



# The Hundred Parishes

## Walks between railway stations – number 4

### Stansted Mountfitchet to Newport – 7.5 miles (12 kms)

*This south-to-north walk is mostly on paths and quiet lanes and is gently undulating. It passes through five parishes: Stansted Mountfitchet, Ugley, Quendon & Rickling, Wicken Bonhunt and Newport. After leaving Stansted, it is mostly in open countryside. There are few seats and no stiles.*

*There are pubs and tea rooms near start & finish but only one potential lunch stop, midway at the Cricketers Arms, Rickling Green (GR: TL511299) - 01799 619260 - <https://thecricketersarmspub.co.uk/> If you plan to rely on it, pre-booking is advised.*

*If you hope to visit a church or a place of refreshment, please be prepared to either remove muddy boots or wear boot covers or plastic bags.*

**Start:** Stansted Mountfitchet Station: Grid Reference TL514248, postcode CM24 8BE. Public may use toilets at Yeoman's tea room or The King's Arms.

**Finish:** Newport Station: Grid Reference TL522336, postcode CB11 3PL.

There is parking at both stations, albeit rather expensive especially before 9:30am.

The route can be followed on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 195.

Two diagrams of the route are provided at the end of the description.

*Tip: If travelling by train to and from the two stations it is usually cheaper to buy a return ticket for the most distant station, rather than two single tickets.*

*Tip: If travelling by car, it is suggested that you park at the finish and catch the train to the start, thereby avoiding the possible pressure to finish the walk at a certain time to catch a train.*

Leave Stansted Mountfitchet station by the main exit (near the booking office on Platform 2), and go straight ahead along Station Road. At the junction with Chapel Hill turn left and cross with care at the pedestrian crossing. Continue up Chapel Hill.

Beyond the memorial gardens on the right, St John's Church was built in the 1880s. A seat beside the war memorial was donated by the Hundred Parishes Society in 2017.

Further up, on the opposite side of Chapel Hill, The Old Courthouse was originally built in 1854 as a reading room, an early kind of library, and has since been used as a village hall, courthouse with cell and in the 1980s as a night club, before being converted into apartments. Next door, The Old Post Office served the village for 100 years until its closure at the beginning of the 21st century.

At the top of the climb, Chapel Hill meets Cambridge Road, the B1383. On the triangle at the junction there is a fountain that was given to the village in 1871 by the local Gilbey family. It stands on the site of a mediaeval wayside chapel that was demolished in Victorian times.



On the opposite side of the main road stands one of the largest mile irons in Essex, indicating that we are 31 miles from London. Our route goes straight across Cambridge Road into Bentfield Road, but you may like to turn right for 100 yards to cross at the pedestrian crossing and then retrace, passing a few shops and a sandwich bar / café along the way.

Go down Bentfield Road, passing turnings to the left and right and, after a short rise, the road turns right. Keep on Bentfield Road, ignoring the turning on the left, Bentfield Causeway. The road twists and turns, passing Bentfield Green on the left before becoming Pennington Lane. One of Stansted Mountfitchet's oldest buildings, 15th or 16th-century Wealden House, stands just across the green. It is pictured below.



We continue straight ahead on Pennington Lane which skirts the last of Stansted Mountfitchet village.

We stay on the lane for more than half a mile, passing a turning on the right, then allotments and then new houses.

Beyond the village, after passing some caravans on the left and before the lane bears right, we turn left beside a gate onto a bridleway.

After 100 yards the path divides. Take the right fork, keeping the hedge on your left. Keep straight ahead on a well-defined track for a considerable distance. Over to the right, the houses strung out along the road are in the parish of Ugley.

When the track meets a tarmac road coming in from the right, keep straight ahead on the tarmac road, leaving Stansted Mountfitchet parish and entering Ugley. We soon pass Bollington House on the left and then an entrance to large farm buildings on the left.

Keep straight ahead, following the main track, and later passing Wades Hall on the right.

Keep straight ahead on the track, downhill into a dip and then climbing beside a wood on the right. After 200 yards of woodland, the main track bears to the right, but this is private. Bear round to the left on the bridleway, here waymarked as part of the long-distance Harcamlow Way, at first keeping a field on the left.

Pass through woodland for 70 yards and, shortly before the wood on the right finishes, bear half right into the wood on a footpath, pass a small pond on the left, and then cross a ditch by a wooden bridge, thereby leaving the wood and coming into a field.

After the footbridge, go straight ahead for 20 yards and then bear slightly right to follow the path diagonally across the field.

We pass beneath an electricity transmission line, keep straight ahead over a ditch, and then climb again gently, passing beneath another power transmission line.

