



**Title: The Rodings**

**Distance:** 7½ miles

**Time taken:** 2¾ hours

**Location:** 8 miles north west of Chelmsford

**OS Explorer Map:** 183

**Grid Ref.:** TL 590 133

**Parking:** [Limited] At St Michael's Church, Leaden Roding on the A1060, CM6 1RB (one car only)

**Bus:**  Bus - Arriva 59, Harlow - Chelmsford, roughly hourly Mon- Sat, calling at White Roding and Leaden Roding (Leaden Hall)

**Train:** No services

**Refreshment:** White Roding: Bretts

**PEAR Rating:** 

## Walk Description

A walk from Leaden Roding Church through fairly flat, open countryside to Abbess Roding, then over gently rolling hills to White Roding. The route back to the parking passes through farmland and along a river bank before returning to St Michael's Church. The whole walk covers about 7½ miles. Refreshments are available en route at Bretts in White Roding, which is a licensed farm shop/bistro. The terrain is fairly flat, the footpaths well established, and the surrounding countryside pleasantly undulating.

There are lovely views and some beautiful buildings en route, particularly the cottage opposite School Lane, and Lucas Farm. The village of White Roding contains some truly picturesque old cottages. The footpaths are generally clear and well used, so finding your way shouldn't be a problem, however there is a 200 yard section of footpath in the northern part of the walk past a fishing lake which can get a bit overgrown in late summer.

## Directions

**A.** The car park at St Michaels is tiny. One car only please, or there'll be no room for the church gardener or flower arrangers. From the parking, (P) cross the main road and walk south across the field. Head for a gap in the hedge about 10 yards after the end of the railings you can see to your left (1).

**B.** Cross the footbridge and turn right following the field edge with the hedge to your right.

- C.** Towards the end of the field there is a path bearing right into the woods (2). Follow this and cross the footbridge into the next field.
- D.** Follow the field edge with the woods on your left. In the far left corner of the field there is a path on the left. Take this and cross the footbridge into the woods.
- E.** After a short distance, just before the woods end, the path meets a bridleway. Turn right along the bridleway (3). 25 yards later, at the next intersection turn left (south).
- F.** Follow the field edge with the woods now on your right. Continue straight on through a hedge and later, through a narrow strip of woodland.
- G.** The tree line marking the field boundary moves further to the right. Head across the field (4) and then bear right to cross the footbridge (5).
- H.** The exit from the next field is not obvious. Look in the direction indicated by the waymarker and you will see there is a electricity pole ahead of you; head for that and go through the gap in the hedge to a farm track.
- I.** There is a footpath straight ahead, but the path here is not clear. Instead turn left along the farm track (Frayes Chase) to find a bridleway on the right just before Frayes farm buildings.
- J.** A few yards into this field the bridleway splits into a footpath going due south and the bridleway proper which goes south-west. Stay on the bridleway, walking to the left of a curving hedge (6).
- K.** After a while the hedge disappears, and there are two bridges ahead, a smaller one on your left and a bigger one to the right. Walk to the field edge and turn right towards the bigger bridge (7).
- L.** After crossing the large bridleway bridge, head to the right, across and up the field towards a line of trees where you will see another bridleway. Turn right along this (8).
- M.** Exit the field via the 'tree tunnel' adjacent to a cottage (9).
- N.** Turn right up the road, then left along School Lane.
- O.** Continue up School Lane to the T-junction in Abbess Roding, then turn right and look for the church. Take the footbridge to the right of the church (10).
- P.** Follow the footpath through some trees until you come to a small field (there may be caravans parked here). Leave this field via the opposite, north western corner.
- Q.** Go over a footbridge into a larger field and cross this one diagonally to the right.
- R.** Cross another footbridge into the next field and turn right, walking along the field edge to the field entrance.
- S.** Now in Anchor Lane, turn left for about 25 yards and then take the footpath to the right (11). This field contains a rise and the route may not be clear, but keep walking in a straight line; about half way across the field you will see the waymarker on the far side; head for this.
- An alternative route to avoid the field crossing is to turn right on Anchor Lane for about half a mile, keeping left past Berwick Cottage until you reach the footpath again at (13).*

- T.** At the far side of the field, turn left along the field edge until you reach a line of poplars, then turn right with the poplars on your right, to the road (12).
- U.** Turn right on the road (Church Lane) and continue for 1/5th mile until the lane itself turns sharply right just after Brook Farm, where you bear left onto a field track (13).
- V.** After 50 yards turn left at a waymarker to walk up the field with a ditch and later a hedge to your left.
- W.** At the top of the hill there is a gap in the hedge. Turn left here walking east towards the windmill, with another hedge to your right.
- X.** After about 500 yards the path veers to the left, away from the windmill. Continue on with the hedge at your right, until you approach a wall. There is a gap in the hedge on the right just before the wall: go through that and follow the wall to Church Lane.
- Y.** Turn right on the road, heading north past the windmill, through the village of White Roding until you come to the junction with the A1060. Cross the road and turn right.
- Z.** After about 250 yards you will come to Bretts. The footpath is immediately past this, along a small residential road.
- AA.** Go past Boundary House on your left, then turn left along an enclosed footpath beside a pair of black gates.
- AB.** Follow the path alongside a paddock, turn right at the corner of the paddock where the footpaths intersect (14), then right again at the next corner.
- AC.** As you approach a small sewage works, look for a footbridge on the right. Cross over this and turn left, following the path alongside a stream.
- AD.** 200 yards later, after passing the entrance to a fishing lake, take the footbridge on the left (15) and then turn right to continue along the other side of the stream. This path can get a bit overgrown at times.
- AE.** You will emerge into a field, go straight on. At the corner of the field ahead of you the footpath drops down onto a plank bridge through a hedge into the next field (16). Continue on until you come to Lucas Farm (17).
- AF.** Turn left along the lane for about 50 yards then turn right opposite the farmhouse, to walk along the south bank of a small stream, beside a line of trees (18).
- AG.** Look for a footbridge on the left, and cross to the north bank of the stream. If it's too overgrown, there is another footbridge farther on.
- AH.** At the corner of the field north of the stream a substantial footbridge crosses the River Roding. As you walk over this look for the waymarker at ground level at the far left corner of the bridge.
- AI.** Using the direction of the waymarker as a guide, cross the field diagonally to the left, heading for a red 4-barred gate.
- AJ.** At the red gate you will see a second identical gate (19). Cross over both.
- AK.** Walk east along the field edge with a hedge to your right until you come to a concrete farm track.

**AL.** Turn right along the farm track; (20) when you reach the outbuildings the path bears slightly left to run to the left of some trees. Follow this path to the roadside and back to the parking at St. Michael's.

[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](#).

The parking facilities available on this walk are not suitable for large walking groups or those arriving in more than one car. Parking cannot be guaranteed. If you are using a car, be considerate with your parking: parking areas in rural communities are primarily for local use: please don't abuse this and spoil it for others. It could result in parking controls being tightened, requiring the withdrawal of the walk route. For more see: [Advice: Courtesy](#)