

# 1

# Alresford via Wivenhoe circular walk

Map of walking route



This walk has wonderful views of Alresford Creek and the River Colne. It's a magnificent place for bird watching and is also an opportunity to visit the small attractive riverside town of Wivenhoe with its history of fishing and boat building.

## Planning Your Walk

- Approximately 3 miles.
- Hilly in places, and public footpaths can be muddy if the weather has been wet.
- All paths are also cyclist routes. The initial part of the route is on the road so be aware of vehicles.
- The footpath is narrow in places and you need warm clothes because there can be cold winds from the river.
- Food is available at The Pointer pub. There are also pubs and cafes in Wivenhoe.

## Directions

1. From Alresford Station, turn right and walk along Station Road. At the crossroads, cross straight over onto Church Road. At the crossroads on your right is a pub called The Pointer which serves food.
2. Carry on down Church Road – you will walk past Alresford Primary School on your left just before the school there is a white brick house which was the original Primary School. The flint building next to it was also part of the old Primary School.
3. As you continue your walk on the left is the old Vicarage.
4. On the right you will see a turning with a gravel path and a memorial cross. Wander down and you'll come to St. Peter's Church which was circa 1320 and destroyed by fire in 1971. Take a while to read the information board and to wander through the Church and its grounds.
5. Walk back out of the Church and continue right down Church Lane (at the church there are other footpath signs which you may choose to walk another day).
6. As you're walking down Church Lane on the left you'll see the entrance to Alresford Hall and next to that is the old lodge belonging to the Hall.
7. On your left you'll see a campsite, Plumton Farm and holiday lodges with a lake.
8. On the right you'll see the working quarry which is a hive of activity, and in front of you you'll see the wonderful view of Alresford Creek and the River Colne ahead (This is about 25 minutes from the start of the walk).



9. Opposite the quarry there's a footpath opposite 1 Ford Cottages which will take you towards Alresford Mill and Brightlingsea Church.
10. When you're at the creek look left and in the distance you'll see Brightlingsea Church with a footpath that takes you there (not part of this walk). There's a seat to your right with an information board about Alresford Creek and the surrounding area, you need to follow the footpath on the right.
11. A few metres along the footpath you can see the old quarry workings where they used to load the barges with sand and ballast, and to your left there would have been a road that would have taken you to a ford where horses and carts would have travelled across the bridge to Brightlingsea.
12. You will see two small pylons about 6 feet tall, which is part of the bridge where the railway track used to go across the river to Brightlingsea.
13. After 10 minutes there's another seat where you can look across to the River Colne looking at the estuary birds and to your right is Wivenhoe. The path to the left would have been the old railway line. Continue along the footpath and at this point you are literally on the path of the old railway line. The path is a single track path with plenty of opportunities to leave it to sit by the river.
14. As you wander along the footpath to your right is another path that will eventually take you back to the Church (mentioned earlier). Ignore that path and continue straight towards Wivenhoe.
15. The footpath from Alresford Creek to Wivenhoe will take you a leisurely 30 minutes. As you approach Wivenhoe look across the river and in the distance you will see Rowhedge and the flood barriers in front of you.
16. The walk along the footpath by the river is a magnificent walk for birdwatchers so you can look out for seasonal and migratory birds.
17. You arrive into Wivenhoe through Old Wivenhoe and on the right you'll pass Wivenhoe Sailing Club. Walk past the Sailing Club and you'll see houses in front of you which were originally Cooks shipyard. Take a moment to read the information boards that tell you the history of the area.
18. At this point it's your opportunity to meander through the lanes in Wivenhoe and walk back the way you came, or perhaps explore the other footpaths you passed on your way. There are pubs, cafes and seating areas looking over the river. There is a railway station in Wivenhoe where you can get a train back to Alresford or back into Colchester.