

ESSEX WAY STAGE 2 - CHIPPING ONGAR to GOOD EASTER (9.5 miles)

START - CHIPPING ONGAR (Banson's Lane Car Park – Map Ref: TL 552032)

Key

**L = left; R = right; TL = turn left; TR = turn right; X = cross over;
CONT = continue; THRU = through; ST = stile; WM = waymark;
FPS = footpath (or bridleway) sign; FB = footbridge (normally wood);
TK = track; RD = road; KG = kissing gate.**

All distances are approximate

- 1 **X** main RD by Zebra Xing and **TR**. Ahead 100M to large round 'Ongar' sign & **TL**. **CONT** past 'White House' gates bearing **R** into narrow alley. **TL** at RD. **THRU** **KG** and **CONT** ahead on **TK**, passing farm buildings (on your **R**), staying on main **TK** as it twists and turns until it eventually goes under power cables. Immediately **TL** and follow **TK**, in direction of power cables, to corner. Bear **R** downhill and **TL** at end of hedge (on your **L**) by **WM**. Follow **TK** straight ahead to RD ... **BUT** ... just **BEFORE** RD turn **R** at gate. **CONT** downhill (hedge on **L** then wooden fence). **TL** over **ST** in wooden fence & up steps to RD. (1¼ miles)

TAKE CARE NEAR RIVER- ESPECIALLY IF GROUND CONDITIONS ARE SLIPPERY
- 2 **X** RD carefully. Ahead at **FPS** down steps bearing **R** then **L** for 30M **X** **ST** to RD. **X** RD. At **FPS** **X** **ST**, **CONT** **HALF R** ahead and **X** field to hedge corner (**WM**). **TL** and now follow tracks near the river for 1.5 miles **Xing** **STs** and **FBs** (over ditches) en route but **NOT Xing** river yet. [**BEWARE LOW BRANCH AT 1st FB**]. Ignore first bridge (wooden) over river but **TR** & **X** second bridge (metal). (2¾ miles)
- 3 **TL** and **CONT** ahead, after 30M **TL** then almost immediately **TR** into *green lane (hedges both sides). Exit green lane and **CONT** on broad **TK** to RD.
*[**DO NOT FOLLOW THE FIELD EDGE – it is NOT a public right of way and the landowners now object strongly.**]
- 4 **CONT** ahead on RD for 50M and then **TR** at **FPS** (Bridleway) by telegraph post into green lane. **CONT** ahead to emerge at field edge for 200M then re-enter green lane and **CONT** ahead to RD.
- 5 **TR** to **CONT** on RD passing 'The Barn', 'Little Witney Green', & 'The Old Rectory' (on your **L**) and then **TR** at **FPS** **THRU** small gate (ignore 'private' sign). **IMMEDIATELY** head **HALF L Xing** field aiming 20m **R** of telegraph post in line with **WM** post. **THRU** gate & straight ahead across field. Aim for gap in hedge with church tower behind it and pass **THRU** then ahead (still aiming for church tower) to exit by **WM** and **FB** to RD. (4¼ miles)

- 6 At RD **TL** for 400M (Take care, bends in RD). Where RD bends L at road sign, Millers Green Road, CONT Ahead and IMMEDIATELY **TR** at FPS THRU hedge, **X** FB and **TL** (keep hedge/fence on **L** now) to WM. **TR** (aim for church tower) to **X** field and **X** FB. **TL** before bearing **R**. CONT on field edge uphill (ignore **L** turnings) to eventually **TL** to **X** FB, **TR** to go **THRU** gate, and pass between Willingale churches to RD. (**5 miles**)
- 7 **X** RD & CONT ahead at FPS (with hedge on **R**) for 2½ fields, then at wide hedge gap **X** to follow other side of hedge, in same direction, to **WM** just before field corner. **TL** over FB and CONT ahead (hedge on **R**) to corner. **TR**, **X** ditch and **TL**. [**TAKE CARE: LARGE GRASS-COVERED HOLE ON TK**] CONT with hedge on **L** to **WM** at field corner.
- 8 **TR** following TK, ditch on **L**, for 100M to **TL** on FB (WM) over ditch and straight ahead on raised TK (ditch on **L**) for 300M to arrive at RD (Take Care). (**5¾ miles**)
- 9 **X** RD **with care** & CONT ahead on Byway at FPS for 700M to T junction at narrow lane. **TR** and CONT for 500M then **TL** at fallen FPS on bend. (**6½ miles**)
- 10 CONT 1000M (turning **R** with TK) & **TL** at sharp corner (WM) then 1300M on TK, ignoring any TKs off, to eventually emerge at FPS by lane. CONT ahead on lane for 500M to main RD. (**8¼ miles**)
- 11 **X** RD (carefully) **HALF L** to FPS in lay-by and CONT on Byway (gravel) for 900M (hedge on **R** at first then bearing **R** to go between hedges). Emerge on hard surfaced lane passing house and barn to reach RD at junction.
- 12 **TL** over bridge past 2 white houses and then VERY soon **TL** at FPS by telegraph post. Ahead following **L** side of field to **X** FB in corner and **TR**. CONT 200M up **R** edge of field to FPS and then **HALF L** **X** field aiming for **R(ish)** side of church spire.
- 13 **X** FB and follow **L** edge of graveyard to pass **L** side of church exiting onto RD. **TL** and finish is 100M away by *CROSSROADS. (**9½ miles**)

* Map Ref: **TL 626123**