

Walk Details



How much of medieval Chrishall is still there to be seen? Find out on this walk.



1.5 to 2 hours, 3/4 miles or 2.5 to 3 hours, 5/6 miles. Roads and footpaths. Not wheelchair friendly.



Refreshments available at The Red Cow (www.theredcow.com) Chrishall or The Pheasant (www.pheasantgc.com) for longer route.

Country Code and Disclaimer

Please keep to public paths, leave gates as you find them, keep dogs under control, take your litter home and take care on roads. Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Chrishall Archive Group have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property.

1. Start at the green pump opposite the Red Cow pub in Chrishall.

2. With the Red Cow pub opposite you, take the road to the right of the pub marked Hogs Lane. Walk down Hogs Lane.

3. About 50 yards along Hogs Lane is a row of small houses on your right. This is now called Brick Row, but in the past it has been known as Pumpkin Row.

4. At the end of Hogs Lane (just after the allotments on your right), you will come to a footpath, take the path to the left circling the field. This will bring you out on to another lane.

Turn left onto the lane and almost immediately there is a footpath on your right, to the side of a green cottage (it is quite difficult to see the path). Take the footpath and follow it around the edge of a field as it turns left and then passes between a hedge and becomes a narrow path fenced on either side of two fields.

5. Follow the path through a gate and out onto a road (Church Road). Cross the lane and take the path opposite, crossing two foot bridges in quick succession. You will see a garden and house on your left. The house is known as 'the Butts' and you will see a large mound in the garden. In the Middle Ages, archery was practised here. The Butts means target range in archery.

6. You will then pass through a kissing gate and the path then climbs for a short distance before you arrive at Chrishall church.

7. If the church is open, go inside where you will find several brasses on the left hand side just after the door. There is a particularly majestic one of a couple dressed in 14th century costume. They are believed to be Sir John and Lady de la Pole (more on them later). This is one of the finest brasses in Essex. What is surprising is that it was 'lost' until the 19th century when it was discovered during renovation works at the church.



8. Leave the church by the main door and opposite you, through the graveyard, you will see a gate in a hedge, head towards the gate and go through it. At this point you will see a path straight ahead of you and in the distance some barns. This is part of Chiswick Hall, originally called Flanders. Take this path.



Chrishall History Walks

WALK 5 – MEDIEVAL CHRISHALL & BILDEN END

9. There has been a house on the Chiswick Hall site since at least 1066. Eustace II Count of Bologne was the owner in 1086. Eustace, also known as Eustace aux Grenons (Eustace of the long moustache), fought on the side of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. It has been suggested that he was the patron of the Bayeux Tapestry. His daughter, Matilda, married King Stephen.

10. Sir John and Lady Joan de la Pole lived at Flanders in the 13th century. They had a daughter, also called Joan who spent her childhood at Flanders. She married 5 times. Her fourth husband was Sir John Oldcastle. In his youth he had been a friend of Henry V but later (in the 1410's) he became a ringleader of the Lollards, a group of religious radicals, who plotted against the King. He was eventually captured and hung at St Giles Field in London. He is thought by many to have been the inspiration for Shakespeare's Falstaff. Joan was also imprisoned but was quietly released after his execution and

went on to marry a fifth time. She is the subject of the book by Susan Curran 'The wife of Cobham'.

11. Follow the path straight ahead which will lead you downhill to a bridge and then to a road. On reaching the road (which is quite busy), turn left and almost immediately you will see a lane on your right with a footpath sign and a separate sign saying 'Chiswick Hall'. Turn right into the lane and walk up the hill. It is worth looking back for views of the church.

Just after the fencing on the right hand side is a footpath sign (watch out it is easy to miss it).

Turn right and follow the footpath through a hedge and over a bridge into a fenced field.

Turn immediately right to walk along the side of the field on a path between the hedge and the fence. The path twists and turns around some buildings. Just after the tennis court and menage on your right, turn right to follow the footpath with the menage on your right. Follow the path around the edge of the field, turning to the

left until you reach a footpath sign on your right, turn right over a bridge and then follow the path slightly uphill to the middle of a field and then after the crest, slightly downhill to reach a copse.

12. You are now entering Bilden (or Builden or Building) End. Chrishall is a long parish (about 6 miles long) and Bilden End is a hamlet at the southern end.

13. As you approach the copse you will see a tiled house on your right. This is called 'the Well'. There was a well here which provided water for Builden End before mains water. See the QR code for photos of farm labourers working in the field in front of the Well at the turn of the 20th century.

14. When you reach the far edge of the field by the copse, ignore the bridge straight ahead and instead turn left to walk along the edge of the field with the copse on your right.

15. After fifty yards or so, you will come to a footpath sign indicating that you can turn right, take the turning right over a bridge. Walk along a wide grassy track, over a stile/gate with a sign saying keep dogs on a lead and through another gate/stile to come into a field with a number of gates. Keep to the left of the field and take the stile or the gate on the farthest left which leads out onto a small lane with a small collection of cottages.

