PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Route overview — 13.8 miles (22.3km)

Following the Harcamlow Way for almost the whole route. Audley End station is a mile from the start, but the rest of the route is very rural and buses infrequent, so taxis are the most practical form of public transport. Stock up on picnic supplies in Saffron Walden as there are no shops on this stage, although there are pubs for lunch.

From Saffron Walden you follow the Harcamlow Way over gently but steadily rising ground to Church End, reached in **3.9 miles**. The Harcamlow Way continues, over undulating ground, for a final descent to Bartlow, a further **3.7 miles**. This is the rough half way point and a possible overnight stop if you are tackling this stage over two days.

It is another **3 miles** over steadily rising ground to Horseheath, still on the Harcamlow Way, after which you leave that route to follow the course of a Roman road, and then a quiet lane, for the undulating **3.2 miles** to Withersfield.

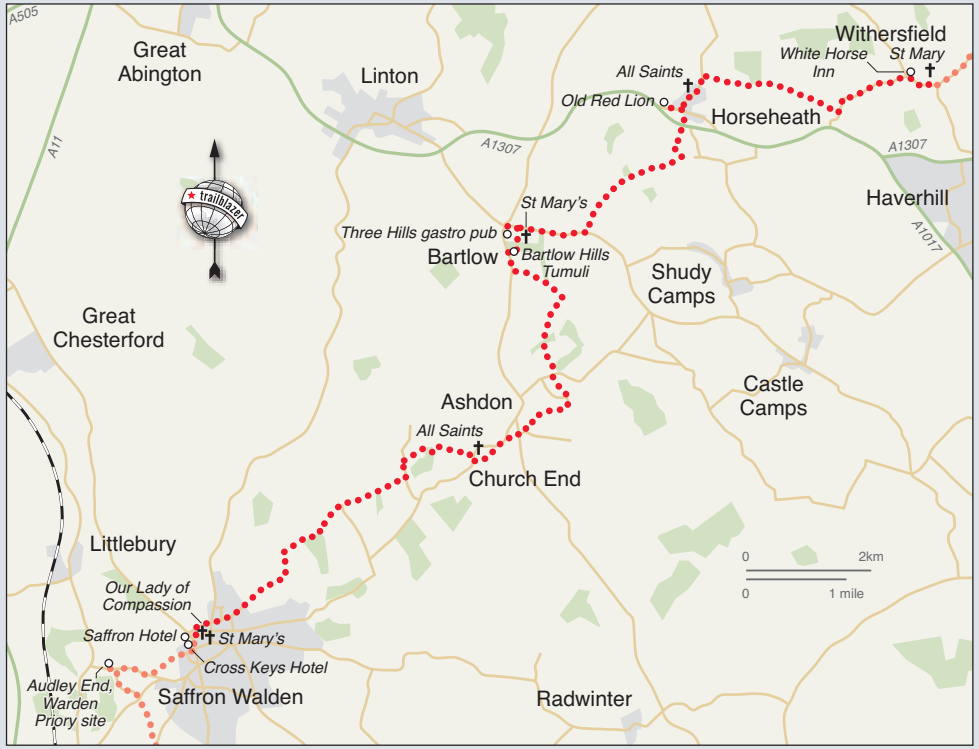
Public transport options

The start of this stage can be reached by **train** from Audley End station (1 mile from Saffron Walden) but there are no stations at any other point. **Bus** options are limited; the No 13/13A between Haverhill and Cambridge calls at Horseheath regularly, but for Withersfield it's either the SE1 community bus (pre-booking essential) or the twice-daily Star Cabs No 351 service to Haverhill. See also public transport map and table pp29-31. **Taxis** serving Withersfield include ***Star Cabs*** (☎ 01440-712712).

Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Saffron Walden** (see Stage 4, p75)
- **Bartlow** (after 7.7 miles, 12.4km) **Stay** and **eat** at ***Three Hills gastro pub*** (☎ 01223-890500, 💻 thethreehills.co.uk, Bartlow Rd; Wed-Sat noon-11pm, Sun noon-5pm, closed Mon & Tue; food Wed-Sat noon-2pm & 6pm-9pm, Sun noon-4pm,) 17th-century pub with highly-regarded restaurant and six en-suite rooms.
- **Horseheath** (after 10.6 miles/17km) ***The Old Red Lion*** (☎ 01223-892909, 💻 theoldredlion.co.uk, Linton Rd; Mon-Thur noon-9pm, Fri & Sat noon-10.30pm, Sun noon-6pm, food Mon-Sat noon-2.30pm & 5-8pm, Sun noon-4pm) is a village local with **pub grub** and **accommodation**. Another option to **stay** here is ***Chequer Cottage B&B*** (☎ 01223-891522, Streetly End) which has a garden room annexe in country setting, 400yds off the route.

- **Terrain** Footpaths
- **Difficulty** Moderate
- **Cumulative distance from London** 75.3miles, 121.3km
- **Time** 5hrs actual walking time
- **Total Ascent** 316m, 1037ft
- **Maps** OS Explorer *195 Braintree & Saffron Walden; 210 Newmarket & Haverhill*
- **GPX route file & directions*** 505.pdf, 505.gpx, 505.kml at 💻 https://trailblazer-guides.com/press * See pp27-8 for more information on downloads



- **Withersfield** ***White Horse Inn*** (☎ 01440-706081 , 💻 withersfieldwhitehorse.co.uk, Hollow Hill, Mon 5-9pm, Tue-Thur noon-3pm & 6-10/11pm, Fri & Sat noon-11pm, Sun noon-7pm, food Mon 5-8pm, Tue-Sat noon-2pm & 6pm-9pm, Sun noon-4pm) is a popular village inn with good pub **food** and en-suite **accommodation**.
- **Haverhill** (2 miles/3.2km off-route from the junction of Stages 5 and 6) offers a range of **accommodation** including: ***Rosebarne Bed and Breakfast*** (☎ 01440-708784, 💻 rosebarne.weebly.com; 5 rms), conveniently placed on the road into town at 162 Withersfield Rd; the ***Suffolk Hotel and Nine Jars*** (☎ 01440-711998, 💻 ninejars.co.uk, 9 High St; 8 rms) in the town centre, with restaurant and bar; or chain hotel ***Travelodge*** (💻 travelodge.co.uk) on Phoenix Rd.

Services

- **Saffron Walden** (see Stage 4, p75)
- **Horseheath** There is a Post Office here but with limited opening hours: *Horseheath* ***Post office and Tangent Gifts*** (☎ 01223-897960, 💻 horseheathpostoffice.business.site, West Wickham Rd; open Mon-Tue 9am-noon, Wed-Thur closed, Fri 9am-noon, Sat-Sun closed).
- **Haverhill** has **supermarkets**: ***Sainsbury's*** (Mon-Sat 7.30am-10pm, Sun 10am-4pm; Haycocks Rd) and ***Aldi*** (Mon-Sat 8am-10pm, Sun 10am-4pm; Lordscroft Ln) plus a **laundrette** at 40 Queen St ***Anglia Laundrette*** (💻 mywashing.co.uk/Haverhill; daily 7am-9pm).

