



The Hundred Parishes

Quiet Lane Walks – number 312

Clavering - Langley – 4.8 miles (8 kms)

This circular walk is in the Essex parishes of Clavering and Langley, travelling mostly through open countryside with good views and passing beside a number of ancient listed buildings.

You may join the circular route anywhere along the way. The walk is entirely on lanes and there are few suitable places to park. One such spot, beside a slightly wider stretch of road, is suggested in the box below and the route description starts from there. It is marked as **1** on the route diagram on the last page of this description.

The route passes Langley parish church, marked as **3** on the route diagram. It is usually open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am till 5pm.

At Butts Green, the route passes Poppy's Barn Tea Room – marked as **2** on the diagram - CB11 4RT - 01799 812000 - <https://poppysbarn.co.uk/> In 2024, it opened from Tuesday to Sunday, from 9am to 3:30pm.

Another possible place for refreshment is The Bull in Langley Lower Green, marked as **4** on the diagram, but in 2024 it had limited opening hours. There are also a number of seats along the route.

Start and finish: The walk description starts and finishes midway between Langley Lower Green and Roast Green, about 300 yards northwest of Chequers, at a spot where a public footpath joins the road. The spot is marked **1** on the route diagram at the end of this description and is at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TL448334. The spot lies 600 yards northwest of Postcode CB11 4SH and is approximately defined on What3words at: placed.sunbeam.slate

The route can be followed on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 194.

Please follow the usual safety precautions: keep to the right so as to face oncoming traffic, crossing occasionally to the left if this offers a clearer view round a right-hand bend. Drivers and cyclists may be as surprised to see you as you are to see them!

We set off along the lane in a southeasterly direction. A footpath leaves the lane and goes off to our right. The sun should be to our right (or straight ahead if we are setting out early).

Our first few steps follow the line of the parish boundary. It is not marked, except by a row of dots on the map. Behind us, and also to our left for a hundred yards, is the parish of Langley. To our right, and then stretching ahead of us, is the parish of Clavering.

About 300 yards after the start, we pass Chequers on the left.

In another 300 or 400 yards, there is a new development of several residential properties on our left, starting with Oak Tree Barn. These appear to have been built within Brocking Farm.

Soon afterwards, we pass a pond and then a lane on our right. The fingerpost at the junction has lost the finger that once pointed down that lane. We continue ahead, passing Brocking View and then the thatched Brocking Cottage on our right.

Further along, built into the wall of a private garage on the right, there is probably the smallest postbox within the Hundred Parishes; it is also one of the oldest - its VR cipher indicates that it has been in service since the reign of Queen Victoria. The garage belongs to the white-painted Waggon and Horses - a giveaway name for a former pub.

We soon pass beside a row of houses on our right; this is the hamlet of Roast Green, one of many Greens that make up the parish of Clavering.

Just afterwards, we ignore a turning on the right, signposted to Sheepcote Green (yes, another Clavering green). Only ten yards after the junction, note the well mechanism, set back from the road in a patch of woodland on the right – presumably no longer in use.

We keep straight ahead.

In another 100 yards, we turn left into a lane which is signposted to Langley Upper Green.

We soon pass Valance Manor Lodge, set back on the right.

A little further along, we pass the gated entrance to Valance Manor, and then Valance Manor itself. This private house started life as a timber-framed building in the 17th century; it has since been renovated and extended and the timber-framing is now exposed.

Further along, immediately after a footpath on the left and just before the lane bends to the right, we pass Ruttels, rather hidden behind trees on the left. Here there are more exposed timbers and a thatched roof. The house dates from the 17th or 18th century.

Next on the right, a range of farm buildings hides Thurrocks Manor, a farmhouse which dates from the 16th century.

The lane turns left and soon afterwards we reach Poppy's Barn on the left – a café with a 5* hygiene rating in 2024. It is marked with the number **2** on the route diagram.

If you stop at the café, afterwards turn left to continue along the lane.

In a further 200 to 300 yards, we come into the hamlet of Butts Green, yet another of Clavering parish's many greens. On the right, in 2024, a building site surrounded a 16th-century listed barn which was looking extremely fragile.

We pass several commercial units as we leave the hamlet of Butts Green. Here, we also leave Clavering and come into the parish of Langley.

