



Title: Ulting

Distance: 8 or 11½ miles

Time taken: 3 or 4¼ hours

Location: 5 miles east of Chelmsford

OS Explorer Map: OS Explorer 183

Grid Ref.: TL 801 088

Parking: [Limited] Near All Saints, Church, Ulting, CM9 6QU
(main church car park now locked due to mis-use)

Bus: Limited service: No.73 Maldon ([First](#)) every 2+ hours

Train: No train services

Refreshment: Paper Mill Lock Tea Shop, open every day from 10 a.m.
The Queens Head, Boreham

(~~The Sportsmans Arms, Nounsley~~ CLOSED)

PEAR Rating: 

Walk Description

This walk takes the form of a figure of eight. It takes you along the banks of the Chelmer, before crossing the river and heading briefly up into the hills around Boreham. The route travels along farm tracks almost back to the river then heads north east across the fields to Nounsley, before returning through the countryside to Ulting.

This walk is perfect for a balmy summer's day: the first section of the walk is mostly a gentle stroll alongside the refreshing river waters, and away from the river there is now only one lovely pub to slake your thirst, after yet another country pub, the Sportsmans Arms, was closed in early 2013.

If the whole 11½ miles seems too long, you can cut out the western loop completely, and you are still left with a lovely walk of just under 8 miles (see the instructions at paragraph **L**).

Directions

Ulting to Paper Mill Bridge (4 miles)

A. The parking at All Saints Church, Ulting is now behind locked gates, but a stroll up to the riverside church is worth a visit before you begin your walk. A small space to the right on the track outside of the gates may be available (P). Please don't block other users in, or obstruct the gate. To start the walk, go back up the access road and follow it round to the roadside.

B. Go straight ahead on the road passing some houses and the old school on your right (1), and carry on walking eastwards for another 320 yards to a corner. As the road swings round to the right, take the track on the left up into a field.

C. Go past the Angling Association barrier and a few yards later turn right to go over a stile and across the field, heading roughly north east and aiming for a large tree at the inverted corner of the facing hedge (2).

D. When you reach the corner walk along the field edge with the hedge on your right. 130 yards later you will come to the facing hedge. Right in the corner, go down a slope, cross a footbridge, then bear right along the field edge heading south (3).

E. Exit the field via a wooden gate onto Ulting Lane, and take the footpath virtually opposite into some woods. After 30 yards bear left across a footbridge, and then exit the woods into some rough grass. There is a lake on your right. Bear right around the lake.

F. 200 yards later you will see a sign on the right regarding fishing (4). Turn left here passing in front of a telegraph pole and walk down to the banks of the Chelmer.

G. Turn right along the tow path and walk with the river on your left for 350 yards until you come to Hoe Mill Bridge (5).

H. Go through a wooden gate onto the roadside and walk over the bridge then cross the road to continue along the southern bank with Hoe Mill Lock on your right (6). From here the route continues along the southern bank of the Chelmer for 3½ miles and you don't really need these instructions again until you reach Paper Mill Bridge at picture (10) for the shorter walk or Church Road Bridge at picture (12) for the whole route.

I. Walk along the bank for about a quarter of a mile until you reach a footbridge crossing the millstream (7). Carry on over the bridge and keep going, with the river still on your right.

J. Continue along the river's edge for about a third of a mile where you will see Ulting Church on the opposite side of the river. Keep going as the river snakes past some woods, then an open meadow (8) before passing Rushes Lock.

K. A third of a mile after Rushes Lock you will pass a white footbridge over the river (9). Continue along the tow path with the Chelmer on your right for another mile to Paper Mill Bridge (10).

L. Paper Mill Bridge is situated at the middle of the 'figure of eight' of this walk, and you can cut the walk short and return to the parking from here. To do so, cross the river using the bridge, follow the road round to the right, and rejoin the route by walking along the private road as described in paragraph **W** below.

Boreham section (3½ miles)

M. To continue the walk, carry straight on to Paper Mill Lock and keep going along the south bank of the Chelmer, past the tea shop and some moored boats (11).

N. Keep going along the tow path for about a mile until you come to another road bridge (12).

O. Cross both the river and the road. Take the footpath heading west along the northern bank of the Chelmer, with the river now on your left.

P. Walk along this path for about a quarter of a mile until you reach a big green footbridge across the river. Turn right, away from the river at this point. There are several footpaths across the fields: choose the one heading northwards towards St Andrew's Church, Boreham (13).