		Stage 5: Saffron Walden to Withersfield
Distance from start	Distance from last waypoint	
0	0	From St Mary's churchyard, walk north and take the alleyway through to Castle St and turn left.
110yds/100m	110yds/100m	Arrive at Our Lady of Compassion. To continue, turn right along Castle St until you reach the crossroads, with Castle Hill running right to left.
440yds/400m	330yds/300m	Continue straight on into Pound Walk, which becomes Sheds Ln, at which point there is a Harcamlow Way roundel on a concrete post. Continue as this route takes you out of town.
.7miles/1.1km	770yds/700m	Sheds Ln ends on the edge of Saffron Walden, and a Harcamlow Way roundel points you straight on, along a chalk track through fields, before bearing left to descend to a T-junction.
1.4miles/2.3km	.7miles/1.2km	At the T-junction, turn right. A green sign points to Ashdon and Little Warden, and has a Harcamlow Way roundel attached. The way takes you downhill toward a wood.
1.6miles/2.6km	330yds/300m	Continue along the left-hand side of the wood, where a green sign with Harcamlow Way roundel points to Ashdon. The route turns left and takes you to Butlers Ln.
2.2miles/3.6km	.6miles/1km	Turn left into Butlers Ln, and then almost immediately right onto a track – there are Harcamlow Way roundels at both points. Continue along this track to another lane.
2.9miles/4.7km	.7miles/1.1km	Turn left into this lane and walk along it to a farm at Puddle Wharf. Turn right 200yds beyond this farm, taking an unsigned path along left-hand field margin and then to the left of a house, following a fingerpost marked bridleway, to reach Fallowden Ln.
3.4miles/5.5km	880yds/800m	Turn left into Fallowden Ln, where a wooden sign marked Bridleway also has a Harcamlow Way roundel attached. This path turns almost immediately right, taking you on a bridge over a disused railway line, where there is another Harcamlow Way roundel, then brings you back onto Fallowden Ln.

3.8miles/6.2km	770yds/700m	When this lane reaches a T-junction in Church End, turn right into Walden Rd, using the path on the high verge, then crossing over to the church of St Mary the Virgin.
3.9miles/6.3km	110yds/100m	Arrive at St Mary the Virgin. The Guildhall is on the right-hand side of the graveyard. To continue, walk on beyond the church, through the churchyard, heading for the bottom left-hand corner, where a path with a Harcamlow Way roundel takes you out into fields.
4.1miles/6.6km	330yds/300m	The grass path runs to the right of Ashdon Hall, then follows the serpentine field margin, swinging right and then left to approach a line of houses, with a red telephone box ahead of you. Continue until just before the phone box, where, in the corner of the field, a Harcamlow Way roundel guides you sharp right to a footbridge across a River Bourne.
4.5miles/7.2km	660yds/600m	Take the footbridge right over the River Bourne, then follow Harcamlow Way roundels through a belt of trees and out to Radwinter Rd, in the village of Ashdon.
4.7miles/7.6km	440yds/400m	Cross Radwinter Rd, following a Harcamlow Way roundel, and continue up Kate's Ln. Look out for a black post with a Harcamlow Way roundel on it, to your left.
4.8miles/7.7km	330yds/300m	Turn left where you see the black post with Harcamlow Way roundel. Look out for a yellow-topped post with a number of roundels on it.
4.9miles/7.9km	220yds/200m	Turn right at the yellow-topped post, following a Harcamlow Way roundel.
5.2miles/8.3km	550yds/500m	A further Harcamlow Way roundel on a yellow topped post points you straight on.
5.3miles/8.5km	220yds/200m	Where a track joins from your right, continue straight on, following a Harcamlow Way roundel. You will see a windmill ahead, diagonally to your left.
5.4miles/8.7km	220yds/200m	At a T-junction of tracks, turn left, following a Harcamlow Way roundel, towards Steveton End. The path joins a lane and passes to the right of the windmill. Look out for a concrete Public Footpath fingerpost on your right.
5.5miles/8.8km	110yds/100m	Turn right, the direction indicated by the concrete finger post. Shortly afterwards, a Public Footpath rondel on a wooden post points you along a right-hand field margin,

