



Title: Saffron Trail: Great Dunmow to Newport

Distance: 14¾ miles

Time taken: 6 hours

Start Point: North Street, Great Dunmow

OS Explorer Map: 195

Grid Ref.: TL 627 221

Transport:

Newport: Rail- Liverpool St / Cambridge

Henham: Bus 7/ 7A hourly (not Sundays) Stansted Airport / Bishop's Stortford

Refreshment:

The Stag, Little Easton

The Cock Inn, Henham

The Fleur-de-Lys, Widdington

The White Horse, Newport

Walk Description

This is a lovely walk through the rolling hills of north west Essex. The route is primarily rural with fields, meadows, streams and woodlands to traverse. Although there is some road walking, most of the lanes are tiny and you would be unlucky to meet any other traffic. There are peaceful, unspoilt villages, ancient churches, a grand manor house, abbey ruins and some of the loveliest views in Essex to enjoy. There are also several pubs along the route. In Great Dunmow, the official route takes you around 3 sides of a square to no purpose, and in Newport, takes you along a dull back road rather than along the historic High Street. We have suggested alternative routes for these.

You can break this walk at Broxton 6.5 miles from Great Dunmow, (Broxton Road, B1051, see paragraph **Q**) with an hourly service between Saffron Walden and Bishops Stortford (not Sundays) or in Henham (9½ miles from Great Dunmow) from where there are hourly bus services to Bishops Stortford and Stansted (not Sundays). There is also an irregular bus service from Great and Little Easton.

Directions

Great Dunmow to Henham

A. This section of the Saffron Trail starts in North Street, Great Dunmow, 150 yards north of the High Street. Walk north for about 100 yards to Doctor's Pond, then along the grass past the northern edge of the pond (1) and turn right up Star Lane. Go straight on at the crossroads to go up The Downs.

B. Turn right into Downs Crescent, past the imposing gates, to the end of the road where there is a footpath partially concealed by a willow (2).

- C.** This takes you towards a residential road called Emblems. Walk along this to a point about 30 yards prior to Emblems. The official route takes you left along an overgrown pathway, then right at a T-junction for 100 yards, then right again through a kissing gate and along the roadside to the junction with The Mead. Alternatively, go straight ahead along two enclosed pathways to The Mead (3).
- D.** Walk north along The Mead, then ahead along a footpath to the right of the road into a field. Bear right to walk north east across the field towards some houses. Turn left in front of row of mature trees at the fence line of the house to your left (4). Continue west along the gardens then across a field, past a small copse then turn right along the hedge line.
- E.** When you reach a new road (Woodside Way), you will see two footpaths on the opposite side of the road heading west. Take the more northerly one into the woods (5). Follow the path through the woods then up through a field. Pass to the right of Hoglands, then walk along the farm track to Ravens Farm.
- F.** Cross the main access road to the farm and walk across the grass to the treeline, then follow the field edge round to the left for 100 yards (6). Turn right over a ditch by a waymarker and walk north west across the field passing to the right of some trees, and follow the field edge to the roadside. Turn left to walk past St Mary's Church then right to Little Easton Manor.
- G.** There is a pedestrian gate to the right of the main gate. Go through this into the manor grounds and walk between the buildings (7) and down the track towards some trees. Walk between two lakes and up the other side of the valley with woods to your right, then turn right along the track into the woods. This leads onto Manor Road. Walk along the road into Little Easton.
- H.** You will see The Stag to your right, but turn left along Duck Street for 50 yards then right along Butchers Pasture. At the end of the road go ahead through a 5-bar gate, passing to the right of some buildings. Bear left to walk north between two fields and cross a footbridge beside an oak tree (8).
- I.** 50 yards later, turn right over another footbridge then turn left going north with the hedge on your left, then bear right to cross a stile in the facing fence.
- J.** Continue north past some trees, forking left along the river bank, You will see a line of electricity poles crossing the field to Great Easton. The path goes across the field some 30 yards to the right of these poles before kinking left and following their line (9).
- K.** Cross a bridge through the facing hedge then follow the hedgeline on your right to the north east corner of the field. Walk between some houses to the road.
- L.** Turn right to walk past a war memorial up The Endway, passing St Andrews Churchyard on your right and continue ahead towards the village hall car park (10). Go through the 5 barred gate and continue straight ahead along a farm track. Head for the north east corner of the field, go through a wooden gate and continue with a hedge on your right.
- M.** Look for a track sweeping down into the valley on your left. Turn left to follow this track which bears right after 150 yards to go north (11). Continue along the track for almost half a mile. Just before you come to a stream, turn left to walk west towards St Mary's Church, Tilty (12).