16. On your right is Hollyhock Cottage. For many years a man named Claude Cranwell rented this cottage. In the 1930's his wife contracted tuberculosis (TB) and for the rest of her life she lived in a shed in land beyond Revell's Cottage on the other side of the road (she found it helped her TB symptoms). Claude eventually chose to live in another shed close to her, partly because as he said his cottage had too many windows in the roof (ie it needed re-thatching, it is now tiled).



See the QR codes for a picture of the cottage during renovation (the roof seems to have been repaired by this point in time).

17. On your left is Revell's Cottage named after Daisy Revel who lived here for many years between the 1920's and the 1970's. She was known as 'Aunt Daisy' and was a stalwart of Chrishall church for many years, attending three times on a Sunday. She was also a founder of the Chrishall WI when it was set up in 1926. See the QR code for further information on Daisy and a lovely tale of her making up bunches of flowers - violets, snowdrops and pussy willow on Mothering Sunday for children to give to their mothers.

You will also see a picture as to what the cottage looked like in the 1980s (after Daisy's death

and before it was renovated).

18. Beyond Hollyhock Cottage on your right is another cottage set back from the road called Upper Farm. See QR codes for pictures of a wedding here in 1914.

19. Head downhill along the lane. You will soon come to a lane on your left. This is known as Common Lane (although there is no sign).

20. DETOUR. You can head up Common Lane where you will find a house (Highwood House) on land where once a cottage called Keeper's Cottage stood.

If you head along the lane, it will eventually turn into a path and will lead you to Kilhams Green, which was originally the far end of Chrishall. Kilhams Green is now in the neighbouring parish of Langley. Land between Keepers Cottage and Kilhams Green was common land for the people of Chrishall following the Enclosures Act.

Retrace your steps to the junction and turn left.

21. Until the 1970s there was a standpipe on the corner of this junction and two old men and an

old lady (well into their 70's) who lived at Keepers Cottage, had to come down to this junction to get fresh water.

22. Continue to head down the hill and you will come to a large house on your right as the road also turns right. This is Lower Farm (the sign is just beyond the house) which was for many years owned by the Brands who farmed the land and owned the cottages we have just passed. See QR codes for photos of harvest using traction engines and a picture of hay carting circa 1897.



23. Shorter route Continue along the lane for about 1/2 a

mile, passing a cottage called Drury Cottage and then, on a corner to your right you can see set back from the road, the Well which you saw earlier on.

When you come to a road junction turn right (be careful it is a fairly busy road). Shortly you will come to a road on your left, take that road and after about 1/2 a mile you will arrive back at the Red Cow.

24. Longer route

Just after Lower Farm on your right and the postbox on your left, you will see a footpath sign on your left. Take that path which heads uphill, keeping a wood to your right.

The county boundary between Essex and Cambridgeshire lies around here, as does the highest point in Cambridgeshire.

At the end of the wood, continue straight ahead, ignoring the turning to your right. At the top of the field turn right and follow the track to a green gate. You will see a large house on your left called Chishill Hall.



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Turn left along the road and very soon you will come to a sign for the village hall on your right.

Turn right into the road to the village hall and cut across the playing field to gap in the hedge opposite **[please note the playing field does not allow dogs so it is suggested that if you have a dog with you, continue walking along the road and turn right at the crossroads by the church to find the Pheasant pub a little way along the road]**.

Walk along the righthand boundary of the next field. Continue ahead and you will come out onto a road. Turn right and you will find the Pheasant pub almost immediately on your right.

25. Pass the Pheasant and continue along the road through the village of Great Chishill. Notice the small building on your right at a T junction. This was the old village lock up.

Just before you reach the village of Heydon, you will find a footpath sign on your right (just before the first house, watch out it is difficult to see) with steps between a hedge. Take the path which will lead you onto a wide grassy path.

26. Walk to the end of the path and find a footpath sign on your left which will take you through some trees. You will emerge on the edge of a field.

Take the path through the middle of the field (again it can be difficult to see) to a bridge on the far side of the field. Cross the bridge and again take the path across the field to cross another bridge and enter a copse emerging on the other side on a grassy path.

Follow this path towards a pagoda in a garden. When the path reaches a T junction, turn right and shortly afterwards the path becomes a lane, with a thatched cottage on your left called Green Den.

27. Just after the cottage, you can take a footpath sign on your right, with a wood on your left

and a field on your right. At the end of the wood, cross the bridge to emerge onto a playing field. Cross the playing field and walk through a gate to see the Red Cow ahead of you.

Alternatively continue walking along the lane, admiring the houses, at the end of the lane turn right and follow the road into the centre of Chrishall. You will see the Red Cow ahead of you on the right.

Turn over to see the QR codes for this walk.

QR codes for this walk



Point 10. Wife of Cobham.



Point 17. Revells Cottage



Point 22. Harvesting at Lower Farm



Point 16. Hollyhock Cottage



Point 18. Upper Farm Wedding



Point 17. Aunt Daisy.



Point 22. Haycarting 1897