



Title: Saffron Trail: Great Waltham to Great Dunmow

Distance: 10½ miles

Time taken: 4 hours

Start Point: The Beehive, Great Waltham

OS Explorer Map: 183 & 195

Grid Ref.: TL 695 135

Transport: Gt.Waltham: Bus:- First, 42 & 42A from Chelmsford

Refreshment:

The Green Man, Howe Street

The Compasses Inn, Littley Green

The Chequers or The Swan, Felsted

Various pubs and restaurants in Great Dunmow

Walk Description

This section of the Saffron Trail is generally very pleasant. The countryside is pretty, and there is a good mix of terrain, with tree lined tracks, fields, meadows and attractive villages along the route, as well as a good number of country pubs. The walk is given added interest by several historic features along the way including Leez Priory and the Flich Way, and the olde worlde village of Felsted is particularly lovely - although the route of the Saffron Trail goes through the churchyard behind the street, out of sight of the picturesque village centre. There are rather too many long sections of roadside walking in this section of the Saffron Trail but overall it still makes for an enjoyable walk.

You can break this walk in Felsted (6½ miles from Great Waltham), from where there are regular bus services to Great Dunmow, Braintree and Chelmsford.

Directions

Great Waltham to Felsted

A. From the bus stop in Main Road, follow the road as it curves to the northwest and downhill to the Beehive pub, where this section of the Saffron Trail starts. Continue walking north along the road to the kissing gate on the right, adjacent to the last house in the village (1).

B. Walk northwards up the slope and cross through a pair of white kissing gates either side of a driveway. Carry on through another pair of kissing gates (2), past a small copse on the left, to an attractive white wrought iron gate. Continue northwards alongside a fence and exit the park 330 yards later via a final white gate into a lane (3). At the end of the lane turn right into Main Road and walk to the junction with Parsonage Lane.

- C.** Cross the Parsonage Lane junction and continue along Main Road, now heading north. Cross the junction with Luck's Lane and continue past The Green Man. After another 100 yards or so turn right into Mill Lane and walk east, through the gate at the bend and over a bridge.
- D.** Bear left to cross diagonally through a field heading north, then in the next field, turn right after 60 yards and cross a footbridge with a stile at either end (4). Continue east across a field, then go up the slope with a hedge on your left until you come to a concrete slope leading to the roadside.
- E.** Cross the A130 (the Essex Regiment Way) and go up the concrete ramp on the other side then along a track, passing to the right of Hill House. Turn left along the lane to a corner, then turn right along a track beside Well House Farm, with a hedge on your right. When the hedge stops, bear left to walk north across the field towards a bend in the ditch opposite (5).
- F.** Cross the ditch and continue north with the ditch on your right. After about 200 yards the ditch turns right: carry on across the field and through the facing hedge. Keep ahead, now with a hedge on your left. After another 150 yards continue north straight across the field towards the opposite hedge and go through, into a lane. Turn left on the lane.
- G.** 100 yards later, at a Y-junction, fork right and walk north along the lane for another 120 yards. At the corner opposite Mabb's Farm, turn left then immediately right to continue north alongside a hedge (6). Walk straight ahead across the next field, cutting off the eastern corner. Go through a gap in the facing hedge and follow the hedge on your right to the roadside. Turn left towards Littley Green, passing The Compasses Inn.
- H.** About 80 yards past the pub turn right along a lane towards Hartford End. 600 yards later, past Littleypark Cottages, opposite a walled farm, turn right along a bridleway going north east (7). Walk along this track for half a mile to join a quiet lane and carry on past a couple of houses to the gates of Leez Priory. Turn left to continue along the lane to a T-junction.
- I.** Take the footpath through the facing hedge (8). Walk westwards along the field edge for about 80 yards and then cross the bridge over the River Ter on your right. Cross the field to the facing hedge. Turn left and continue westwards for 500 yards, then climb over a stile through the facing hedge and bear right to continue along the hedge line for another 150 yards. On your left you can see a lake.
- J.** Turn left by the waymarker, cross the field and walk along the northern edge of the lake. At the far side turn right to go north. Continue past some trees until you come to a concrete track, then turn right along the track for 70 yards. Turn left to walk north again, just beyond a line of trees (9). Carry on to Causeway End Road.
- K.** Turn left along the lane for 450 yards to Cobler's Green. Turn right by the triangular piece of grass (10) in front of Beacons Farm to go along a byway towards Potash Farm. Go past a black barn (11) and carry on along the byway with a hedge on your left for a further 400 yards to Bakers Lane.

