



Title: Essex Way: Great Waltham to Peppers Green

Distance: about 8 miles

Time taken: 3 hours

Start Point: Great Waltham

OS Explorer Map: 183

Grid Ref.: TL 695 136

Transport: To Great Waltham, Crowbush House - First 42 /42A, or Regal 52 from Chelmsford Bus Station.

From Peppers Green, A1060 (Salt's Green), Harlow to Chelmsford - [Arriva](#) 59. (No service on Sundays/Bank Hols)

Refreshment: The Leather Bottle, Pleshey

The White Horse, Pleshey

Walk Description

This is a very pleasant section of the Essex Way. It starts with a lovely stroll through open meadows to the beautiful village of Pleshey, then by contrast, delves into the ancient network of green lanes to Good Easter, and ends with an easy walk through farmland with some fairly good views to Pepper's Green, on the A1060.

Of all the sections of the Essex Way, this has the least attractive end point, by a long way. We have selected it because the villages in the area are very small and not well served by public transport, whereas there is a regular hourly bus service along the A1060 from Margaret Roding (Salt's Green) to Chelmsford, via the Arriva bus number 59 (not Sundays). In practice though, when we walked this last we continued along the Essex Way to Ongar, combining this section with the next.

Directions

- A. Start at the Crowbush House Bus Stop in Great Waltham, located at the end of the houses on the north end of the Chelmsford Road. Rejoin the Essex Way going west by crossing through the hedge by the bus stop, onto the footpath (1). Walk north west through the meadows with a hedge on your right, for about half a mile (2).
- B. At Bury Lane, cross the road and walk left along an enclosed footpath, by a brown gate in front of a cottage (3). After 50 yards the footpath curves to the right to head south west for about 250 yards to the left of an embankment, before turning right to join a farm track. On the track turn left heading west as it curves to follow the line of the hedge, bear left to pass a reservoir, then turn sharp left along a path between the fields.
- C. This takes you south to a line of trees following the brook. Go to the right just in front of the trees (4) to follow the edge of the field as it meanders in a north westerly direction towards Pleshey. After about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile, cross the brook at a wide gap for farm vehicles in the hedge on the left, and continue towards Pleshey with the brook to your right (5). The last section goes between the brook and a waterworks on the left.
- D. When you get to The Street, ignore the footpath opposite and go left along the road into the beautiful village of Pleshey (6). The road turns to head south west as you go through the village, passing the tranquil Pleshey Mount View Point. Continue along the road past the church, and carry on for another 200 yards to a bridleway on the right heading north (7).
- E. This bridleway is a green lane with hedges to either side. It continues north for about half a mile. There are several footpaths off the bridleway on both sides: stay on the bridleway, don't stray off into open fields. When you reach Grange Road, turn left to go west. (8)
- F. After a quarter of a mile the road turns sharp right, with a byway straight ahead to Woods Farm. Walk along this byway (9), westwards, for a little over a mile, until you come to The Street in Stagden Cross.
- G. Turn right on the roadside, still heading west. After 170 yards, go straight across a road junction, and keep going for another 100 yards, past a postbox, until you come to a bridleway going south (10).
- H. This bridleway becomes another green lane running south west. After about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, the lane is abruptly terminated by a gate into a field of cows (11). Cross through this pasture,(12) still going south west with a hedge on your right. At the end of the pasture, go through a red gate, and immediately turn left into a green lane (called Hayron's Lane).

Head south for about 500 yards.

I. At the southern end of Hayron's Lane you emerge onto the corner of metalled track (13). Turn right along the track to continue south. After about 300 yards the lane turns sharply right, and shortly after this there is a plank footbridge through the hedge on the left (14). Cross this and walk half a mile south towards Good Easter, bearing right as you approach the village. The last 200 yards of this section take you along the backs of gardens, before turning into Mill Road where you need to turn right towards the village centre (15).

J. At the main village crossroads, follow the sign to Mashbury & The Chignalls, towards St Andrews Church. There are two footpaths going south out of the churchyard; the Essex Way uses the more easterly one (16) which bisects the field south of the church. If the way is not clearly marked, aim for the corner of the hedge protruding into the field.

K. Once at this hedge you will see a waymarker directing you downhill, still heading south, with the hedgerow to your left. At the facing hedge turn left to cross a plank footbridge, and follow the field edge east: as it curves slightly north, look for the enclosed footpath through the hedge on your right (17) to the roadside.

L. At Farmbridge End Road turn right to cross the hump-backed bridge over the River Can. As the road turns left past the bridge, there is a stony track on the right heading south west (18) and uphill past a black barn. Follow this byway for about half a mile to the A1060: the bus stop for buses to Chelmsford is about 20 yards to your left.

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