



The Hundred Parishes

Circular Walks – number 146

Manuden – 3.9 miles (6 kms)

This walk, entirely in the parish of Manuden, explores countryside to the west of Manuden village and finishes with a stroll along The Street, a significant element of Manuden's conservation area. Other parts of Manuden including countryside to the east of the village are included in walk number 157. This route is a mixture of footpaths and quiet lanes. Some paths can be muddy at times, especially cross-field paths so stout footwear is recommended. There are no stiles. There may be an opportunity to visit Manuden Church and/or the Yew Tree pub towards the end of the walk (although they don't open every day), so please be prepared to either remove muddy boots or wear boot covers or plastic bags.

Start and finish: The walk starts and finishes in the ample free car park of Manuden's Community Centre in David Collins Drive at the northern end of the village.
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: TL486273 - Postcode: CM23 1EH.
The route can be followed on either Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 194 or 195.
A diagram of the route is provided at the end of the description.

Leave the car park the way you came in. Just before reaching the road, turn right along the wide grass verge.

After 100 yards, with care cross the road and turn left into a lane signposted towards Furneux Pelham and Maggots End. Keep to the right, facing any oncoming traffic.

Our lane climbs steadily. Ignore a lane, Sheepcote Lane, on the left.

Pass the entrance on the right to Mill House and soon afterwards turn left onto Footpath 36. There is a short, sharp climb up to the field and then the grass path goes straight ahead between fields. *[Should the climb up to the field be too difficult, or should the field itself be too muddy, this section can be avoided by retracing 100 yards to Sheepcote Lane. Turn right and keep on the lane for a quarter mile. Turn right onto Butt Lane and rejoin the route two paragraphs below.]*

Just after the field on the right ends, the path turns right through the hedge and then immediately left to continue in the original direction along a field-edge path with hedgerow on the left.

When this field on the right comes to an end, go straight ahead and bear right between trees to very soon reach a lane (Butt Lane). Turn right onto the lane and proceed gently uphill.

After about 400 yards, ignore the footpath to the right, just before a house called Clockhouse, and continue ahead.

After another 100 yards, follow the lane to the right, now signposted as a public bridleway. After two houses on the right, keep ahead on this broad bridleway, generally with a hedgerow and ditch on the right. Ahead, in the distance, you may be able to see a white water tower. This is at Berden, more than a mile away [Walk number 143 passes close by].

Continue along this broad bridleway for about half a mile, ignoring a footpath that goes to the left and another footpath that goes right. To the left, in the valley, we can see Saucemeres Farm at Mallows Green.

At a gap in the hedge, kink to the right and then left to continue with the hedge now on the left. Ignore a footpath that goes to the right. Occasionally we will be able to glimpse Pelham Electricity Substation over to the right [also on Walk 143].

Towards the end of the field, the bridleway descends to a ford. Keep ahead, crossing the stream on a wooden footbridge with metal handrails.

After the footbridge, keep straight ahead for about 10 yards and then turn left up steps onto a public footpath. Keep straight ahead, following the field-edge path with hedgerow on the left. Immediately on our left, and some feet lower, is a sunken-lane, designated as a byway. This can become quite flooded as it is a continuation of the stream we just crossed.

When the path almost reaches a road on the left, go straight ahead on the footpath, on a wooden footbridge with handrail, over a ditch. Stop on the other side of the footbridge and observe Mallows Green, to the right, and a pair of semi-detached houses, timber-framed and plastered, that date back to the 16th or 17th century. We turn left here (not sharp left onto a byway), past a small triangular green, onto a tarmac lane.

Soon, pass Saucemeres Farm, with a pond, on the left. The farmhouse dates from the 16th century, albeit considerably altered over the last 500 years. Follow the lane to the right.

In another 100 yards we pass Saucemeres Cottage (with no visible name) on the left, and 150 yards later a footpath crosses our lane. Turn left onto the path, climbing steadily with a ditch and hedgerow on the left. We soon pass a disused pit on the left.

When the woodland on the left ends, continue straight ahead, still climbing gently, on a cross-field path that is generally well maintained and heading towards a lone dead tree. At the tree, bear half right.

On reaching a small wood, follow the path to the right, keeping the wood on our left.

The path follows the edge of the small wood round to the left. At the end of the wood, keep straight ahead on a cross-field path, heading towards a solitary tree that stands to the left of the path.

When the field on the right ends, keep straight ahead, now with trees and a ditch on the right. After about 100 yards, at the end of the trees, turn right on a path between trees. After another 100 yards, ignore the signposted path off to the left. Keep straight ahead, now on

the path signed Harcamlow Way, and in another 100 yards emerge onto a lane beside a house called Ark End on our right.

Turn left onto the lane. In about 200 yards we reach a mini crossroads with 18th/19th-century, thatched Broome Cottage immediately on our right. Turn left onto a lane, soon passing thatched Keepers Cottage, also dating from the 18th or 19th century. About 20 yards later, turn right onto Footpath 23, which is also part of the long-distance route, Harcamlow Way.