		after which the path turns diagonally left, crossing a field and descending towards Steventon End, crossing two stiles to bring you out into a lane.
5.7miles/9.2km	440yds/400m	Cross the lane, and follow a concrete finger post marked Public Footpath along a metalled estate road at Ashdon Place. Harcamlow Way roundels have been removed from posts for the next section. Continue through Home Wood to emerge on farmland, a newly-planted hedgerow to your right. Continue for a mile, but then be alert for a track joining from the left. Note: there is no signage at this point.
6.6miles/10.6km	.9miles/1.5km	Turn left to take this farm track dropping down to Hills Farm on the edge of Bartlow.
7.1miles/11.4km	880yds/800m	Turn right to pass through Hills Farm, the farm road taking you to a footpath through woods. Look out for a fingerpost, pointing right, marked Bartlow Hills, with a Harcamlow Way roundel on it.
7.2miles/11.6km	220yds/200m	Turn right at this fingerpost, looking out for a gate in a fence on your left, at Bartlow Hills.
7.4miles/11.9km	330yds/300m	Arrive at Bartlow Hills. To continue, follow the path that skirts to the right of the three mounds, and takes you over a disused railway line to reach St Mary's, Bartlow.
7.7miles/12.4km	550yds/500m	Arrive at the churchyard, behind St Mary's Bartlow. To continue, walk from the church entrance north, up to Camps Rd. For the Three Hills gastro pub, turn left here, and left again at the junction with Deans Rd. To continue on the route, turn right into Camps Rd. Look out for a green Public Bridleway fingerpost on your left, right after a narrow band of woodland.
8.8miles/14.1km	1.1miles/1.7km	Turn left at the green Public Bridleway fingerpost, keeping the woods to your left, along a track. Look out for a Harcamlow Way roundel, on a short post, on your left where a hardcore farm track crosses left to right.
9.5miles/15.3km	880yds/800m	Follow the Harcamlow Way roundel as the track doglegs left and then right, to follow a right-hand field margin. The track narrows to a path between sparse hedges as it

		descends towards Lower Cardinal's Farm. Look out for a Harcamlow Way roundel pointing left.
10.1miles/16.2km	990yds/900m	At the Harcamlow Way roundel, turn left as indicated, to follow a wide, hardcore farm road. Look out for a Harcamlow Way roundel on your right.
10.2miles/16.4km	220yds/200m	Turn right at the Harcamlow Way roundel, and walk on to the A1307 on the edge of Horseheath.
10.4miles/16.7km	330yds/300m	Cross over the A1307 with caution: traffic travels fast. On the far side, where the path divides at a Y junction, take the left fork and walk up to Haverhill Rd. Note: We leave the Harcamlow Way at this point.
10.5miles/16.9km	220yds/200m	Turn left on Haverhill Rd and continue to the junction with West Wickham Rd.
10.6miles/17km	110yds/100m	Turn right into West Wickham Rd to continue on our route. For the Old Red Lion Inn, continue straight on into Linton Rd, and the pub is 200yds on your left.
11.2miles/18km	.6mile/1km	Arrive at All Saints' church, Horseheath. To continue, carry on along West Wickham Rd out of the village until you reach the junction with a Roman Road. The road is quiet, but you can avoid the traffic by walking along one or other verge or field margin.
11.4miles/18.3km	330yds/300m	Turn right into the Roman Road, which runs as a wide, hardcore farm road to Hare Wood.
12miles/19.3km	.6mile/1km	As you pass Hare Wood (on your left) a roundel for the Fleam Dyke and Roman Road points the way straight on.
12.4miles/19.9km	660yds/600m	As you pass a small oblong of woods on your right, another Fleam Dyke roundel points you left at a shallow angle, leaving the track (which swings right) for a faint path over a field and into a wood.
12.6miles/20.3km	440yds/400m	At the wood, a Fleam Dyke roundel points you straight on, through the wood and over a footbridge crossing a stream, then over a further field to a road, Silver St.

12.9miles/20.7km	440yds/400m	Turn left into Silver St, following a Fleam Dyke roundel, and walk along the verge or field margin. This becomes Horseheath Rd as you approach Withersfield, and Hollow Hill at the at the junction with Skippers Ln.
13.7miles/21.7km	.6mile/1km	The White Horse Inn is on your right, on the edge of the village. Continue along Hollow Hill for the church of St Mary the Virgin.
13.9miles/22.5km	220yds/200m	Arrive at St Mary the Virgin, the end of this stage of the walk.