

Langham

Words and pictures by Laurie Page of the Public Rights of Way team at Essex County Council.

This pleasant walk around the village of Langham goes to the church and along part of the Essex Way before returning back to the village community centre via the local pub.

Distance: 4.3 miles.

Starting point: The Langham Community Centre & Recreation ground.

How to get there: Langham is just off the A12 north of Colchester. The Community Centre is in School Road.

Map: OS Explorer 196 Sudbury, Hadleigh & Dedham Vale

Refreshment: The Shepherd pub near the end of the walk.

Tourist Information Office: 1 Queen St, Colchester CO1 1UG

Phone: 01206 282920 www.visitcolchester.com

Place of interest nearby: The ancient historical town of Colchester is just a few miles south of Langham. It has a grand Castle with the largest Norman keep in England. Part of the walls of the ancient Roman city remain, along with a more recently discovered rare Roman circus. Hollytrees Museum in a Georgian House next to the castle, houses centuries of interesting memorabilia and fascinating artifacts.

The Walk

- 1.** Return to the road and turn right along the pavement. Opposite the plant hire building, turn left onto a footpath along a wide stony track. Bear left just before the thatched cottage. This runs between fences then swings right along the edge of the field. In the corner, at the footpath junction, go right and follow the path through the trees. Get over a stile and continue past the lakes. Keep to the left going between fences and then through a large meadow, On the other side cross a stile to the lane.
- 2.** Turn left then immediately right along a bridleway, which is a stony track. Bear right past a house. The path narrows and at the next house it bends sharp left to join a wide track. Pass a farm and continue all the way to the end where you reach the road. Turn right then straight away left, to the church along a concrete path. At the footpath junction take the route to St Mary's Church, which is usually left open for visitors.



Pass Church Farm and descend, enjoying the views ahead. Before you reach the end, go left at the grass junction which leads down to where the hedge ends.



3. Turn left alongside a small wood, going gently uphill. This is part of the Essex Way. Go through a gate into a meadow and leave by another gate and footbridge to a dusty track. Go left and follow the track to the lane. Go straight over across a crop field then over a footbridge and along the field boundary. Proceed straight ahead for some distance, going between crop fields until you reach the lane. Turn left along this road and when you reach the road junction turn left again. At the next large tree turn right onto a footpath into a large field.

4. At the footpath fork junction keep straight on along the line of the hedge. At the end cross a stile onto a winding path through a thicket and green undergrowth. Cross a stile and approach the farm buildings. At the end of the red brick barn, where you reach a concrete track, turn left going down to the right side of the farmhouse. Descend to a stream and continue back uphill across a footbridge, through trees, and emerge into a large field. Proceed straight on across the crop field to a thatched cottage. Traverse a stile, pass the cottage and continue along the track to the road. Turn left along the leafy lane. At the crossroads by the Shepherd pub, go straight on and the Community Centre is further along on the right.





Map