Soon after the commercial units on the right, we pass a small gap in the hedge to our left. It is signposted as a public footpath but appears to be little used these days. If we had a time machine and could go back nearly two thousand years, we might encounter Roman soldiers here because a Roman road once crossed our lane at just about this point. We will meet the Roman road again just before we reach the end of this route description.

As we continue ahead, there are extensive views to our left, looking west.

About half a mile after Butts Green, we are welcomed to Langley Upper Green, just as we pass red-brick 19th-century Bury Farmhouse on the left.

Langley Upper Green is well named, 130 metres (more than 400 feet) above sea level and having a very long green with houses set well back on each side. Most houses date from the 18th to the 20th century with a few older properties . . .

On the left, a little way beyond the telephone kiosk, The Cottage, thatched and standing sideways to the road, dates from the 16th century and may have originally been a hall house before the chimneys were installed.

Further along, set back on the left, a terrace of three thatched cottages dates from the early 18th century.

Altogether, the greens and attractive cottages of Langley Upper Green stretch for about half a mile until we reach a turning on the right, signposted towards Duddenhoe End and Arkesden. We ignore this lane and continue ahead with Langley cricket ground on our right and Langley Baptist Church and cemetery on our left.

At the end of the cricket green, we pass the former village school on our right as the lane bears left.

In another hundred yards, a finger post points right towards the parish church. We turn right, up The Causeway for about 200 yards to Langley parish church. The first house on the left is Church Cottage with 18th-century origins.

We follow the lane round to the left, avoiding the entrance to 17th-century Langley Hall, nicely visible at the far end of a wide drive and farmyard, often with a tractor parked in front of the Hall.

On our left, the thatch hangs low over Causeway Cottage which dates from the 17th century; it is described in its listing as "One and a half storeys with attics".

Just beyond, the church dates from the 12th century. It is marked **3** on the route diagram. The church is usually open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am till 5pm. If you have come on the right day, you are encouraged to visit.

We should retrace down The Causeway and turn right beside Church Cottage, back onto the lane.

We soon leave the village. This is Bull Lane and we stay on it for about half a mile.

After a while, the lane descends, passing a herd of rusty deer outside Meadow View Cottage on the right.

At the bottom of the hill, we reach a road junction where we will pause to look about before turning left. We are now in Langley Lower Green.

On the corner to our left is The Bull pub. It has very limited daytime opening hours (just Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 11pm in 2024). However there are picnic tables outside and a bench on the green.

Immediately opposite the junction, there are two interesting thatched, timber-framed and plastered houses. To the right, the tiny single-storey property is called Friday Shop; it dates from the 17th or 18th century. To its left, Brooms is much larger and was once a range of small dwellings. It dates from the 18th century and has an ancient wooden plaque which declares, "Notice by order of the Magistrates. All Persons found begging in this Parish will be taken up by the Vagrant Act and Punished as the Law Directs".

Our route turns left, signposted towards Clavering, etc. The fingerpost sign was manufactured at Maldon Iron Works in Essex, probably before the Second World War.

Please refrain from begging and continue, on the right side of the road, towards Clavering.

In another hundred yards or so, we come to another Maldon Iron Works sign. Here, we go straight on, signposted to Clavering, etc, and ignoring Waterwick Hill on the right.

As we walk through Langley Lower Green, we pass several attractive cottages, mostly thatched and mostly dating from the 18th century. The Old Farmhouse on the left appears to be the last, but another group of three thatched cottages comes along later on the left. The last of these is Sunset Cottage.

Just afterwards, we pass the back of a sign that tells us we are leaving Langley Lower Green and leaving the 30mph zone.

The quiet lane continues in a generally south-easterly direction. After another quarter of a mile, the lane bends left and shortly afterwards we will return to where we started the walk.

Between the bend and where we parked we again cross the route of the Roman road. It linked the Roman settlements at Braughing (to the southwest) and Great Chesterford (to the northeast). Here, we stand roughly midway along its straight route of 14 miles.

[If you started the walk elsewhere along the route, join the route description from page 1]

This route description, last updated 09 June 2024, was downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk There, you can read more about the parishes of Clavering and Langley and also find many additional walk routes.

Please email any suggestions for improving the route or the route description to hundredparishes@btinternet.com.

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

