



Turpin's Trail Walk 3

Great Sampford to Howses & Hempstead and back to Great Sampford via Free Roberts 6 miles (9.5 kms)

This walk starts at St. Michael's Church, Great Sampford, CB10 2RS

OS Landranger Map 195 Grid Reference TL642353. Please park responsibly in the street.

Route directions updated June 2025.

From the church cross the road and continue down the road opposite towards the Red Lion public house.

Take the path to the left of the pub into the playing fields and keep ahead. Turn left past the tennis courts and then cross the road (B1053).

Take the path between the houses and bear right when you enter the open field.

Cross the bridge over the River Pant, cross two further bridges then bear half right through field.

At path crossing in the field turn right and cross back over the river at the next bridge.

Bear right and then ahead and across horse paddocks. Pass through a gate, bear left, then cross a stile on the right and then cross a field to the road (B1053).

Cross the road and climb the steps and 400 yards ahead turn left through a gate.

Pass through two more gates to reach a track with a cattle grid, on the right is Howses, a moated farmstead.

Bear part left over a stile and continue with the hedge on your right, down a field with views of Hempstead church in the distance.

Take a bridge over the stream and steps up a bank.

Turn left at the top and then soon right up a field with a hedge on your left. Follow to the top of the field and round to take a left turn through a hedge. Cross the field to the corner by a hedge and follow path around the edge of the field with the hedge on right. Ignore footpath



on right that crosses a plank bridge.

Bear left and then right to go through a kissing gate to enter a paddock with hedge on your left.

Take a diagonal route ahead across the paddock to cross two stiles (these may be totally obscured by vegetation, but can be avoided by using the gap only a little further on) and head down the field to the road.

Turn right on the road and after 15 yards bear right onto a byway past Wellyards.

On reaching the road turn left to the Bluebell Inn (currently closed), the birthplace of Dick Turpin.



Turn right up the road then right again by the village hall and go through the churchyard, keeping the church on right, and go through a gap. Keep ahead.

Turn right after the second gate, passing to the left of farm buildings and then past a pond and willow trees. Turn left to continue around the pond then shortly climb a stile, or use the adjacent gate if it is open. (The stile was rather unstable when the route was surveyed.) A little further on turn right to pass through a gate. The



path ahead may be overgrown, but keep ahead to a stile. Cross the stile to a road. Turn left on the road and right after 100 yards onto a path on the right, then left after 200 yards and walk with the hedge on the left to the bottom of the field. Continue round to the right for 600 yards. When the field ends turn right in front of a gap that leads to a sunken track to keep a hedge on the left. Then drop down to follow the River Pant on your left.

Crossing a footbridge continue to keep to the field edge and then shortly turn left to take the bridge over the river. Follow the path upwards. ***(If very wet divert further to the left, but continuing up to meet a track.)*** Turn right on to a green lane and follow to the road.

Turn left, walk past Free Roberts and left again at the T-junction.

Follow the road passing Bean Pods to Bean Pod Farm (also called Byatts Farm), turning right past farm buildings and on past fenced paddocks on the left. At the end of the paddocks fence bear right to keep ahead in the same direction with a hedge on the left and continue to a ditch on the right.

Keeping the ditch on your right, turn right and continue for half a mile back towards Great Sampford crossing an earth bridge half way to continue with the ditch on your left. Turn left to meet the main road. Turn right on to the road back to the church.

See map below.

Map Walk 3

