Steeple Bumpstead *Highlights*

1 Steeple Bumpstead

As you walk around Steeple Bumpstead, there are several features that give a nod to the village's ancient history, and people of the past.
The Moot Hall, at the cross-roads in the middle of the village, is believed to have been built sometime in the 1570's and is the earliest known school in the parish. It is thought that the original building comprised of a single classroom at first floor level, with the ground being open underneath, similar

The Moot Hall

to a market hall. Spot the stone lion holding a shield with the royal arms of the Tudors on the roof of the building.
Today, the charming and well preserved building is used to host the weekly community library, village archive and a venue for the parish council meetings.
During 1886, Edith Cavell was appointed governess to the four children of the Reverand Charles Powell, vicar of Steeple Bumpstead, before she trained to become a nurse. She died in Brussels on 12th October 1915, shot by German firing squad for helping allied soldiers escape. The Old Vicarage, now a private residence, has a plaque that commemorates her time in Steeple Bumpstead. There is also a plaque dedicated to her memory in St Mary's Parish Church, and there is a road named after her in the village - Edith Cavell Way.
St Mary's Church has lost the steeple featured in the village name, but does boast a Norman tower, though its upper stage has been repaired with Tudor brick. There are three narrow Norman windows, and a gargoyle below each length of parapet. The porch is 14th century; its door, roof and a pair of rough and gnarled benches are 16th, and the font inside is 500 years old.
The greatest treasure of the church was an 8th century bronze boss with panels of ornament and sockets for 18 jewels. It used to be on the chancel door of the church and is now in the British Museum.
Many of the houses in the village have historical architectural features or interesting stories from the past, but one particularly noteworthy resident was the author A.A. Milne, who lived in Broadgates House as a teenager.
It is thought that this house inspired the home of Christopher Robin in the Winnie the Pooh stories, and that the 100 acre wood was based on the nearby Thetford Forest.

2 Birdbrook

The small village of Birdbrook, with a population of around 300, is thought to be named such due to the brook that passes through the parish.
The quaint and beautiful village church, St Augustine's, is one of the oldest churches in the county. The

The Church of St Augustine

north wall of the chancel survives from the church's foundation in 1050.
There are some more modern features too -such as a stained-glass window celebrating a churchwarden's life, added in 1966 and richly-carved choir stalls and pews from 1969. The village also has a pub, a children's play area, and a thatched Community Hall with a bowling green behind it.

3 Moyn's Park

This Grade I listed Elizabethan country house was built in the late 16th century and incorporates part of a courtyard house of about 1500. It was built for the Gent family, although takes its name from the Norman 'Le Moigne' family, who were there in 1254 and owned much land in the area.
The house was passed down from Major-General Cecil Robert St John Ives to his grandson, Ivar Bryce. There is a long-standing equestrian history to the house. It was used as a residential riding school in and around 1949, with courses in dressage and show jumping, and then became a stud farm in 1955.
Ian Fleming (a good friend of Bryce) stayed there in the following summer, and it is said that he made final

Moyn's

changes to his James Bond novel 'From Russia, with Love' in the house.
When Bryce's wife died in 1992, she left the house to his cousin's children; Lord Ivar Mountbatten and George Mountbatten, 4th Marquess of Milford Haven.
The appearance of the house might be familiar to fans of Hammer Horror films, as it was one of their most popular filming locations.

The Stour Valley

Picturesque villages, rolling farmland, rivers, meadows, ancient woodlands and a wide variety of local wildlife combine to create what many describe as the traditional English lowland landscape on the Suffolk-Essex border. The charm of the villages, fascinating local attractions and beauty of the surrounding countryside mean there's no shortage of places to go and things to see.

Visiting Steeple Bumpstead

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 210 (Newmarket & Haverhill)

By car: Steeple Bumpstead can be reached via the B1054 or the B1057.

Free parking both behind (via Bower Hall Drive) and in front (via Finchingfield Road) of Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall (CB9 7EF).

