



# The Hundred Parishes

## Quiet Lane Walks – number 331

### Great Easton – Lindsell – 4.1 miles (7 kms)

This walk passes through two administrative parishes: Great Easton & Tilty, and Lindsell. The clockwise route goes through attractive countryside and also passes through part of the village of Lindsell, with a visit to the parish church. The route passes few buildings but five are several hundred years old and started life as hall houses. The second half of the route is also used in walk 326, but in the opposite direction.

The route description starts and finishes at The Green Man at Millend Green, the only opportunity for refreshment along the route. You might be able to park here, with permission, and you should check availability if you plan to dine – in 2024 the pub did not open on Mondays and Tuesdays - 01371 852285 - <https://greenmanlindsell.co.uk> . If you are unable to park here, there may be space to park beside the road just a few yards to the west of the pub.

You can, of course, join this circular walk anywhere along the route.

**Start and finish:** The route description starts and finishes outside The Green Man, Millend Green, Great Easton - Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: TL619260 - Postcode: CM6 2DN - what3words: palace.coconuts.realm .

The route can be followed on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 195.  
A diagram of the route is provided at the end of the description.

This route is mostly on quiet lanes, but please follow the usual safety precautions: where there is no pavement, keep to the right so as to face oncoming traffic, crossing occasionally to the left if this offers a clearer view around a right-hand bend. Drivers and cyclists may be as surprised to see you as you are to see them!

From the Green Man, we turn right along Mill End Green Road, passing what was a construction site in 2024.

After about 100 yards, we turn left into Breach Lane, signposted simply as Breach Lane.

The lane soon starts to descend with views ahead. The higher ground ahead in the distance is around Thaxted which lies 3 miles to the North. The Chelmer valley is about a mile to our left; it runs from North to South.

In the far distance to the left, we may be able to see the giant microwave radio mast about 4 miles away in Debden parish

Towards the bottom of the descent, we pass farm buildings of Breach Farm on our left. Just afterwards, Breach Farm House itself dates from around 1600 AD.

The lane continues for another quarter of a mile until it reaches a junction. Here, we turn right, signposted towards Lindsell.

We are now in Gallows Green Road which may carry a little more traffic than Breach Lane, so we should normally keep to the right.

In a quarter of a mile, we come into Gallows Green, a hamlet within the parish of Great Easton & Tilty.

On the right, a house called Five Farthings has a novel display in its pargeting – five images of the reverse side of a 1956 farthing coin. The farthing was worth a quarter of an old penny, or one-960th of a Pound. The wren appeared on the back of the coin from 1937 until the coin ceased to be legal tender in 1961. The old penny was superseded in 1971 with “decimalisation”. Thereafter, the UK had decimal coinage with 100 pence to the Pound instead of “£sd” when there were 20 shillings to the Pound and 12 pence to the shilling. Some walkers may remember those days!

Calmsden Cottage on the left dates from the 16th century. Two ‘eyebrow dormers’ protrude from the thatch. The building’s Grade-II listing suggests that it may have started life as a very small hall house – in other words with a hall that was heated by an open fire whose smoke escaped through vents in the roof. The chimney would have been added later, together with the floor that turned the hall into two storeys.

A little further along, Hyde Cottage on the right is set back a little from the road and was built sideways-on to the highway. This house also dates from the 16th century and was also probably built as an open hall. Its external timbers are relatively recent additions.

On the left, Hyde Farmhouse is from the 17th century, possibly earlier. It is timber-framed and plastered with a peg-tiled roof. In 2024, the plaster was a blue/grey colour.

We pass a lane on the left, signposted to Dove House Farm and Dove Cottage.

In another 200 yards, we come to the entrance on the left to Pear Tree Cottage, yet another small open hall house dating from around 1600 AD and having a thatched roof.

We cross the entrance to Bush Farm Lane on our right.

Soon afterwards, we imperceptibly leave the parish of Great Easton & Tilty and enter the parish of Lindsell. We will pass no more dwellings for half a mile until we reach Lindsell village.

