



St Andrew's church stands on the crest of Church Hill, rising from opposite The Bluebell Inn in the heart of Hempstead.

Take the footpath at the eastern end of the church (FP31) and head out of the churchyard down a tunnel of conifers for 30metres until it breaks into the open.

Cross the stile and continue straight across the field, watching for livestock en route. Crossing the stile at the other end turn



immediate right and follow the path to the left of the Dutch barn and farm buildings, then turn left after the pond and willow tree over an upright stile. 20m in front of you is a post marker. Pause to view the old house across the field to your north-west.



Turn sharp right here and go through the gate into the old orchard and follow the path for 100m until you reach the road at the

far end over a stile.

Turn left for 20m on the road, then right onto FP46 and straight on across the field.



On the far side of the hedgerow, turn left down the hill and almost at the bottom, turn right inside the field edge (do not go onto the open grass track) until it breaks into the open and forward to

become a field edge path with the hedge and ditch line on your left.

Stay on this path as it runs gently downhill for 500m with open fields rising slightly to your right. The hedge line contains a wide range of broad leaf trees and the path is grass underfoot.



Cross the two planks over the ditch and walk on around the next field edge, bearing right where it becomes a farmer's working track. Walking on the left hand side here, you will be alongside the Freshwell Brook with a good selection of native trees on the nearside bank.



If you are lucky you will find an old log here where you can pause as this is roughly half way on your walk and rabbits and pheasant are likely to pop out as you walk along this section.

The track now becomes hard surface and you reach the lowest point of the walk as you stroll down to the large grain store,



Keeping to the left round the gate and arriving on the B1053.

Turn right onto the road here for 350m immediately passing a thatched house on your right and just after the bend, turn left onto footpath 61. Pass a house on your right and on reaching trees in front of you, keep to the right with the open field on your right and woodland cover on your left.



Pheasants breed in this cover and the field edge strip is maintained in appropriate conditions.

Head up the hill. Pause and look up periodically here as the trees attract flocks of birds and

buzzards that enjoy the high view point from here. The last 100m of the section is bordered on the right with hedging as well as the trees on the left, forming an enclosed path.



At the top is a farmer's field track (FP61) where you turn right and head straight towards the farm buildings. The view to your right here looks back to the church where you started from, with



the houses of Hempstead village lying down the hill and visibility to where you have just walked.



On approaching the farm buildings the track turns left around the farm buildings and stores to the main road, the B1054. Go straight over into the single track road of Wincelow Hall Road for 300m and

turn right onto the Chase Bridleway. Watch out for horses here as this bridleway is regularly used. The view to your north-east here is towards Gt Sampford.



The first 120m of bridleway is field edge track and is often bathed in afternoon sunshine. Pass the moat of on your left (behind the

trees), the track bends into a shaded avenue between two fields until you reach the B1054 again at the bottom. Tracking right and immediately left up the driveway of the Village Hall will take you up the right hand side of the Glebe, the playing field of the village, and bearing right at the top you are back at the church.

Keep right round the church tower and leave the church yard. Stepping onto the road, on your right is the view to the bottom of the hill and the attractive village pub. It may inspire you to pause for some well-earned refreshment before leaving Hempstead.



St Andrew's church, Hempstead, is open every day during daylight hours. Inside you will find the tomb of William Harvey who discovered the circulation of blood. There are also 6 bells in the tower which have recently been restored and are regularly rung. History of the church is available on the website.

Hempstead is also famous as the birthplace of Dick Turpin



and some fascinating information is on display in The Bluebell Inn

If you wish to learn more about Hempstead, please visit our website [www.hempstead-essex.org.uk](http://www.hempstead-essex.org.uk). You will find information on all activities, social clubs and forthcoming events.

This leaflet is produced by Hempstead Parish Council. All information contained herein is approximate and the Council holds no responsibility for accuracy of its contents. Contact: [clerk.hpc@btinternet.com](mailto:clerk.hpc@btinternet.com)

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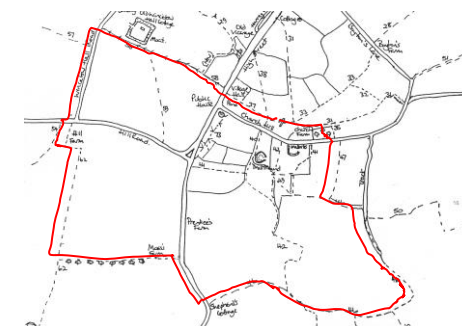
## HEMPSTEAD, ESSEX

A walk on the public footpaths of Hempstead

Walk No. 1

A circular walk from St Andrew's Church heading south and west

Journey distance approx 3.5 miles



Hempstead village is situated 7 miles east of Saffron Walden and provides excellent walking with undulating hills and wide, open arable landscapes speckled with woodland