along a wide grassy track. At the facing hedge, turn left through a gate towards the Coggeshall Road (5).

- G.** Turn right at the roadside, and walk along the pavement for almost 200 yards to where the road bends to the right, then cross the road and walk along the farm track by Tilekiln Farm (6).
- H.** Keep going in a roughly south easterly direction along the farm track for about half a mile, keeping to the field edges. For the initial part of this section, keep the hedge on your left, then once you can see Tey Road ahead of you, bear right along the edge of a field and follow the hedge on your left to join the road beside a pylon (7).
- I.** You will join the road at a corner. Continue straight ahead along Tey Road, with the pylon on your right, and after about 350 yards turn right into Chalkney Wood (8).
- J.** Walk along the entrance track to the car park area. There are several routes into the woods from here: take the one on the left at the far end of the car park, in the north east corner (9).
- K.** Stay on this track as it bends left and continue until you reach a large clearing where several different routes meet (10).
- L.** Turn left here, and walk down the slope to a farmyard. Go straight on through the farmyard (11) and past the mill.
- M.** Walk ahead up the farm access road for 175 yards to a turning on the left by another pylon (12).
- N.** Go through the gate into a field and turn right to walk along the edge of the field with a stream on your right. After 150 yards you will come to a small plank bridge, cross this and continue in the same direction (13).
- O.** About 250 yards after the footbridge the field opens out to the right. Cross the end section of the field diagonally to reach the banks of the Colne (14).
- P.** Walk along the river bank with the Colne on your left for about 400 yards, then continue ahead through a gate into some woods then between houses to the roadside (15).
- Q.** Cross the A1124 and turn left for 30 yards, then turn right to walk through a kissing gate and along the Yew Tree Farm access track (16).
- R.** Keep walking straight ahead for 300 yards then where the track turns right into a sewage works, continue ahead over the stile and along the footpath. Follow the path round to the right 170 yards later, and walk up the hill to the old railway line. Turn left along the track bed (17).
- S.** Keep walking along the old railway (now a nature reserve) for about a third of a mile until you reach a wooden footbridge. After another 270 yards there is turning left towards the golf course and the Colne.
- T.** From here you can walk across the meadow towards a bridge over the Colne, but we went straight on to the remains of an old railway bridge (18), then turned left and walked back along the river's edge.
- U.** Cross the footbridge and walk across the golf course with the lake on your left (19).

**V.** As you pass the lake bear very slightly left and walk along a poorly defined path keeping to the left of the mature trees and heading for a gap between two clumps of newly planted trees, and look for a path bearing off to the right near a concrete bollard (20).

**W.** This path takes you to a stile leading into a residential road. Go up the road to the junction of Hillie Bunnies(!) and Burrows Road. Go straight across into Burrows Road, and keep going until you come to Earls Colne High Road. Turn left and walk along the pavement to Queens Road, and turn left again to return to the car park.

### [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](#).