By Bus: Steeple Bumpstead is on the route between Haverhill and Cambridge. Details at www.traveline.info

By train: Steeple Bumpstead is 9 miles from Saffron Walden Train Station. Train information: www.nationalrail.co.uk or call: 03457 48 49 50

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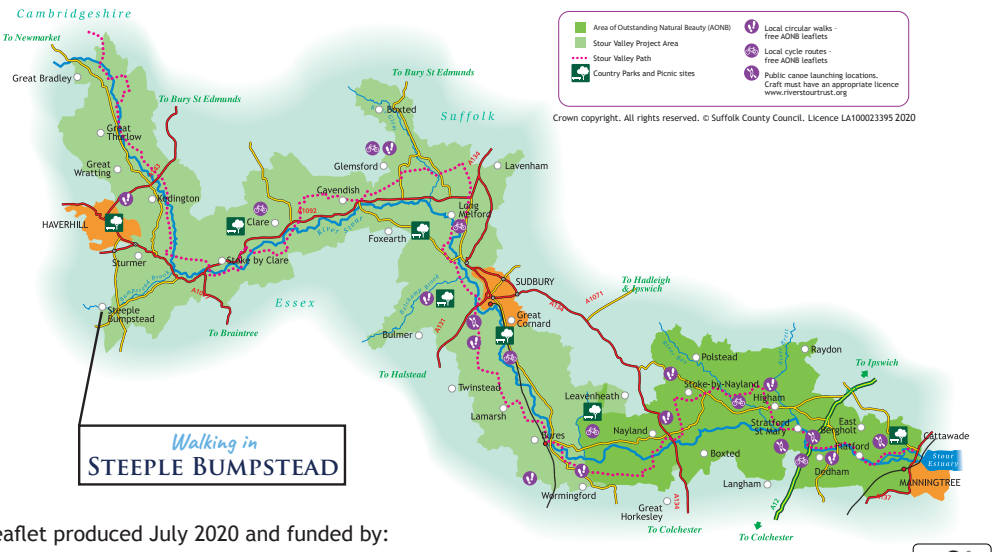

