

Manuden: a 6 km circular walk

Sarah Lea and Daphne Hills, East Herts Ramblers Group

Manuden is a lovely village on the Hertfordshire Essex border. It is a designated conservation area; so many examples of medieval houses can still be seen by walking along the main street, which is called *The Street*. Look out for the Malt Loft which juts out over *The Street*. Though mainly a farming community in the past with a mill and two maltings it was also a centre for leatherwork from 1430 to the early part of the 20th Century.

This walk was devised by the Manuden Association.

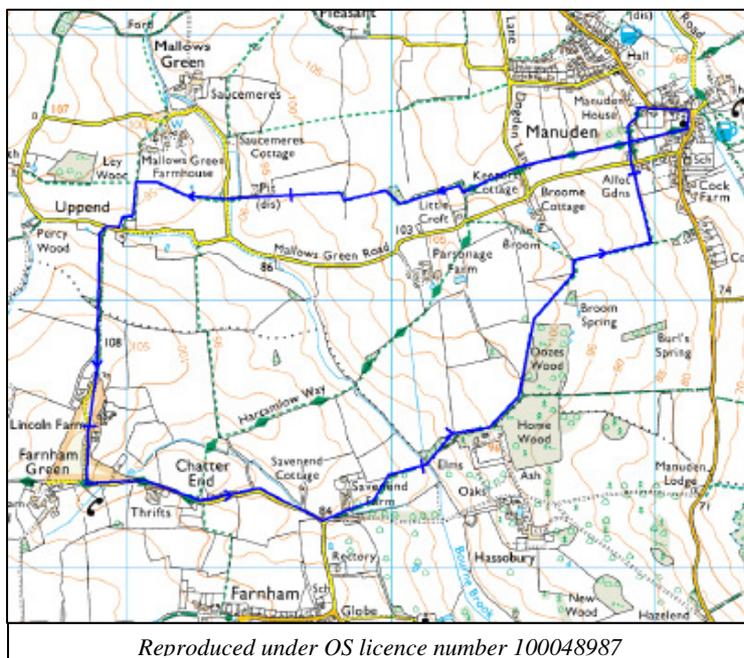


The starting point for this walk is Manuden Church. Grid reference TL492266.

Enter the churchyard by the double gates from the Hazel End Road, with the church on your right and medieval houses on your left. The church of St Mary the Virgin, which dates back to 1143 though it was largely rebuilt between 1863 - 76, is well worth a visit to see local maps and the kneelers. Follow the footpath from the west corner to the further graveyard, taking note of some of the interesting names on the gravestones. Leave the graveyard by the old gate, turn right and immediately left, ignoring the cross path and continue travelling in the same general direction as before along the Harcamlow Way.

Carry on in the same direction walking along the field edge until you come to Dogden Lane which you cross to pick up the path that crosses the field on the other side. You have to walk towards the corner of the hedge jutting into the field from the left. When you reach the corner you need to use the most convenient way to travel in the same general direction, keeping the hedge on your left, as at time of writing the legal path is blocked. When you reach the end of the hedge cross the open field towards a far block of trees passing a large lone Oak on your right.

Keeping the trees on your right go in the same general direction then turn right to reach the North West corner of the trees. At the corner turn left and walk in a Westerly direction aiming for a big half dead Oak. From there cross into the next field aiming for the left hand side of a large clump of trees, which hide an old disused pit. Follow the hedgerow which will bring you to Mallows Green Road.



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Cross the road and continue in the same direction with hedge on your right. When hedge ends you see Mallows Green Farmhouse to your right but you continue in same direction towards next clump of trees. Pass close to trees and aim for the gap in the hedge across field ahead of you. Mallow Green farmhouse is again visible to your right. As you go through the gap in the hedge immediately turn left and follow the hedge until you reach the perimeter of a house where you follow the path right and left round the outside of the garden to reach the road.

Turn right on the road past Frog-Hall; go through the next opening into a field on your left. There is a footpath sign on the opposite side of the road. Follow this path with hedge on your right due south, passing through a gap in the hedge ahead of you into the next field. Continue in the same direction until you reach the corner where you follow an enclosed track to reach the road at Farnham Green.



Farnham means the place where ferns grow. Here you can either follow the road as it winds across the green to reach the T junction where you turn left or walk across the green parallel to the road as it is all access land. Do take time to make note of the rather nice houses that make up Farnham Green hamlet.

Follow the road for 1 km from the T junction going past Thrifts, beware cat sign and Chatter End, ignoring footpaths on your right and left. When the road turns sharp right at Savenend farm turn left then almost immediately take the middle of three tracks, which is

marked as a bridleway, go past a big barn on your left and through the gate to pick up the cross field bridleway which is clearly marked. Pass into the next field through a gate and continue travelling in a North North East direction with a dead tree on your left. Continue on this path through a gate into a woodland strip.

Pass into an open field and follow the hedgerow on your right towards Home Wood and Oozes Wood. Follow round two sides of the field keeping woods on your right at all times.

As you get to the end of Oozes Wood the path crosses the field diagonally right following telegraph poles to the corner. If path has been ploughed up; go up the left hedgerow and turn right at the next corner to reach the corner. At the corner of the field you turn left and then right past the Oaks to walk downhill towards a barn. Take the path just before the barn on your left towards the church spire which eventually takes you by a hedgerow and down the side of a house to some steep steps to the road. Cross the road to pick up the green lane almost opposite. Follow this lane to the gate on your right by which you left the graveyard. You can either turn right here through the gate and follow the same path back through the church yard to the road and the welcoming sight of the Yew Tree pub opposite or you can continue along Dark Lane which bends right then left to reach the road by Manuden House. Here turn right to walk down The Street to the welcoming sight of the Yew Tree Pub.