This grass field-edge path descends steadily with trees and hedgerow on the left. At the end of the field, the path meets a track. Go almost straight across to enter Manuden cemetery. There are seats just to the left if you would like to listen to the birdsong.

The path now runs along the edge of Manuden cemetery as we come back into the village. The white house over to the right is The Bury, dating from the 16th century; the red-brick house over to the left is Cleeve Hall whose front we will pass later.

The path comes into the older section of Manuden churchyard. Keep straight ahead with the church on our left. On the right is thatched 18th-century number 37, The Street, and then the exposed beams of 16th-century Benrose.

Please take this opportunity to visit the church if it is open (removing or covering dirty boots). It dates from the 12th century. Like many churches it was substantially rebuilt during the 19th century but retains significant elements from the 15th including the fine carving and tracery work of the chancel screen. There is a wall monument to Sir William Waad (pronounced Wade), a former Manuden resident who is best remembered for his role as Lieutenant of the Tower of London when he was responsible for the interrogation and execution of Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirators following their failed attempt to blow up Parliament on 5th November 1605.

On leaving the church, turn left from the porch and continue with the exposed timbers of Benrose on the right.

Keep straight ahead and exit by the gateway. Take great care as the gate opens directly onto the road with no pavement. When safe, cross the road to the pavement opposite and turn left.

Pass a garage on the right to reach Pinchpools Road. Turn right, past a small green, and in about 50 yards stop where the road crosses a bridge over the River Stort. The river is often dry.

Just beyond the river is Manuden Hall, mostly out of sight behind trees. It dates from the 16th century although much of it is a replacement following a disastrous fire in 1888. Arson was suspected. Manuden was particularly badly affected by a wave of "incendiarism" that was blamed on farm labourers who were discontent with their pay and with the progressive mechanisation of farming. We will turn here and retrace to the corner.

At the corner, turn right into The Street, passing the Yew Tree Inn on the right. You may like to take refreshment here if it is open. The inn dates from the 16th century but has been much modernised.

Continue along The Street. Next to the pub is 18th-century Church View and then The Old Maltings which dates from the 17th century and really was a maltings

On the left, immediately after the churchyard, is Manuden Almshouses. A plaque gives their date as circa 1430 AD to 2012. The latter date is when they were upgraded and ceased to serve as almshouses.

On the right is number 42, The Old Bakery from the 17th century.

On the left is an entrance to Pakeman's Almshouses with an inscription 1675 to 2013.

Next, we pass number 55 on the left (16th-century but somewhat altered) and on the right we go past the former Post Office and the adjoining Old Wall House, dating from the 17th century.

On the left is the red-brick former vicarage, Cleeve Hall, dating from around 1720 AD. We saw the back of this house earlier when approaching the church.

Opposite Cleeve Hall is 18th-century Cedar House with an attractive curved bay window.

As the road turns right, on the left just after Cleeve Hall, we can see Stable Cottage with its large clock. Next, we pass 18th-century Manuden House on the left with iron railings and tall ornamental trees. The railings were installed around 1820 AD but may have been replaced after World War II when railings across the country were removed for re-use in the war effort.

The pasture on our right once had a row of workers' cottages but the owner of Manuden House had them taken down in the 1850s and the residents moved to a row of new houses built in the south of the village. Like the railings of Manuden House opposite, these too are listed.

After the field, we pass number 62, Cobbs on the right, of 16th-century origin.

Just after Butt Lane on the left, thatched number 75 on the left dates from the 17th century.

On the right, opposite Mailers Lane, is the village hall (as opposed to 'community centre' where we parked), constructed in the 19th century as a Congregational Chapel.

On the left, Waggoner's Court originated in the 17th century and for many years was the Jolly Waggoners pub.

On the left, number 95 was built in 1880 as a Primitive Methodist Chapel and is now a private house.

On the left, there are three thatched cottages: number 97 is Oakdale; 99 Maydays and 101 Chapel Cottage. They are all timber-framed and plastered and all date from the same era: 17th – 18th century.

The pavement ends opposite Chapel Cottage and here we turn sharp right on a surfaced lane. In about 50 yards, ignore the service road behind the houses, and very soon turn left onto a surfaced path beside the playing fields on the right.

After the path bears right, the houses to our left may look old but they were actually built in the 21st century.

We are approaching the rather grand Manuden Community Centre on our right, built at the same time and as part of the scheme that included the new houses and new sports facilities.

Pass the Community Centre on the right and return to the car park where we parked.

You can read more about the parish of Manuden on www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

This route description, last updated 19 June 2021, was downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk Please email any suggestions for improving the route or the route description to hundredparishes@btinternet.com.

A diagram covering this route, based on the Ordnance Survey map, is shown below. It is published under © Crown copyright 2020 OS 100062498.

