

Greenstead Green

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

A walk around the little community at Greenstead Green. Using good footpaths and country lanes this can be done at any time of year and even in damp conditions.



Distance: 3.7 miles (6 km)

Getting there: From the A1124 between Earls Colne and Halstead, turn off just east of Halstead, into Church Road which will take you into the heart of the village.

Starting point: In the village centre by the village sign. Free parking in front of the football field and children's play area. CO9 1QZ

Map: OS Explorer 195 Braintree & Saffron Walden.

Refreshment: There is the award winning popular tea room in the village, which you pass at the end of the walk.

Place of interest nearby: Five miles south of Greenstead Green is the historic market town of Coggeshall. It is a quaint town with many listed buildings. Paycock's House (National Trust) is a Tudor Wool Merchants House open to the public. The Grange Barn by the River Blackwater is also owned by the National Trust, is a medieval grade 1 listed building built by the Cistercian monks. Nearby, overlooking the river, is the 12th century Cistercian Abbey. Halstead, a mile and a half north of Greenstead Green has a good Antiques Centre.

The Walk

1. Go down the road past the village hall. At the bottom of the hill the road bends left and then, just as it bends sharp right, go straight on ahead on a footpath which runs along the private access road to Perces Farm. On the left opposite the entrance to Perces is an attractive lake. At Home Farm go left down a grass track. Continue through a metal gate and go straight on then swing right over a brook and up between blackberry bushes to a gap in the fence where you emerge into a field. Go straight on uphill with a hedge to your right. At the top in the corner of the field you go out to the lane.



2. Turn left then immediately right onto a footpath. This is a wide grass path along the field edge. At the corner swing left then almost immediately right through a gap and straight on across the crop field. There are splendid views of the countryside to the left. Continue to the



buildings of Lodge Farm where you turn left along a wide grass track. As soon as it swings right keep to the left and follow closely to the line of the hedge, leaving the track and this takes you over a little planked bridge to the lane.

3. Turn left along the lane. Follow this for some distance, passing Nightingale Hall and proceed down the road to cross the river, keeping to the hard surface, then back uphill. There is very little traffic on this rural lane. Continue all the way until you reach the road junction.

4. Turn left following the sign to Greenstead Green. At the next little crossroads junction soon after, go straight ahead onto the little access road to Stansted Hall which is a dead end road but after you pass the black barn go straight on through the trees. Soon after, at the second way-marker post, turn left onto a footpath along the field edge. The spire of the church can be seen to the right. At the field corner swing right keeping the hedge to your left. This takes you to the road opposite the church. Turn left past houses and join the pavement taking you past the cafe and tea room and a little further on to where you parked opposite the play field.

