



Title: Wormingford

Distance: 5+ miles

Time taken: 2 hours

Location: Between Bures and Great Horkesley, N.E. Essex

OS Explorer Map: 196 Sudbury, Hadleigh & Dedham Vale

Grid Ref.: TL 934 316

Parking: Church Road, CO6 3AD

Bus:  Chambers 753 Sudbury - Colchester

Train: No service

Refreshment: The Crown, Wormingford. Tel: 01787 227405

PEAR Rating: 

Walk Description

The sleepy village of Wormingford sits on the southern bank of the River Stour with views across to Suffolk. The walk starts towards the south and skirts the boundary of the Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club, where you can see gliders landing on the wide open spaces of the airfield. The strange "Aeolian harp" sound produced by the rapid winch launch of the gliders is something that can be heard throughout the walk on a calm warm day.

The route then descends towards the Stour Valley and passes through the grounds of Wormingford Hall, after which it passes over the rolling hills intersecting the Stour Valley Path. At the Stour itself there are picturesque views of the weir and river from Mill House and from the bridge that joins Suffolk and Essex.

The return path meanders back over a varied route through the ancient part of Wormingford village with the Norman St Andrews Church, before returning to the main village. This walk is memorable because there is such a lot of open cross field walking involved, affording a sense of space and freedom as your senses drink in the vast expanses of countryside around you.

Directions

- A.** Park at Church Road, off Main Rd.(P) Head back to Main Rd, turn left and walk 500 yards to end of houses on right side of road at Wood Hall. Go just past Wood Hall and turn right into (Packards Lane) heading south (1) for nearly half a mile.
- B.** At a staggered junction with a bridleway, turn right onto the bridleway heading west, with the ditch to your left (2).
- C.** In a third of a mile you will reach Fordham Road. The entrance to the Gliding Club is on your left, but turn right and take the footpath via a footbridge opposite (3).
- D.** Follow the footpath with the hedge between you and the airfield for a quarter of a mile, until you reach the airfield's concrete perimeter footpath. Turn right here (4).
- E.** If you've come on the right day, you will see an impressive display of gliders being winched launched and landing. At a small raised reservoir, you will see a footpath to the right - ignore this and carry on round the perimeter track for another quarter of a mile. and take the footpath on the right heading across the field to a small clump of trees 100 yards away (5).
- F.** Going through the trees into the next field, turn right along the field edge and head down the hill for a third of a mile (6).
- G.** When you reach a junction of footpaths at the edge of a copse, carry on to the end of the copse where there is another FP crossroads signpost and turn right with a dog-leg back along the field edge in the direction of Wellhouse Farm. (7).
- H.** Emerging onto the farm track by the farm house, turn left passing Mill Bungalow (8). At the junction of Peartree Hill and Bell Hill, there is a footpath up the bank on the right (9). Take this and walk east across the field for 320 yards to a footbridge (10).
- I.** The footbridge leads into a meadow (11) which after another footbridge takes you up to Wormingford Hall. Turn right on the access road,(12) and look for a stile on the left behind the Hall.
- J.** Head roughly north east over the meadow land towards the stile crossing Sandy Hill (B1508) (13). Carry on over the undulating hills in a straight line (14), finally passing through a field edge gate on the hillside and carry on in a north easterly direction to the crest of Lodge Hills where you cross the Stour Valley Path.
- K.** With 'The Firs' to your left and behind you, pass through a metal kissing gate down the hill for 80 yards to the start of a fenced-off stream. (15) Turn left, again heading north east, so that the stream is on your right, and carry on downhill.
- L.** At the bottom of the field, there is a gate and a stile - climb over this and immediately turn right to cross the stream, and walk up to the gate into the grounds of Mill House (16). Follow the signs through to Mill Bridge.

M. Staying in Essex, walk up Mill Hill and turn right into Church Road until you see the turning on your left to Little Ashfield (17). Turn here and just after the cottage, turn right and follow the footpath through a wooded area and straight on down a gravel track heading south west from the Old Vicarage (18)

N. With a large barn in front of you, turn left onto Church Road for 90 yards and then take the track on the left towards the primary school. Just after the school entrance, you leave the Stour Valley Path and turn right (19).

O. Leaving the tree-covered area, south of the school, cross the field (about 300 yards), ignore the footpath branching off to the east and carry on through a gate to an enclosed footpath south back to Wormingford Main Road (20) where you turn right to return to Church Road.

[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](#)