1. Walk away from the ‘Bell’ towards Little Baddow for about 600 yards then turn right into Stivvy’s Road. After 200 yards take the footpath to the left. Go across the field then through the gate into the next field and follow the waymarkers to the following field edge, cross the footbridge. In the next field the exit footbridge is not visible from the entrance. You’ll find it in the hedge opposite about half way between the entrance and the telegraph pole visible in the far right corner, to the right of a large tree. Walk through the next field towards the five barred gate, turn right on the farm track for about 10 yards then turn left through the home-made access gate.

2. You’re now walking through a series of half a dozen or so paddocks, linked by similar access points. Work your way between the paddocks heading directly from each entrance to the next exit point. After the last paddock, walk through a small piece of scrubland and look for a stile on your right. Crossing this stile takes you onto a mown area adjacent to a house; it is a public right of way. Keeping close to the hedge, cross this field: the exit point is a stile about 10 yards to the left of the 5-barred gate.

3. Cross over the road junction and take the bridleway on the left heading south and continue along this into Woodham Walter Common. Continue on the bridleway into the woods; the route bears slightly to the right. After about 250 yards the bridleway takes a sharp left turn; don’t take this, go straight ahead along a footpath. At a T-junction near to the crest of the hill, turn right at a waymarker propped up opposite about half way between the entrance and the telegraph pole visible in the far right corner. Continue along this path as it slopes downhill towards a small wooded valley. At the stream there are several bridges. Take the footpath opposite, next to a 5-barred gate. After about 50 yards the footpath divides; take the left fork going through the fence gap, onto the field edge.

4. Keep on the main path until you exit the woods and the nature reserve by Robins Wood, at the end of the “Twitty Fee” track. Cross the track taking the footpath opposite, which runs alongside a golf course. Continue along this footpath until you reach the roadside. Crossing the road, take the footpath opposite, next to a 5-barred gate. After about 50 yards the footpath divides; take the left fork going through the fence gap, onto the field edge.

Follow the field edge as it runs alongside woodland. As you approach the end of the woods you will see a footpath emerging from the woods, turn left onto this. Continue along this path to a lane. Cross the lane, just past a lone oak, you will see the next footpath going through a hedge into a field.

5. Follow this path round the field edge. Just after the path bears to the right there is a gap in the hedge to your left; the path goes through here. Follow this path with trees and a stream to your left until again the path bears right. Shortly after this you come to a track to the left leading to a farm. The path goes through the farmyard keeping to the left of the buildings. As you exit the farmyard head down the access road to a small lane. Cross the lane to the footpath opposite.

6. Walk up the track past two cottages and use the field entrance to the right of a 5-barred gate. As you enter the field you can see a gap in the hedge at the opposite side of the field; go around the field edge to this point and then cross through into the next field. Keep to the field edge. After about 80 yards the tree line pushes the path to the right and then suddenly drops away; continue straight on into the field. You are now in The Wilderness! Head for an area of rough grass which forms the field boundary here.

7. At the field boundary turn left keeping the rough grass to your left, and head along the track. There are very few trees in this area but look for two large bushes close together; there is a footbridge between them which takes you towards a small piece of woodland. Follow the path straight on through the woods and out the other side, then keep on the rough grass dividing two fields; head towards a telegraph pole. From here you can see St Michael’s church, make for the gate at the rear of the churchyard and walk through the churchyard to the front. Turn right down the hill and back to the starting point of the walk.
This walk starts and finishes in the ancient rural village of Woodham Walter. The views across rural Essex are lovely. The terrain is varied, with arable fields, horse paddocks, a nature reserve and woodland.

This walk has been downloaded and printed for your convenience by Maldon District Tourist Information Centre. Chris Harvey kindly adapted the walk description and developed the map for this leaflet. This walk is available free of charge to the public from www.essexwalks.com

50p

to cover printing costs

For further information please contact:
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Referrals
on (or close to) the walk

Bell,
The Street, Woodham Walter CM9 6RF
Tel: 01245 222176

Old Chapel Stores,
The Street, Woodham Walter CM9 6RF

Queen Victoria,
The Street, Woodham Walter CM9 6RF
Tel: 01245 223437

Useful web links
Essex Wildlife Trust
www.essexwt.org.uk

WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT
CIRCULAR COUNTRYSIDE WALK
Woodham Walter

Distance:
4.9 miles (7.9 km)

Time taken: 2 hours

Location of Start: Woodham Walter is a village located 3 miles to the west of Maldon, and is signposted from the A414 (the main road from Maldon to Chelmsford)

OS Explorer Map No.: 183
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(OS Grid Reference: TL 808 068

Parking: Opposite the ‘Bell’, Woodham Walter (CM9 6RF)

Public Transport: Buses No. 5, 31A – Maldon to Chelmsford
via Woodham Walter (very infrequent service)

visitmaldondistrict.co.uk