In due course, a sign welcomes us to Lindsell and declares that there is a 30 mph speed limit.

Soon afterwards, we ignore the lane that forks to the left, signposted to Lindsell and Thaxted, but here we might pause to admire the Lindsell village sign, erected in 2017.

We walk beside Priors Hall Farm on the left - well known in these parts for its farm shop and especially its locally-sourced pork.

About 200 yards after the village sign, just before a road junction, we should pause at a gateway on the right. Beyond it is the ground of Lindsell Cricket Club which was founded in 1905.

From the gateway, with care, we should cross the road. On the other side, an information board shows that we are in Church End, Lindsell. Here, our route diverts briefly from the road to visit the ancient centre of Lindsell.

We should proceed along the track beside the information board – this is the short driveway to Lindsell's parish church.

We pass the church car park on the left before reaching Lindsell Hall on the left. This was built as a hall house in the 15th century – a classic example with a central hall flanked by a crosswing at each end. In the 16th century a chimney stack was installed in the central hall and the dividing floor inserted to turn the hall into two storeys, matching the crosswings.

Immediately after Lindsell Hall, a courtyard on the left has a 17th-century barn and 19th-century granary resting on cast iron staddles. It is more usual to see staddle stones used for the purpose of deterring vermin from accessing the grain in the raised granary, but here they are metal.

We continue ahead into the churchyard. The small parish church, dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, dates from the 12th century and there is much that remains from its early existence. If it is open, you are encouraged to visit, first removing or covering boots if they are muddy.

In the north wall of the chancel, to the far right, there is a tiny window which provided the only view from a small “anchorite cell”, built against the outside wall of the church to enclose a recluse or anchorite who wanted solitude, possibly for the rest of their life. The anchorite, often a woman, would have been granted permission by the bishop, probably in the 12th or 13th century, on the understanding that she could pay for food to be delivered. Pretty scary!

On leaving the church, we retrace 100 yards past Lindsell Hall to the lane.

Here, our route goes straight ahead. We should negotiate the junction with care, passing a small post box and keeping to the right to face any traffic. If we look back to the junction, we will see a wooden fingerpost sign without a finger to tell us where we are heading. Not long ago, the sign was of cast iron, complete with a third finger advising that this was the direction for Mill End Green.

We pass another gateway to the cricket ground and then the pavilion, just behind the hedge.

We soon pass the thatched 17th-century Church Cottage on the left.

Soon, we walk between two signs welcoming folk coming the other way into Lindsell. Once again, we are subject to the national speed limit.

In about a quarter of a mile, we come to Simkins Farm on the right. This is yet another former hall house, built in the 15th century with a heated open hall where members of the household would spend much of their time.

The lane turns left and right, climbing gently until we reach woodland on the right – Dow Wood.

For a while, we have woodland on both sides of the road.

The wood ends on our left but continues on the right.

Later, our lane bears right and we again have woodland on both sides. We have now left Lindsell and returned to the parish of Great Easton & Tilty.

Dow Wood eventually ends and a gravel footpath heads off to the right. We continue along the lane, now heading towards houses.

We pass a few modern houses before reaching Little Rakefares on the left. This timber-framed and plastered house, beyond the pond, dates from the 17th century or earlier.

We pass Nevilles Farm on our right. The farmhouse displays a stag – a symbol which denotes that the property was once owned by the Maynard family of Easton Lodge in nearby Little Easton.

When hedgerows allow, we have a good view to the right, looking North.

Andrews Farm Lane joins us from the left and just afterwards we pass Cranes Farmhouse on the left. We keep straight on.

In another 30 yards, Breach Lane goes off to the right. We keep straight ahead

Soon afterwards, we return to The Green Man on the left, where this walk description started.

[If you started somewhere else along the route, please rejoin the route description from page 1 ]

This route description, last updated 16 September 2024, was downloaded from [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) There, you can read more about the parishes of Great Easton & Tilty and Lindsell and also find many additional walk routes.

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

