



Title: Saffron Trail: Newport to Saffron Walden

Distance: 5¼ miles

Time taken: 2 hours

Start Point: White Horse, Newport

OS Explorer Map: 195

Grid Ref.: TL 522 342

Transport:

Newport: Bus:- 301 hourly to Bishops Stortford or Saffron Walden

Newport: Rail:- Liverpool St / Cambridge

Saffron Walden: Bus 301 & 59 to Audley End Rail Station (on Liverpool St. - Cambridge line)

Refreshment: The Bell, Wendens Ambo

Various pubs and restaurants in Saffron Walden

## Walk Description

This final section of the Saffron Trail is a pleasant stroll through the gently rolling hills of north west Essex, with lovely views across the fields and valleys. But the real joy of this walk is the proliferation of ancient structures nestling along the route. Many of buildings in Newport and Saffron Walden date back centuries, and the chaotic juxtaposition of different ages and styles of buildings is a delight. By contrast, the pastel coloured row of thatched cottages in Wendens Ambo and the whitewashed 18th century terraced houses in Audley End are simply beautiful.

The Saffron Trail ends at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. This is the largest church in Essex, 183 feet long and 193 feet high to the top of the spire. There has been a church on the site since Saxon times, rebuilt several times over the centuries. Much of the building we see today results from construction done between 1430 and 1525, although the spire was added much later, in 1832. The building is beautifully proportioned, and full of light and colour. The magnificent stonework, elegant wooden carvings (some dating from the 15th century) and wonderful stained glass windows mean that even after a 72 mile walk, it's worth going inside to have a look around.

## Directions

**A.** From the White Horse, walk north for about 300 yards (1), passing the junction with Gaces Acre on the left. Continue past Newport Free Grammar School, then before you reach the railway bridge, turn left along Bury Water Lane.

- B.** Take the footpath on the right, opposite a single storey cottage (No. 5) (2). Walk north along here for about 500 yards, passing some school buildings on your right, until you see a wooden fence on the left (3). Turn left in front of the fence and follow the path westwards to a road. There is a wishing well in a garden on the right.
- C.** Turn right on the road, heading north (4). After 250 yards the road stops at the gate of Charlotte's Meadow; continue walking north along a footpath which bears left to follow the hedge line (5).
- D.** Continue along the hedge for about 400 yards until you come to a concrete track, then turn right to resume a northerly direction, with the hedge on your right (6). Carry on over the brow of the hill and into the village of Wendens Ambo.
- E.** Go past a wooden gate and turn left on Rookery Lane (7). Follow the lane round to the right then right again to walk along Duck Street to a T-junction. Turn left for The Bell.
- F.** To continue the Saffron Trail, look for a footpath on the right just before the T-junction, beside the post box (8). Walk through the park with the hedge on your left then through a gap into Church Street and walk up towards St Mary's Church.
- G.** Turn left in front of the church gates and follow a path across the grass to some wooden gates by the B1039. Turn left along the road to the corner, then turn right up a steep track adjacent to Highbanks House heading north (9).
- H.** The track becomes a path between two fields. Continue ahead for almost half a mile towards the woods on Cornwallis Hill, then turn right walking east with the woods to your left (10).
- I.** After 250 yards cross the railway bridge then continue along the field edge as you descend to London Road.
- J.** Turn right along the road for 220 yards (11). At the junction, turn left along Walden Road heading east.
- K.** Walk along Walden Road for a little over half a mile, initially along the pavement, then along the verge until you come to a low stone wall on your left. Turn left following the line of the wall (12).
- L.** Walk north with the woods on your left to Abbey Farm. Go through the farm yard alongside a brick wall on your left, to a farm track. Bear left on the track, then right, to walk between the whitewashed cottages of Audley End.
- M.** Turn right at the junction with Audley End Road (13) and walk up the hill with a high brick wall on your left. Carry on for a third of a mile until you come to a magnificent gateway (14). Go through the gate into Audley Park.
- N.** Follow the footpath north east through the park for a third of a mile and exit via another iron gate into Abbey Lane. Walk eastwards along the lane into Saffron Walden.
- O.** At the crossroads, turn left up the High Street for 150 yards then turn right into Church Street. 100 yards later turn left up Church Path to St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden where the Saffron Trail terminates (15).

## [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](#).