



The Hundred Parishes

Circular Walks – number 160

Ugley – 4.1 miles (7 kms)

This walk is entirely within the parish of Ugley, a rural parish with a surprising amount of history. The route is mostly on roads or lanes, with less than a mile of reasonably surfaced bridleway, some of which can be muddy at times. The walk starts with about a mile along the B1383. There are no stiles. There is nowhere to obtain refreshment along the route. There are several seats along the way.

Start and finish: The walk starts and finishes in the car park outside Ugley Village Hall, on the B1383 about 100 yards North of the turning to Elsenham. Please park at the southern end of the car park, the far right. Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: TL515273 - Postcode: CM22 6HR – What3words: hissing.cross.culminate
The route can be followed on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 195.
A diagram of the route is provided at the end of the description.

Before we leave the car park, please be aware that this village hall is famed as the location for the well-attended meetings of the Ugley Women's Institute. Around a hundred years ago, some residents sought to 'gentrify' the name of their parish and for a while it appeared as Oakley. It was not long before it reverted to Ugley. Back in 1086, it appeared in the Domesday Book as UGGHELEAM, possibly named after someone called Ugga.

We leave the car park and turn right along the pavement. We will start by heading North for about a mile along this road, Cambridge Road, B1383, staying on the right where there is always some sort of pavement. Soon we will come to The Square, a small group of houses built in the mid-19th century and only superficially changed from this photo taken in 1909 . . .



The shop on the right, now called The Old Post House, and the White Hart Inn, just beyond The Square, closed many years ago, but the buildings remain, now purely residential.

In another 100 yards we pass a drive on the right to Montefiore House. For five years after World War II this was known as Quare Mead and served as a convalescent home and hostel for Jewish boys suffering from tuberculosis. They had escaped from various countries occupied by Germany, many having survived internment in German concentration camps. Most went on to lead productive lives. The matron, who was born in Germany and only in her 20s, had nursed survivors in Belsen camp immediately after the war and later emigrated to Israel. She recounted her experiences here in a book, *The Road Back: Quare Mead*.

Soon, there is a turning on the left to Bollington Hall Farm [walk number 157 goes through the farm]. We keep straight ahead.

On the right, we pass the entrance to the former Ugley quarry and landfill site. Beside the entrance are sarsen stones that were unearthed when the quarry was operational. They had been deposited there by a retreating glacier in one of the Ice Ages. Part of the quarry site is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because it illustrates the different materials that were deposited long ago by the various ice movements.

Before the M11 motorway opened in 1979, this road, the B1383, was classified as the A11 and was far busier than it is today.

Over the next quarter of a mile, we sometimes have to walk single file where the pavement has become restricted. We pass several properties on our side of the road before reaching 18th or 19th-century Chestnut Cottage – with a squirrel finial on its thatch roof. Soon afterwards, we come to a junction where we turn right into Vicarage Lane, immediately passing the 17th-century Corner Cottage on our right.

Vicarage Lane is narrow and winding, so listen out for approaching traffic. We will walk about 300 yards to the far end and then retrace.

After a flintstone wall on the right, we pass a tall, thatched 18th-century house with no apparent name.

On the right we pass rather fancy metal gates to The Old Vicarage, an early 18th-century red-brick house which we will see just a little further along.

On the left, Maltings Cottage has been considerably altered since its 16th or 17th century origins.

After a few more twists and turns with further flintstone wall on our right, we come to Parsonage Farm, a 16th-century timber framed and plastered building with exposed beams and an original chimney stack. Here, we turn and retrace down the lane, sometimes getting new views of houses that were partly obscured on the way up.

After retracing, we turn right onto the B1383, staying on the pavement. We pass several houses on our right and one of the many ancient milestones to be found along this road. This milestone, which shows we are 33 miles from London, probably dates from the 19th century.

After the final houses on the right, we walk for another quarter of a mile beside pasture on the right and Broom Wood on our left. At the end of the pasture, marked by a line of poplar trees, we come to a gated development of two houses. These were built around 2020 on a site that had previously been occupied by the weekend clubhouse of Eagle Road Club, a London cycling club whose members built the wooden clubhouse between the wars. Members would cycle up from London to stay overnight on Saturday before riding a time trial early on Sunday morning on this relatively flat and straight road. The growth in car ownership reduced usage of this and several other club huts in Ugley so that, today, few serve their original purpose. Time trials are still held along this road, but participants now tend to arrive by car.