When the path reaches a tarmac lane, we turn right (imperceptibly leaving Ugley and entering the parish of Quendon & Rickling). Pass a house called Birds End and in a quarter of a mile we reach Rickling Green, where the welcoming sign invites us to "Reduce your speed".

At a T junction with a very short fingerpost sign, we turn left past the cricket field on the right and pavilion on the left.

Soon, take the road to the right, signposted to Quendon and Newport, passing the Quendon & Rickling village sign. There is an opportunity for refreshment at The Cricketers Arms, just off to the right.

Continue along the road towards Quendon and Newport, crossing to use the pavement on the left side. Ignore the footpath that turns left along Long Ridge beside Spinney Cottage, pass the old parish hall on the right, and 50 yards later turn left (immediately after number 2, Woodside) onto a public bridleway.

After 50 yards, follow the path round to the left, keeping houses on the left. The path keeps generally straight ahead through what is a fine bluebell wood in springtime.

The path emerges from the wood beside a new house on the left. Turn right onto a bridleway. We are again on the Harcamlow Way long distance path and our route runs along it for some distance. Our track climbs gently for some distance with the bluebell wood on the right.

After the wood on the right ends, we keep straight ahead.

The bridleway descends and then bears round to the left before a short sharp climb beneath a line of oak trees (shown here in autumn) to the top of Hanging Hill. One can only speculate as to the origin of the name. Long ago, it was common for gallows to be erected at busy crossroads. At the top of the hill there is today a crossing of tracks. Perhaps this was once the site of a hanging.



At the top of Hanging Hill, turn right, descending and then climbing again with woodland on the right. Over to the left, the tower of Rickling Church may be visible amongst the trees in the distance, around a mile northwest of Rickling Green.

Towards the top of the climb, Quendon Hall may be visible through the trees on the right.

At the top of this gentle climb, the field on the left comes to an end. Turn left along the track, following a number of oak trees on the left. After a quarter of a mile, pass through a gateway and almost immediately turn right onto a byway, once again heading north.

The stony and uneven track descends gently for the next mile or so.



After about half a mile, the path divides into two. We take the left option, with the field immediately on our left. We have now left Quendon and Rickling and entered the parish of Wicken Bonhunt. The other path remains immediately on the right for some way.

The route continues with woodland on the right until it bears left to cross a bridge and then bears right again.

Soon afterwards, we pass one of the oldest buildings in the Hundred Parishes, the tiny Chapel of St Helen, built in the 10th century.



Soon after the chapel, pass through a gate and turn right onto a short stretch of road that was realigned when the M11 motorway was built in the 1970s.

Soon, immediately before the motorway embankment, turn left onto a footpath for a short distance to join the road, the B1038. Turn right, keeping to the grass verge / pavement on the right side of the road.

Pass beneath the motorway and after 100 yards, just after crossing a stream, bear right into a field. Almost immediately, fork right across the field. Pass through a hedge to meet another path which comes from the left. Keep straight ahead, heading uphill beneath a narrow strip of woodland. We have now left Wicken Bonhunt and entered Newport, the fifth and final parish of this walk.

At the top of the rise, cross a narrow field to enter the outskirts of Newport village. Keep straight ahead across a service road to a junction, where turn right. Cross this residential road with care and soon turn left, heading downhill along a residential road, Frambury Lane.

At the bottom of the hill, Frambury Lane meets the London to Cambridge Road, B1383. Cross with care, and proceed almost straight ahead down Station Road towards Newport Station.

[If you wish to pause before catching the train, turn left at the bottom of Frambury Lane into Newport High Street, where there are a few shops and Dorringtons tea room, about 200 yards along on the left.]

In Station Road, we pass Newport Village Hall on the right and then a large puddingstone, also on the right.



A puddingstone is a conglomerate of many small, rounded and colourful pebbles that appear to have been cemented together. Geologists explain that they were formed around 50 million years ago and were deposited in this area by a retreating glacier, possibly only 10,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age.

Just before the station, on the left, the former maltings were built in 1855 with their own rail siding. Malting ceased in 1982 and the premises are now shared by various businesses.

At the railway station, the ticket machine is on this side of the track, the platform for Cambridge. Cross the footbridge for trains heading towards London. Not all trains stop at all stations so, before boarding one, please check that it is scheduled to stop at your intended destination.

This route description, last updated 01 May 2022, was downloaded from [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) There, you will find many more walks and further reading about each of the parishes.

Please email any suggestions for improving the route or the route description to [hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com).

Two diagrams of the route are shown below. The first was drawn by Glyn Kuhn for the Hundred Parishes Society. The second is based on the Ordnance Survey map and published under © Crown copyright 2020 OS 100062498.



