

Hargrave Walk (Walk 26)

In 2020, Hargrave Parish Council authorised the printing of a local footpaths leaflet. This resulted in some local landowners clearing footpaths through growing crops and makes the described route easier to follow. You will still need to take Explorer Map 210 Newmarket & Haverhill with you because the circuit takes you outside the parish boundary.

The walk explores the countryside around and between the two villages making use of mainly field edge paths and quiet country roads and is around 6 miles in total. When you reach the seats in Chevington churchyard you are about halfway.

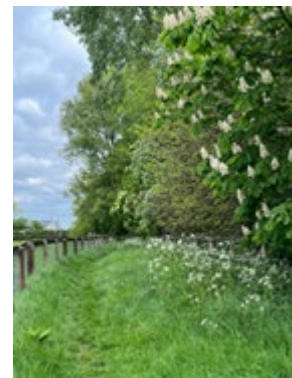
Park at Hargrave Village Hall. Alternative parking can be found at Chevington and Hargrave churches. Take the footpath that leads down the side of the hall and continues along the side of the field. In the corner turn left and follow the path through a small copse to a kissing gate. Go through this and continue in much the same direction with a hedge on your left. Do not be distracted by a path to your right.



Reach the road. Turn left and at the junction turn right signed Wickhambrook and Clare. Walk along this road, ignoring the left turn to Chevington and Bury, making use of welcoming verges until you pass the last house on the left, 'Old Grove', and obey the footpath sign soon after. Follow this path along the field edge beside a fence and row of trees for some way until the wire fence turns sharp left.

At this point turn right and walk between growing crops towards some trees. Pass through this narrow belt, turn left and accompany a ditch to the far hedge. Turn right with a track and follow the ditch on your left for a short distance until that ditch makes a sharp left. Veer left through an open area and cross a concrete culvert. Stay with the hedge ahead as it rises gently uphill towards Chevington. You can walk either side. If you keep the hedge on your right you will enter a copse and will be taken to the right to rejoin the field. Continue left uphill. In the corner pass through a gap in the hedge (waymark) to the drive of Tan Office Farm. Turn right to pass round a metal gate to reach houses and T junction (Depden Lane) where you should turn left.

On reaching the road go across and make use of the 'No Through Road' almost opposite (Factory Lane). Immediately after Stonehouse Farm take the footpath pointing left. The next section can be somewhat overgrown so it is best to wear nettle proof trousers. Meander through horse paddocks over footbridges and through several gates. Ignore the left option just before reaching the road. At the road turn left and almost immediately right along another footpath. This brings you out on a road where you quickly turn right into Church Road.





Chevington church can be found at the end of the residential area on the left. Walk through the small car park and head left of the church building. The church should be open and is a well cared for building which underwent restoration in 1993-4. The changes included a modern stone alter placed centrally and a stone column supporting a black metal tabernacle. Against white walls this combination has startling impact. Externally the tower has a somewhat stretched look because the original tower was extended on the instructions of the 1st Marquis of Bristol, Frederick William Hervey, so that it could be seen from the Ickworth estate.

Follow the path left through the churchyard annexe. There are seats of various types here if it is time for a break. Pass these and head towards the far corner. Climb a stile and veer right through a small meadow to find another stile in the corner. Once across the ditch climb a stile on the left and walk diagonally across the horse paddock (or stick to the perimeter) to reach the road. There is a gap in the hedge opposite and a fingerpost. Follow the direction indicated, just to the right of a lone pole, across the field to the far side. Go through a gap in the hedge, cross a sleeper bridge and accompany the hedge on the right for a short distance. On reaching a corner continue in the same direction heading for a line of struggling oak trees. Go through another gap in the hedge (sleeper bridge and steps) and cross the next narrow field to reach but **not go through the next hedge.**

Turn right on a wide headland and go gently downhill. You will soon find a narrow bridge and steps (but no waymark) on the left and use these to enter a manicured area of grass. Cross this, skirting a fenced area, to the waymark at the far side. Use a metal bridge to cross the stream and walk through trees and a wide gate to reach the road. Turn left for short distance (take care as this is a narrow road and can be busy) and take the footpath on the right. Go up the drive and when that turns right continue with hedge on the left until it stops. Continue in the same direction through the crop. Take the first left turn to reach a hedge. Continue until you reach the road. Turn left and after 50 paces take an easily missed footpath on the right. Cross a footbridge and walk across a large field to reach Hargrave Church. The path is usually clear but if not obvious head towards the right-hand end of a clump of trees in the distance.

Once reached continue into the churchyard and a seat. The church is invariably open and although not grand in any way has rural church appeal, and is situated in a quiet and peaceful position. It contains the fascinating Hargrave Heritage display. The body of the church is flint but the tower is of Tudor red brick and it must be one of the few churches to be immune from through draughts as both doors are on the same south facing wall. Services are still held there.



Return to the edge of the field you have just crossed, turn right and follow the headland round a corner to find a footbridge. Cross this and use two squeeze stiles to cross a horse enclosure and reach a road. The footpath continues on the far side with a footbridge on to the headland. The path curves left to pick up the road leading back into Hargrave. Turn right and make use of the verges to return to the village hall.

Walked May 2026