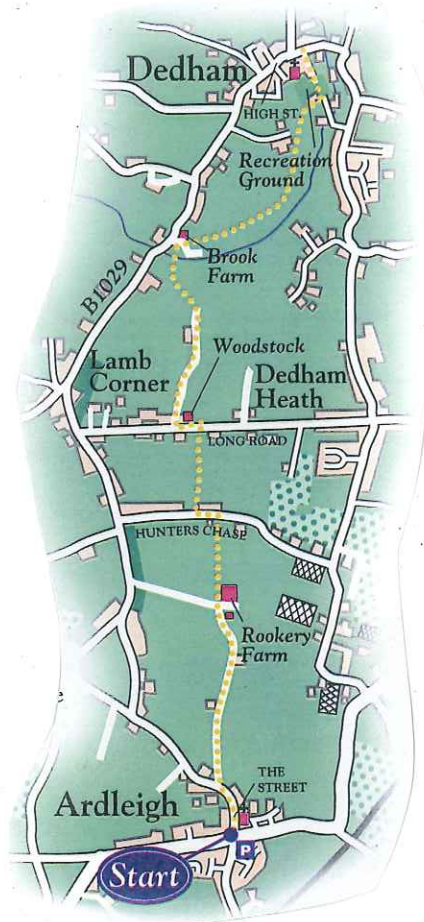


Ardleigh

Distance: 4 miles

Time: 2 hours

A walk from Ardleigh to Dedham Church



From Ardleigh crossroads, take the Dedham Road. Where the road bears left, you will see two footpath signs. Take the farthest which directs you down along a farm road to Rookery Farm. The path continues straight through the farmyard and then across a field but may not be well signposted so look to the distance for a footpath sign on the road, between a cottage on the left and a row of trees on the right. Turn left onto the road, then take the footpath 100m on the right. This path goes between two gardens and then straight onto Long Road.

Turn left onto Long Road, along the grass verge for 200m and then take the path sign posted on the right. Continue down Mays Lane, passing Mays Barn and descending to a field. After a short while you will pass through a gate on your left and keeping to the right of this field descend to Brook Farm. Proceed through a gate into the farm yard and then aiming for the road, bear right behind a farm building. This path brings you onto a field edge path alongside Black Brook which you should follow until you come to a bridge with a stile. Cross over continuing straight passing through two gates in fields with lovely old trees scattered around.

You will see Dedham Church ahead and a stile in the hedgerow. Cross the stile and turn right continuing to the side of a building on the edge of the recreation ground. Turn left after the building, taking a path into the centre of Dedham, passing a local museum. Take the opportunity of walking through Dedham with its history, arts and crafts and refreshment opportunities before rejoining your path back at either of the two footpaths on the left hand side of Shoebridge Hill (B1029).