L. Continue along this lane for 40 yards then turn right along another byway heading north (12). After 300 yards you will cross a slight rise on the byway. A few yards later, you will see a wide opening on your right with a waymarker buried in the hedge, and a narrow gap through the hedge on the left (13). Go left through the hedge gap then turn right (northwards).

M. Continue straight ahead through a gap in the fence and walk to Felsted initially with playing fields on your right and then the village hall on your left. You will arrive at the roadside opposite Felsted School cricket grounds. Turn left along the Braintree Road.

Felsted to Great Dunmow

N. Cross the road and carry on heading west passing The Chequers. Continue over the junction with Stebbing Road towards the older village centre.

O. The Saffron trail leaves the Braintree Road passing through the churchyard on the right, parallel with the main street but behind the buildings, emerging on to a lane by the British Legion. It's more pleasant to stay on the historic main street passing The Swan on your left and then turn right towards the free car park and the British Legion.

P. Walk north past a few cottages and the entrance to Bury Farm, then turn left along a drive (14). Bear right in front of a circular lawn to pass to the right of the beautiful farm house. Continue to the end of the track. Turn right through the pedestrian gate and walk north along the field edge.

Q. Go through a wooden gate under an oak tree onto a track, and turn left (15). Follow the track as it descends into a valley then go through a gate into a meadow. Bear right across the meadow to a footbridge over the Stebbing, and then turn right alongside the stream.

R. Cross through the facing hedge then turn left to walk up the hill with the hedge on your left (16). At the top of the hill, turn right for 50 yards and then left through a large gap in the hedge onto the Flich Way. Turn left along the old railway line and follow the track for a quarter of a mile to Station Road.

S. Turn right along the road passing the remains of the railway bridge, then go up the steps on your left. Take the footpath ahead of you, to the right of the old station forecourt (17). Continue along this path for 250 yards then follow it round to the left to rejoin the old railway. Turn right to walk west, passing under a bridge 400 yards later.

T. After another 200 yards, you will see a couple of houses in the fields to your left. Take the footpath on your right through a wooden gate, (18) and walk north towards Little Dunmow.

U. Bear right on the track to pass St Mary's church then continue north to Grange Lane. Turn left along the road heading west for about half a mile to a junction, then turn right to cross the bridge over the A120. On the far side continue along the road as it turns back to the west and downgrades into a farm track (19).

V. After 150 yards, go through a gap in the hedge to your right and continue west for a further 300 yards. As you pass a wooded area, turn right onto a footpath just past a hedgerow, going underneath some overhead wires (20).

- W.** Walk north with the hedge on your right then turn left to follow the field edge. Ignore the footpath on your right through the hedge. Instead, carry on to the corner of the field and then turn right to continue to follow the field edge (21).
- X.** Keep following the hedgeline all the way to the north west corner of the field, then turn right along a grassy farm track (22). Bear left onto a stony track and walk to the roadside. At the B1256 Braintree Road, cross straight over to the footpath opposite (23).
- Y.** Go down the steps into a meadow, and walk with the hedge on your right to the gap in the facing hedge, and then cross the next field to a wooden gate and the roadside. Cross the road and walk through the small car park slightly to the left then continue ahead, walking roughly in line with the overhead wires, for about 300 yards.
- Z.** Turn left on the tarmacked path and walk towards the River Chelmer and cross the bridge. On the far side there are three paths. Take the middle one heading west through the trees (24). Continue to The Maltings.
- AA.** Cross into Knights Way opposite, and walk up the road. At the bend in the road, take the enclosed footpath opposite and walk along to North Street, Great Dunmow, where this section of the Saffron Trail ends.
- AB.** Turn right down North Street towards Doctor's Pond to continue the walk, or for refreshment and public transport turn left and walk up the hill to the High Street, bearing left past The Star. Turn left on the High Street; the bus stop is outside The Boar's Head.

[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](#).