Just beyond the new houses is the Chequers Inn. Constructed with a timber-frame in the 17th or 18th century, it was re-fronted with red brick in the 19th. It has functioned as an inn since at least 1789 when it had its own brew house, stable yard, gardens and orchard. The pub closed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and is now looking very neglected. In the wall, there is a post box with the cipher EviiR and therefore installed during the period 1902 to 1910 when our king was Edward VII. He had been a regular visitor to the Hundred Parishes to visit one of his mistresses, Darling Daisy, the Countess of Warwick, who lived at Little Easton.

Immediately after the Chequers, we turn right, signposted to Ugley (Church) and Henham. We immediately come into Patmore End, a hamlet of Ugley parish. Having left the main road, the rest of this walk will be much quieter, but we should take care along this narrow lane which sometimes has vehicles whose drivers do not expect to encounter pedestrians. Generally, we should keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic.

After several relatively new houses we pass three thatched cottages on the left, all dating from the early 18th century: Guyvers, Hollyhocks and Mallows.

In another 200 yards, the lane turns left but we turn right in front of The Lodge, signposted to Ugley Church. This is an even narrower lane between fields. After 100 yards, we follow the lane as it turns left towards Ugley's parish church.

Just before the entrance to the churchyard, to our right is Ugley Hall, built in the 1830s. Beyond it are various buildings of Ugley Hall Farm.

We keep straight ahead on the gravel drive into the churchyard of St Peter's. Ahead is the 16th-century red-brick tower which is believed to be the last church tower in Essex used as a dovecote – as recently as the early 20th century. Bear right to the porch. If it is open and you would like to visit, please cover or remove dirty boots. The church dates from the 13th century but was much restored in the 19th.

Leaving from the church porch, we turn left to continue through the churchyard. Just beyond the buttress on the left is a gravestone to Ernest William Dalrymple Tennant, 1887 to 1962. Tennant lived in Ugley at the family home, Orford House, just south of the village hall. Between the World Wars, he was a leading advocate of friendship and trade between the UK and Germany and became a close friend of Joachim von Ribbentrop who subsequently

served as Germany's Foreign Minister during World War II. Tennant was one of the UK's unofficial emissaries to Germany in moves to prevent war but they were all unsuccessful. Following the war, Ribbentrop was the first to be executed for war crimes after the Nuremberg trials.

Opposite Tennant's grave is a memorial to a former priest who died in 1896, having served as vicar of St Peter's, Oakley.

We continue beyond the church, bearing half left to leave the churchyard through a wooden gate. We go past farm buildings on the right, and then cross a drive that leads into the farm, before turning right onto a long straight roadway.

When the roadway turns right, we go straight ahead along the bridleway, passing cattle sheds on the left and a house called The Office on the right.

We will follow the gravel track for almost a mile, heading South. Over to the left we can see traffic on the M11. Beyond the motorway, about 3 miles distant, a microwave communication tower stands on the horizon in Debden.

We pass a very old Nissan hut on the left and then go through a gateway to continue straight ahead. This path is very clear but can sometimes be muddy or overgrown. We keep heading towards a communications mast in the distance.

As we approach the phone mast, over to the right is what looks like a shallow hill, but it is actually man-made, the result from many years of depositing landfill waste into Ugley Quarry, whose entrance we crossed near the start of this walk.

We pass close to the communications mast and continue ahead.

After 17th-century Fieldgate Farmhouse on our left, we continue ahead along Fieldgate Lane which takes us beside a variety of domestic and commercial premises to bring us into the hamlet of Ugley Green.

When we reach a pond on the right, beyond it is The Old Place, a single thatched residence with exposed beams that was built in the 17th century as a range of cottages.

Now, on our right is the green of Ugley Green. Across the green is Green Place with lots of chimneys. To its right is The Old Place. If you would like to pause, there is a seat here.

