

2 STETCHWORTH TO GREAT BRADLEY

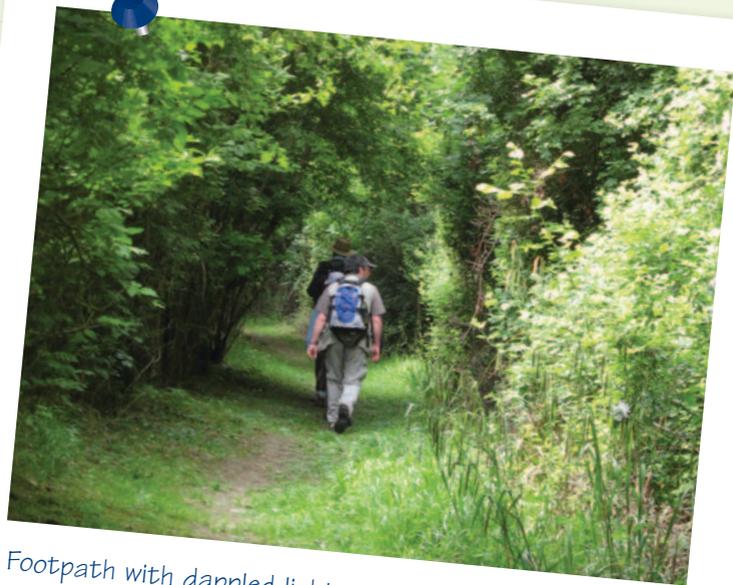
4.5 miles (7.2km)



Walk Highlights

Stetchworth is surrounded by paddocks, home to elegant thoroughbreds of the bloodstock industry. The route rises gradually to its highest point, 377 ft (115m) above sea level at Basefield Wood. In spring look for the uncommon oxlip flower as the route skirts several large and ancient woods which are a feature of the local landscape.

Beyond the northern fringe of Great Widgham Wood cross into Suffolk and follow the wide, flower-rich banks of the transfer channel built to carry excess water from the fenlands to the rapidly growing population of South East Essex.



Footpath with dappled light

POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG YOUR WALK

1. Icknield Way – a 110 mile ancient Roman trackway that crosses the Stour Valley Path. It claims to be 'the oldest road in Britain' and starts at the Ridgeway Path in Buckinghamshire and ends at the Peddars Way on the Suffolk/Norfolk border.



Image courtesy of Mark Colvin.

2. Butterflies – during the summer you may see numerous ringlet and gatekeeper butterflies which prefer the sheltered dappled light of the woodland edges and glades.



Image courtesy of Ben Heather.

3. Ancient Woodlands – old oaks and ash grow whilst moss covered stumps and fallen boughs slowly rot into the ground, showing nature's pattern of decay and regrowth. The woods are carpeted with bluebells in May.



4. Oxlips – look out for these beautiful yellow spring flowers as you walk past ancient woodlands. Beware 'false oxlips' which are a cross between cowslips and primroses.



5. The River Stour – the first sign of the River Stour can be seen at 12 km into your walk. It's part of the Ely-Ouse transfer system through which surplus water from the Ouse is channelled, tunnelled and pumped to enter the baby Stour at Kirtling Green. It eventually reaches parts of Essex. The true source of the river is near West Wrating, some 5 km west of Great Bradley.



6. Great Bradley Church – this part cement-rendered church has a fireplace in the north wall of the tower, which was used for baking bread for use in the Eucharist. The outlet for the smoke can be seen in the exterior wall, some 16 feet up and covered with a stone baffle. Go inside to see the altar window, dedicated to the son of the once rector, who lost his life in World War I.



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4.5 miles (7.2km)



ROUTE KEY

- STOUR VALLEY PATH
- POINTS OF INTEREST
- ROAD TRAFFIC
- ROUTE START
- ROUTE FINISH

0 1 2
MILES

0 1 2
KILOMETRES

1 MILE = 1.6093 KILOMETRES

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- ### HELP TO KEEP THE STOUR VALLEY SPECIAL
- Be safe, plan ahead and follow Stour Valley Path signs
 - Leave gates and property as you find them
 - Protect plants and animals and take your litter home with you
 - Keep dogs under close control
 - Buy local and support local businesses
 - Use public transport whenever possible

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