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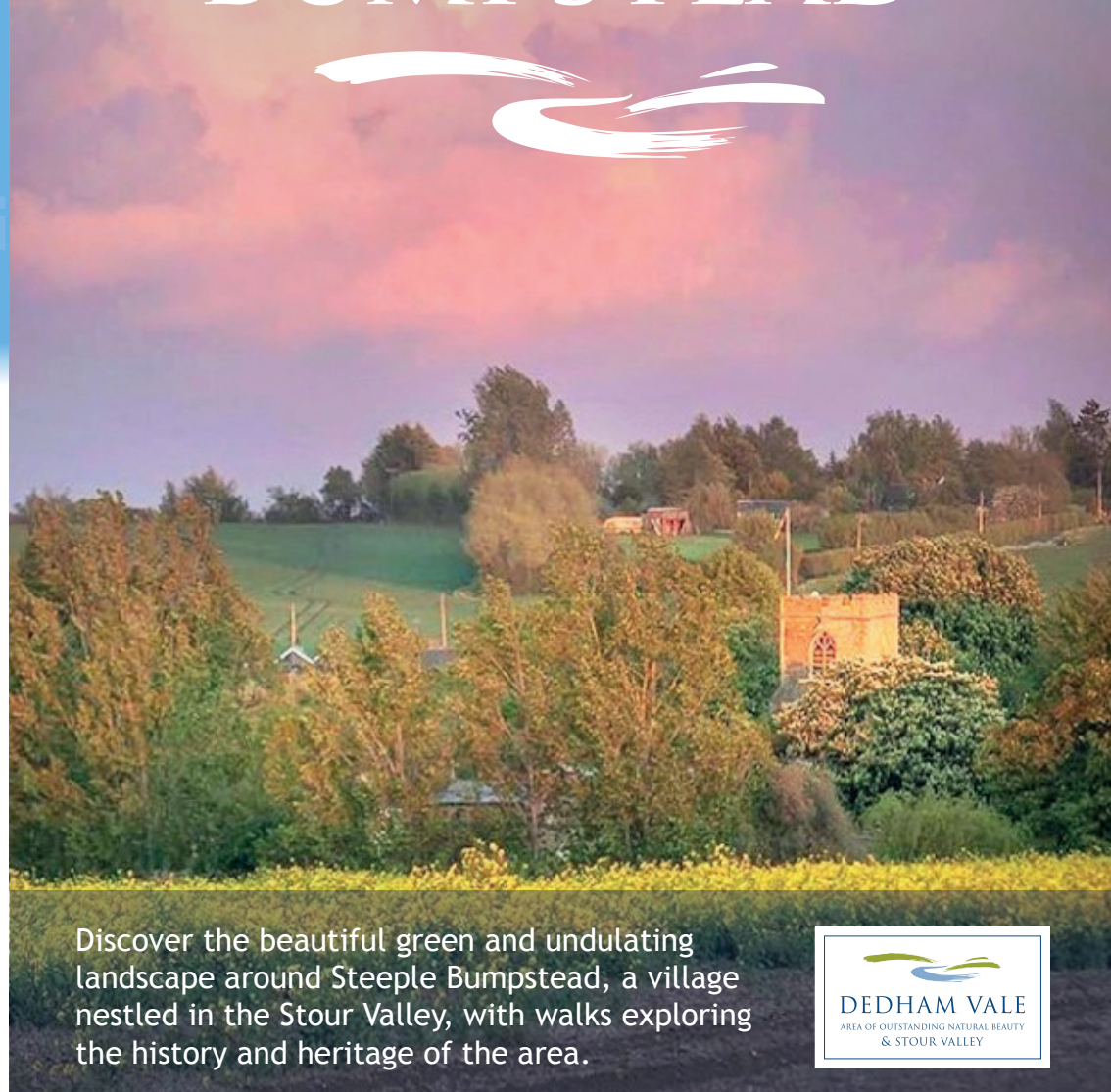
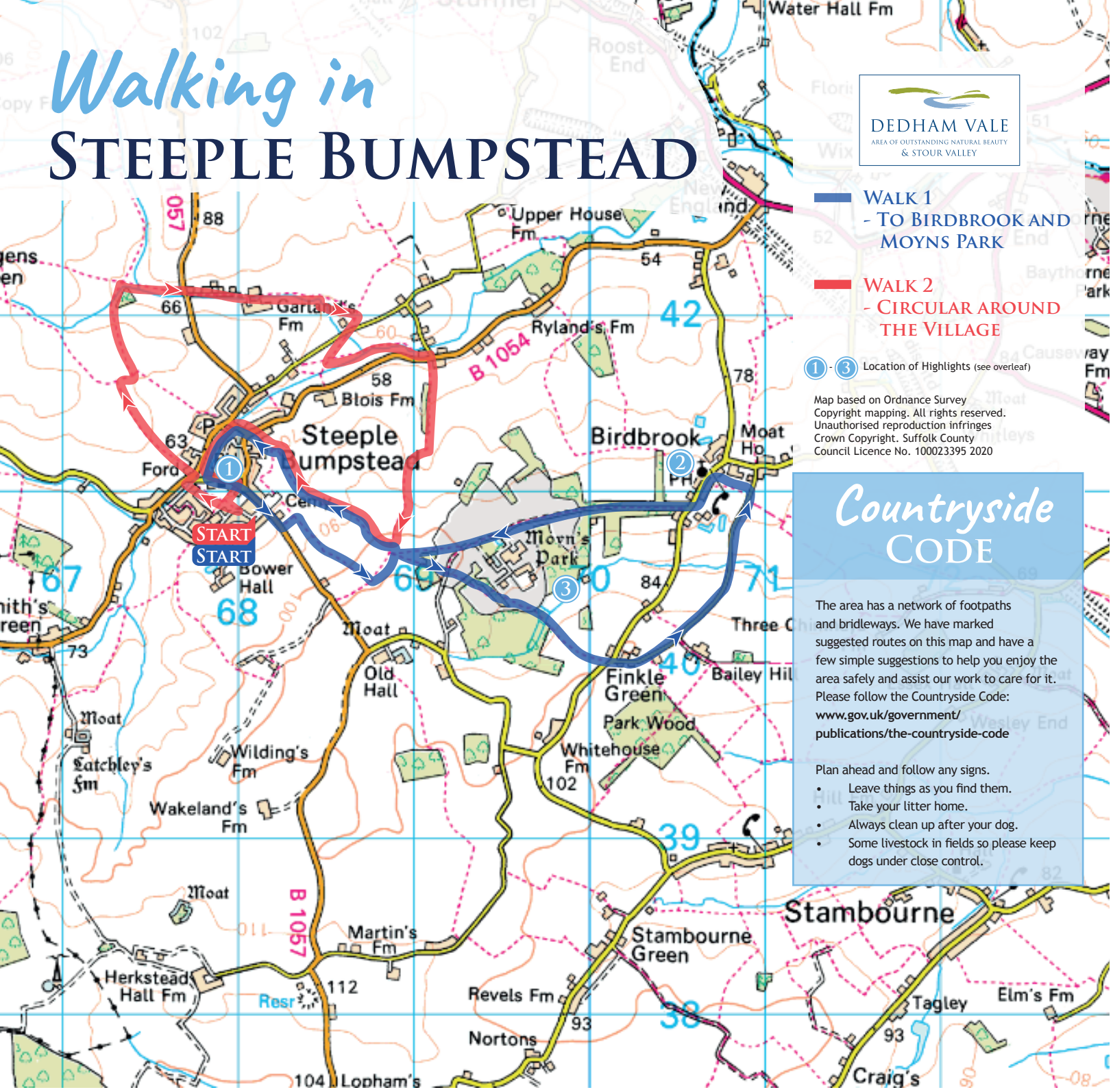
Walking in Steeple Bumpstead