N. Cross through a hedge and continue west alongside the stream until you come to a second hedge where you descend a steep slope and cross a footbridge, then bear right to cross the next field diagonally towards the north west. Just in front of a telegraph pole, climb over a stile to the roadside.

O. Turn left on the road for a few yards then right to go up a lane towards Tilty. Take the first turning on the right to Tilty Church. Passing St Mary's on your left, go across the car park into a field, through a wooden gate and continue downhill towards Tilty Mill in the valley. Turn right on the lane at the bottom of the hill, go past the old buildings, and straight on into a field (13).

P. Continue north through the field with the hedge on your right, then at the waymarker at the edge of Eseley Wood, turn sharp left so that you are heading back across the field towards a gap in the trees along the western edge, near the river bank (14).

Q. Continue along the bank of the stream heading roughly north west for a little over a mile, to the B1051. *(NB: Turn left here for the unmarked bus stop esxgtwda / esxdapdm, 200 yards down the road).*

R. Turn right to go north up the hill for about 300 yards to the entrance to Chaureth Hall Farm (15). Turn left up the farm access track, turning right just before you come to the farm gates to walk north with woods on your left (16).

S. Turn left to walk around the woods and continue along the field edge to a corner. Cross a stile and descend a steep slope into the meadow below (this area gets quite overgrown). Cross a footbridge over the stream – also a bit overgrown – and bear slightly right to go up the slope towards a dead tree, to the right of a small copse (17).

T. Climb over a stile behind the dead tree and walk along the footpath passing Chickney Hall on your left. As you pass the buildings look for an enclosed footpath on the right between two box hedges. About 50 yards along this path cross the stile on the left and go diagonally across the grass towards the exit gates.

U. Walk along the lane past St Mary's Church and turn left at the junction to walk along the ridge heading south west. You will pass a house on the right and then come to a small industrial area: turn right to walk through this towards the shooting ground, passing to the right of the buildings (18).

V. Continue into the valley then, as the land starts to rise again, turn left towards a small car park and walk west along the edge of the field towards Hawland Wood (19). Follow the path left into the woods (we saw peacocks running free here) and continue until you emerge onto a footpath between fields, leading you westwards into another valley (20).

W. Continue ahead then after you pass Greenend Farm, follow the path round to the left then right to walk to a tiny lane. Turn right on the lane towards Grind Hall, then turn left up the enclosed footpath in front of the house (21).

X. As you emerge from the footpath continue ahead across a village green to the main road then turn left to walk along Henham High Street. Continue ahead for a third of a mile to pass the duck pond then bear right as you pass St Mary's Church and The Cock Inn and continue down the hill for 150 yards to a farmtrack on the right called Hall Road (22).

Henham to Newport

Y. Walk along this track for about 250 yards then turn left towards the lake, ignoring the 'Members Only' signs. As you pass the lake, take the footpath heading north with a hedge on the right (23). After about 500 yards cross through the hedge to continue north but with the hedge on your left.

Z. At the bottom of the hill go through a gate, across a meadow and over a footbridge to a green lane and turn left (24). Follow the lane past Little Henham Lodge and continue along the tarmac to a Y-junction, and turn right towards to low bridge sign. Follow the road round to the right then, at the next corner, continue straight ahead to take a footpath passing under an oak tree, heading north with a hedge on your left (25).

AA. When the hedge stops, continue straight ahead across some rough pasture to the woods and follow the path ahead into the trees. When you come out of the woods, continue north along the enclosed path on the right between a fence and a hedge.

AB. Bear right on the road then left to walk into Widdington. Continue north through the village along Wood End then along the High Street for almost half a mile passing the Fleur-de-Lys.

AC. Bear right then right again to walk up Church Lane to St Mary's Church. Turn left along the churchyard wall then follow the footpath through the trees into a field. Turn right to walk east along the field edge, then turn left to walk between fields then across a field towards Park Wood (26).

AD. Pass to the left of the woods then continue across a field heading north towards a small shack on the edge of Cabbage Wood. Turn left along the track in front of the woods (27). Continue along the track to Waldegraves, then carry on westwards along a lane. Where the lane turns left, continue ahead along a byway along the ridge of the hill towards Newport.

AE. Continue heading roughly west, ignoring junctions to the right and left, until you begin the steep descent into Newport. Turn right at the entrance to the chalk pit to walk towards the village. After 450 yards you will pass Newport station.

AF. You can cross the railway line here, walk along Station Road and turn right along Newport High Street with its historic buildings and shops, but the official route continues ahead along the lane to the junction with Debden Road and then left over a narrow road bridge into the village. Turn right for the White Horse about half a mile north of the station, where this section of the Saffron Trail ends.

[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](#).