6 Long Melford to Great Henny

7 miles (11.3km)

Stour Valley Path

Walk Highlights

Sudbury's ancient Common Lands, yellow with buttercups in early summer, provide an attractive approach to the bustling market town, famous for its connection with artist Thomas Gainsborough. The barge traffic depicted in many of John Constable's paintings came here and the former quayside warehouses have survived to become headquarters of the River Stour Trust and a vibrant theatre. The town has ample choice of accommodation, places for refreshment as well as train and local bus services. On the Essex side of the valley the Path climbs to high ground where the landscape is pleasantly undulating and remote.

Long Melford Church and Green

Points of Interest along your Walk

1. Long Melford – this famous village is known for its colour washed buildings, oak beams, Georgian facades, Victorian terraces, antique shops and art galleries.

2. Sudbury Common Lands – the Stour Valley Path meanders through the water meadows by the Stour. Sudbury's freemen have grazed their cattle on these ancient pastures for over 900 years.

3. Gainsborough Museum – the birthplace of Thomas Gainsborough (1727 – 1788) one of England's most celebrated artists. More of his paintings, drawings and prints are on display here than anywhere else in the world. The house retains some features dating back more than 500 years.

4. The Granary – a restored warehouse now headquarters of the River Stour Trust who offer trips down the river on an electric launch or the John Constable, a restored lighter (barge). Lighters were horse drawn and used to transport wool, grain and brick between Sudbury and Mistley.

Image courtesy of Linda Barrell.

5. Great Henny Church – this small building made from flint and rubble is located on top of a hill and can be seen some distance away. It is home to the smallest British bat, the pipistrelle (see right) and one of the largest, the serotine. The 30 foot high, 11th century, Grade II listed wooden shingle spire is shown (just) in Thomas Gainsborough's 1748 painting 'Cornard Wood'.

Image courtesy of Lucinda Spencer.

DEDHAM VALE
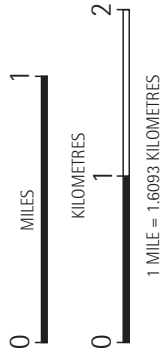AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
& STOUR VALLEY PROJECT

www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org

Stour Valley Path

6 LONG MELFORD TO GREAT HENNY

7 miles (11.3km)

ROUTE KEY

- ▪━▪ STOUR VALLEY PATH
- ① POINTS OF INTEREST
- ⚠ ROAD TRAFFIC
- S ROUTE START
- F ROUTE FINISH

MILES
0   1

KILOMETRES
0   1   2

1 MILE = 1.6093 KILOMETRES

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HELP TO KEEP THE STOUR VALLEY SPECIAL

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow Stour Valley Path signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home with you
- Keep dogs under close control
- Buy local and support local businesses
- Use public transport whenever possible