Discover the beautiful green and undulating landscape around Steeple Bumpstead, a village nestled in the Stour Valley, with walks exploring the history and heritage of the area.

DEDHAM VALE
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
& STOUR VALLEY

Walking in Steeple Bumpstead



DEDHAM VALE
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY & STOUR VALLEY

WALK 1
- TO BIRDBROOK AND MOYNS PARK

WALK 2
- CIRCULAR AROUND THE VILLAGE

1 - 3 Location of Highlights (see overleaf)

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Countryside Code

The area has a network of footpaths and bridleways. We have marked suggested routes on this map and have a few simple suggestions to help you enjoy the area safely and assist our work to care for it. Please follow the Countryside Code: **www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code**

Plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave things as you find them.
- Take your litter home.
- Always clean up after your dog.
- Some livestock in fields so please keep dogs under close control.

WALK 1 To Birdbrook and Moyn's Park

Follow this route through fields, pockets of woodland and quiet lanes to explore another nearby village and enjoy stunning views of a historical stately home and its parkland.

Walking Distance: 5.1 miles/8.25 km
Time: 2 hours (not including stops)
Start/Finish: The rear car park of the Village Hall, which can be accessed via Bower Hall Drive (CB9 7ED).
Terrain: Paths and tracks, some minor roads and village roads which may contain road traffic. Gentle inclines. Route can be very muddy in places.

From the rear village hall car park walk to Bower Hall drive. **Turn left** following the road to the junction opposite the metal gates of the cemetery. **Turn right** following the path to the end. **Cross the road** here (taking care of any traffic) and join the footpath stepping up the small grass verge. Follow the field boundary path to the corner and **turn right**. Continue up the path between two fields. At the end of the fields **turn left**. In approximately 20 metres **turn right** and **cross two footbridges**. Follow the footpath with the hedge on your left. At the field corner **turn right** through a wooded area. Go through the metal gate and **bear right** across the paddock (or follow the path around the edge, which may be used as an alternative to passing through the horse paddocks) to the next metal gate. Follow the footpath through the woodland into the open parkland. Continue following the waymarked path, crossing over a driveway track and eventually into a section of woodland towards a metal gate. Do not pass through this gate – instead, **continue along the path to the left of the gate** with the field fence on your right. The path opens up into a wider grassy avenue between two paddocks. **Continue straight ahead** and at the next fence corner the path bears round to the left. **Cross over the wooden footbridge** and **pass through the metal gate**. Cross the paddock diagonally (or follow the path around the edge) to the metal gate on the other side. **Follow the footpath** through woodland and **across a footbridge** into a field. **Walk straight across** the field aiming for the gap in the hedgerow (situated between two telegraph poles). **Cross the footbridge** and **bear right** and almost immediately **left**. Follow the waymarked path between the hedge field boundaries to the road. **Cross** here into Daw Lane. This is a quiet lane, but do be aware that there may be traffic. Walk this lane for just under a mile. The lane enters a wooded area with speed limit signs. Approximately 20 metres beyond these signs **take the public footpath on the left**, through a wooded area leading to paddocks and a passageway between houses. You are now in Birdbrook where you can visit the village pub and church off to your right. To continue the walk; **turn left** out of the passageway. **Follow the road** through the village, passing the pond on your left and the thatched village community hall on your right. A little further on, **turn right** onto the drive of Moyn's Park Estate and Stud.

