



# The Hundred Parishes

## Circular Walks – number 118

### Clavering – 2.4 miles (4 kms)

*This anti-clockwise walk explores much of the village of Clavering which lies at the heart of a fairly large rural parish of the same name. Most of the route is on roads with some stretches of stony track and path. There are two pubs and many seats along the way. There are no stiles.*

Start and finish: There is a suitable lay-by close to the Clavering Christian Centre on the west side of Stortford Road about 100 yards south of the staggered crossroads with B1038, Pelham Road. Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: TL473318 - Postcode: CB11 4PH.  
The route can be followed on either Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 194 or 195.  
A diagram of the route is provided at the end of the description.

With care, cross to the pavement on the east side of the road and proceed towards the staggered crossroads. Turn right on the B1038 towards Newport. Almost immediately, when safe, cross the road to the small green. Here you will find the Clavering village sign, a very informative interpretation panel and also a “talking bench”. We will pass most of the places pictured on the display panel.

When ready, cross back to the pavement and continue along the B1038. We will stay on this road, climbing gently for about three-quarters of a mile, passing a great variety of houses, many of which are listed.

Soon pass a small green on the right with a row of thatched cottages that date from the 15th to the 18th centuries. Cross the young River Stort; it rises about 4 miles north-west of here in the adjacent parish of Langley and flows generally south (to the right) for another 20 miles to join the River Lea near Hoddesdon.

Pass the 18th-century Fox and Hounds pub and then past many interesting houses, mostly dating back several centuries.

After a quarter mile, pass a pump on the right and a Victorian post box on the left. Hill Green on the right is used for cricket. On the far side of the green, the thatched pavilion was converted from a wartime hut. To its left is a former Primitive Methodist Chapel, built in 1877.

Pass Clavering Village Hall on the left. Soon, when the main road turns right, our route goes straight ahead, so cross the road when safe, possibly at the corner where traffic can be seen in both directions. Here we pass The Cricketers pub on the right, famed for being owned by Jamie Oliver’s parents and where Jamie started to learn his cooking skills.

Keep straight ahead on Arkesden Road (Clatterbury Lane) but in 50 yards turn left towards Stickling Green. There is a pavement on the right.

Soon after passing Eldridge Close we get out into the countryside.

Pass farm buildings on the right and ignore the public footpath on the left, but within 100 yards turn left onto a byway, crossing a walled bridge over the ditch. This is Colehill Lane, a stony track that we follow for around half a mile. After about 200 yards, a former windmill with a white cap comes into view on the right. This brick-built tower mill dates from 1757. Another mill stands only 200 yards beyond; the pair are affectionately known as the salt and pepper pots.

The stony track descends to emerge onto Colehills Close and almost immediately reaches a lane where we turn right.

The lane follows a gully on the left - sometimes dry and sometimes a raging stream – this is again the River Stort.

After 200 yards, turn left, crossing the river on a narrow concrete footbridge. Just to the right is a ford which is sometimes impassable. Look back over the river to the small thatched cottage, 17th-century and one of the smallest houses in Essex – appropriately named *The Little House*.

Now look ahead and compare the view with this photo taken more than a hundred years ago.



Continue slowly up Middle Street, the centrepiece of Clavering's conservation area. Most of these buildings date from the 16th century.

At the top you will reach the former Post Office, straight ahead. Turn right past Barnards onto the shingle drive towards The Bury. Soon follow a holly hedge on the right. Where the drive turns right through the hedge you can see The Bury, a rare medieval aisled hall built around 1300 AD, one of the oldest houses in Essex.

Our route keeps straight ahead through the gateway into the churchyard. Almost immediately on the right an interpretation panel offers an explanation of the earthworks behind the panel: Clavering Castle.

After a few more yards, follow the shingle path round to the left, now with the 15th-century Church of St Mary and St Clement on the right. The church merits a visit; it has medieval stained-glass windows, several interesting monuments and angels look down from the ceiling.

After the church, continue up the path to exit the churchyard through the gateway. Immediately on the right is a former guildhall, built in the 15th century and later used as a workhouse and almshouses before becoming a private dwelling.

Continue up the lane. On the right at the top, red-brick Old Hall dates from around 1690. Turn left onto Pelham Road, the B1038, keeping to the pavement on the left.

After about 300 yards, we reach the staggered crossroads. It is suggested that you almost pass the turning on the right before crossing the B1038 and turning right into Stortford Road, heading towards Berden and Manuden. Soon we will arrive at the layby on the right where we started this walk.

You can read more about Clavering on [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk).

This route description, last updated 20 July 2020, was downloaded from [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) Please email any suggestions for improving the route or the route description to [hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com).



A diagram covering this route, based on the Ordnance Survey map, is shown below. It is published under © Crown copyright 2020 OS 100062498.