Q. At the facing hedge, go through a gap and continue northwards along the edge of the next field, with the hedge on your left. 100 yards later, cross through a gap on the left and continue northwards, now with the hedge on your right.

R. Follow the hedge round to the left, then after 100 yards look for a footbridge on the right over a stream. Cross the bridge and walk northwards across the field past a nearly dead tree (14).

S. Keep walking until you reach a fence at the top of the field, then turn left then right around the edge of the field. Continue ahead along an enclosed footpath to Church Road, Boreham.

T. St Andrews Church is opposite on the left, and The Queen's Head is tucked away at the back behind the churchyard. To get to the pub, walk along the access road adjacent to the churchyard.

U. To continue the walk, turn right along Church Road heading east for 300 yards until the road turns right. Just past the corner turn left onto a farm track heading almost due east across the fields (15).

V. Walk along this track for almost a mile, passing Culvert's Cottages on the left, and later, Brakey Wood. Shortly after the woods, the track bends to the right before passing Belstead Cottages on the right, and then bends back to continue eastwards to the roadside. Turn right and walk 200 yards down North Hill.

Paper Mill Bridge back to Ulting (4 miles)

W. If you took the shortcut over Paper Mill Bridge, rejoin the route here. At the bottom of the hill, where the road bends sharply, there is a small private road heading east, signposted towards World's End Cottage and Smugglers Barn (16).

- X.** Walk along the private road to the end, then go straight on into a field and continue walking with a hedge on your right. Go through a gap in the facing hedge into the next field. Continue with a hedge on your right for another 300 yards then at a waymarker, bear left diagonally across the field passing to the left of a small grey barn (17).
- Y.** Bear left to walk up a farm track. After 140 yards look for a plank bridge over the ditch on your right (18) and cross this, walking east along a narrow footpath.
- Z.** After 50 yards or so this path reaches the access track to Botters Farm. From the farm gates, cross the field ahead heading diagonally north east, towards a white house (19). Cross a foot bridge and carry on in the same direction. After the next footbridge, bear left to walk north towards the roadside.
- AA.** Turn right along Mowden Hall Lane for 150 yards, passing Gardeners Cottages on the left. Immediately past the cottages, turn left (20). Walk down the field edge towards the River Ter.
- AB.** At the bottom of the field turn right along the river bank, with the river on your left (21). Follow the meanderings of the Ter for about half a mile until you come to a lane.
- AC.** Turn left over a footbridge crossing the Ter (22), and walk up the lane towards Nounsley. The lane bears round to the right and you will walk past a row of houses on the left.(23).
- AD** Carry on through the village and look for the junction with Sportsmans Lane on your left. 30 yards further on, turn right along a footpath beside a low black barn (24).
- AE.** A few yards later bear left into the adjacent field and walk ahead with a fence and then a hedge on your right. Cross under some telephone wires then just before the facing fence look for an easy-to-miss path through the hedge on your right (25).
- AF.** Follow this path round to the left then walk southwards with a wooden fence and some lovely views on your right. After 200 yards go through a gap in the hedge on your left and continue along a wide grassy track towards some trees.
- AG.** Once in the trees, the track bends to the left and becomes a path with a high chain-link fence on the right. Walk along this path until just before the Ulting Road, then turn right following the fence line.
- AH.** Stay on the path with the road a couple of yards away on your left, until the path eventually reaches the roadside. Continue along the road passing a wooden building on your right. A few yards past the wooden building turn left along Ashfield Farm Road (26).
- AI.** Go past Ashfield Cottage on the right and a pond on the left, then 100 yards later turn right over a footbridge (27) and walk south along the field edge with a hedge on your left.

AJ. At the facing hedge go straight on through a gap, and continue south with the hedge now on your right. As you approach a wooded area, just before the curve of the field corner, turn right into the trees (28). You will glimpse a reservoir to your right.

AK. Go down a short slope into the next field. If this looks familiar, it is because it is the first field you entered at the start of the walk (para C). Bear left and walk along the field edge (29). Follow the hedge line round to the right, then retrace your steps across the field to the stile.

AL. Turn left to go past the barrier and continue to the road, then turn right to walk back into Ulting. Go straight on along the access road to the church to return to the parking area.

[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](#).

Unless otherwise stated, 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](#)