PATH AROUND MOYN'S PARK

GROUNDS AROUND MOYN'S

Use the pedestrian gate (left of main gate) and continue along the drive for approximately three quarters of a mile. At the fork in the drive **bear right**. You will pass the front of the house on your left. Where the driveway curves around to the left, **go straight on** following a wide grassy avenue lined with trees, leading to a metal gate. **Go through the gate** and **diagonally across** the paddock (or follow the path around the edge) to the metal gate on the other side. **Pass through the gate** and wooded area. **Turn right** and follow the field boundary path. At the waymarked post **turn left**. From here please follow the instructions in the blue box.

WALK 2 Garlands Walk

This circular route explores the scenery and landscape around the north and east of Steeple Bumpstead.

Walking Distance: 4.3 miles/ 7 km
Time: 1.5 hour (not including stops)
Start/Finish: The rear car park of the Village Hall, which can be accessed via Bower Hall Drive (CB9 7ED).
Terrain: Paths and tracks, some minor roads and village roads which may contain road traffic. Gentle inclines. Route can be very muddy in places.

From the rear village hall car park, walk diagonally across Camping Close (the name of the village green) to the basketball court. **Bear right** and **go through the gate** at the bottom of the

green. Follow the track over the bridge to Water Lane. Turn right to the next bridge. **Cross over** Church Street and approximately 20 metres ahead, on the opposite side of the road, there is a set of steps between a small brick building and a farmhouse. **Cross the road** and **take the steps** up to a footpath. **Follow the footpath** with the hedgerow on your right. Further up, the footpath continues between two fields. As you walk this slight climb out of the village, you can enjoy the distant countryside views. At the end of the fields **turn right**. In approximately 75 metres **turn left** down the side of a field, and **continue downhill** to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and turn right. At the end of

FOOTBRIDGE BETWEEN FIELD PATHS

the coppice, **turn right** and follow the track, which bears left and then right. Continue between two hedges until you reach a metal gate. **Pass around the gate** and **cross the road** (taking care of any traffic). Follow the footpath (a tarmacked farm road) through **Garlands Farm**. At the end of the barns **turn right** and follow the field edge footpath running alongside the stream. **Cross** the next wooden footbridge and **turn right**. A little further along, **turn right** over the ditch. **Turn left**, following the field ditch, until you reach a road. **Cross the road** and **continue along** the field edge for approximately **100 metres**, with the ditch on your left. **Cross over** the metal footbridge to your left. **Follow the path** along the stream. At the end of the field,

FIELD MARGIN FOOTPATHS

follow the footpath off to the **right** through a wooded area. At the road, **turn right**, walking through or over the ford. At the road junction, **cross over** to the other side (taking care of any traffic) and **follow the footpath** toward the fields, passing a row of houses on your left. The path runs along the edge of a wood (called Devil's Grove). Approximately 30 metres beyond the wood, **cross over the footbridge to the right**. Continue uphill, with the ditch on your left. When you reach the waymarked post on the brow of the hill (from which you can enjoy great views of the surrounding landscape with Steeple Bumpstead nestled in the valley below), **turn right**. From here please follow the instructions in the blue box below.

RETURNING TO THE START OF YOUR WALK:
End of route instructions for both Walks 1 & 2:
Follow the path downhill between the fields towards the tree line. When you reach the bottom meadow, cross it diagonally using a trodden path to a waymarked post in the opposite corner. **Turn right** and follow the footpath between a fence and hedge. At the end of this footpath you will find yourself back in the village of Steeple Bumpstead. At this point you can **turn left** and walk along **Chapel Street** to return to the village hall.
If you would like to take a route that explores more of the village, **cross the road** and **continue along the path** to Claywall Bridge. Immediately over the bridge **turn left** onto the Riverside Walk footpath. At the end of this path turn left over a wooden footbridge, and pass the cottages known as "The Crescent". **Turn left** along Church Street, which includes points of interest such as the village lock-up, St Mary's Church, Steeple Bumpstead Pottery, the Moot Hall, village pubs and older residential properties with interesting architectural features. From this road there are a number of footpaths off to the **right** that will take you back to Camping Close and the village hall.