



## **Little Hallingbury**

Distance: 4 miles

Time taken: 1½ hours

Location: Between Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth

Parking: Gaston Green, Sawbridgeworth Road, CM22 7QS

OS Explorer Map: OS Explorer 194 Hertford & Bishops Stortford

Grid Ref.: TL 499 170

Transport: TGM Stansted No 5 from Saffron Walden / Bishops Stortford to Little Hallingbury stopping near The George

Refreshment: The George, Little Hallingbury, CM22 7PP

## **Walk Description**

This walk consists of two contrasting sections, a riverside stroll and a more hilly walk through farmland.

From the parking in the pretty hamlet of Gaston Green, the route goes down Mill Lane to Little Hallingbury Mill, a beautifully preserved water mill. Then a short walk across the water meadows takes you to the Stort Navigation. Follow the river northwards as it meanders through the valley, passing locks and thatched cottages along the way. As well as the river itself, the boats, bridges, trees and birds, there are magnificent wide open skies to enjoy along the way.

The journey back takes you across the rolling hills of the Essex borders. A pleasant stroll past The Miller's Cottage and through fields and woods brings you to the village of Little Hallingbury, where The George offers a friendly welcome. Leaving the village, there's a final 15 minute walk over the undulating fields back to the parking. The footpaths are clear and well maintained, and the rolling hills make for a pleasing contrast to the flat vistas of the riverside walk.

## Directions

**A.** From the parking (P), walk down Mill Lane opposite (1) staying on the lane to the left of a hedge. Continue along the lane for about 300 yards until you come to the mill (2). Walk straight on, over the footbridge and then bear left towards a group of trees.

**B.** Just before you reach the trees, look for a bridge over the ditch to your right. Presently it's a ramshackle affair, but easily walkable (3). Bear left again, to Tednambury Lock.

**C.** At the lock, turn right to walk north along the towpath (4) as it meanders along through the water meadows. After two thirds of a mile, cross Dell Lane and carry on along the river bank, past Spellbrook Lock (5)

**D.** Keep heading north along the river's edge. The trees on the right shield an iron age fort. After a third of a mile you will pass an attractive, white painted footbridge on your left but continue north (6), and two thirds of a mile later, continue past another footbridge.

**E.** Keep going until you pass through some green metal gates. Turn right (Pig Lane) and after 30 yards, take the footpath through the paddocks of Twyford Livery (7).

**F.** Carry on through the hedge, over a bridge and straight through the garden of The Miller's Cottage (8).

**G.** Exit the cottage property through a gate and carry on up through a field still heading south. At the crest of the hill go ahead along a track slightly to your left, with Latchmead B & B's fence on your right (9).

**H.** Continue along the track, then through the woods. As you come out into a field continue south along the hedgeline until you come to Dell Lane. Turn left along Dell Lane for The George, or turn right to continue the walk (10).

**I.** After 180 yards, the lane bends to the right, but go straight on along a footpath to the left of a house (11). Walk beside the garden hedge, then bear right just slightly and continue southwards across the field. Aim towards the paddocks; there is a post marking the route through, and large tree in the hedgeline beyond (12). Climb over a stile, then walk between the paddock fences and cross a footbridge through the hedge.

**J.** On the other side of the hedge turn left for 30 yards to reach the bottom corner of the field, then turn right to walk up the side of the field heading south (13). Continue up to the south east corner of the field, then bear left onto a track (14) with a fence on your left and the black outbuildings of Gaston House in the distance. The stately red brick building is Gaston House itself.

**K.** Keep on this track (now called Back Lane) as it bears left then passes some houses. When you reach the junction with Mill Lane, turn left to return to the parking.

[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](#).