At the road junction, we turn right beside the green. To our left is the former village school which opened in 1848 and closed in the 1970s. When safe, we should cross the road and fork left beside a small green with bus shelter. Just beyond the bus shelter, on our right, is a cast iron water pump from the 19th, possibly 18th century. Beside it is a 50 million years-old puddingstone which will have been deposited nearby by a retreating glacier.

On the other side of the main road, beside Ugley Green, is Little Buckland, another row of cottages from the 17th or 18th century that have been combined into a single residence whose roof is part thatched and part tiled.

Having forked left, we are now in Dellows Lane, a quiet back lane with several older residential properties. These include thatched Chestnut Cottage, soon on the left and dating from the 18th or 19th century, and later, set-back on the left, Dellow House, considerably extended since its original 17th-century construction.

We follow Dellows Lane as it turns sharp right. In another 100 yards we reach a road. When safe, we cross and turn left. In another 100 yards, we follow the main road round to the right. Not long ago, a signpost stood on the corner, pointing us towards Ugley and Stansted. We are now in Pound Lane.

In about 100 yards, we pass The Hermitage on the left. It dates from the 17th century but has been much altered, including the addition of a two-storey gabled porch.

Further along, as the lane bends left, we pass thatched, 18th-century Jordans Cottage on the left. We ignore footpaths to left and right and continue along the lane. A property on the left has a flintstone wall – might this have been the pound after which the lane is named? The pound would have been where stray animals were held until claimed.

Immediately on the right we pass Wickets, with a suitable weather vane, and on the left Crowns, a sturdy-looking farmhouse.

On the right, we come to a row of cottages dating from the 17th or 18th centuries. The first, Park Cottage, has a partly tiled roof and the others – Ivy Cottage and Rose Cottage - are fully thatched. With care, we could cross to the left to get a better view of the flying pig finial which decorates the thatch of Park Cottage. We continue ahead, on the right, facing traffic.

Before we reach the corner where the lane turns right, we will cross to the left – for two reasons: firstly to have a clear view of the bend and secondly to inspect the stone plaque on the brick wall on our left. This explains that arrows (no longer visible here) “were painted to direct non-combatants inland across country – avoiding main roads – to facilitate the movement of troops in the event of a successful landing by the Germans on the east coast. 1914 – 1918”. This suggests that the strategy was to encourage civilians to leave the main roads clear for troop movements.

We continue on the left to the corner where the lane turns right, but we will pause just here. At the corner, there is an entrance on the left to an HFT (formerly Home Farm Trust) complex of buildings which serve a community of residents with learning difficulties. The complex has been developed over a number of years in the former grounds of Orford House which is not visible from this spot. Princess Anne is a patron of HFT and has visited several times. Orford House is a large brick house built around 1700 AD by the Earl of Orford. In the 21st century it was divided into three residences.

For many years, Orford House was the home of the Tennant family. They were generous benefactors of Ugley, opening their gardens frequently to the villagers and inviting all the children to Christmas parties. They also entertained Germany’s Joachim von Ribbentrop. Nancy Tennant was a stalwart of the local Women’s Institute, living to the age of 105. Her memoirs recorded her private meeting in Germany with Adolf Hitler. She described him as

having a hypnotic presence and she was pleased to get away quickly. Yes, Ugley has some interesting history.

We continue along Pound Lane and cross to the right when safe.

At the next corner, where the lane turns left, there is an entrance to Linnet's Wood, managed by the Woodland Trust. A little way in, there is a picnic table, although we are now only a stone's throw from the finish of this walk.

After Linnet's Wood, we follow the lane round to the left. Over to the left is an entrance to the three residences that now make up Orford House, now known as Orford Hall.

We soon reach a junction with the main road, B1383. Here we turn right and soon return to Ugley Village Hall. [If you would like to see this view of Orford House, turn left on the main road for 100 yards and then retrace]

We turn right into the car park where we started. The village hall is over 100 years old, having been erected in 1920, largely funded by the Tennant family as a memorial to members of their family and the other men of Ugley who died in the first World War.

Ironically, the hall was badly damaged by a German bomb in the second War, despite the attempts by the Tennant family to foster friendship between Germany and England.



This route description, last updated 27 May 2025, was downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk where you can read more about the parish of Ugley and also download many additional walk routes.

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.

