



TERLING

Terling has a long history dating at least from Roman times. In the Domesday Book of 1086 it had a population of 32 households, most of these being smallholders involved with livestock and arable farming. Today the population has grown to approximately 760 with very few now involved in agriculture.

Terling is one of the prettiest villages in Essex. In 2017 it won the Best Essex Village of the Year which not only reflects its setting and many facilities but also the community feeling within the village and parish. In the unmade road called the Dismals you will find the cricket field, children's playground, tennis courts, swimming pool (for residents of the parish) and Village Hall with limited parking. There is also a football field on the east of the village.

The village sits on either side of the River Ter with Flacks Green and Gambles Green to the west and Terling itself to the east. The Windmill, now a private residence, can be seen between Flacks Green and Gambles Green. It was used in the 1937 film, 'Oh Mr. Porter!' starring Will Hay.

Benches near Terling Ford provide a place to pause during your walk. Crossing the river by car at this point is unadvisable as the river is deceptively deep. The safest way is to travel to Dairy Bridge which is on the SW road out of Terling just beyond Church Green. Near the bridge you will find **Dairy Bridge Antiques (4)** which is well worth a detour and a visit. The parish church of All Saints' overlooks Church Green and is the spiritual heart of the village. It is Historic England Grade II* listed and dates back to the 13th Century. The well stocked **Village**

Shop and Post Office (5) is a short walk from the church in the direction of the main village.

There are approximately 80 listed buildings in the parish. The largest is Terling Place, built 1772-74 and the family seat and private home of Lord Rayleigh. It was here that the 3rd Lord Rayleigh established a laboratory to isolate the gas, argon, in 1894. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for this in 1904.

The hub of the village is the **Rayleigh Arms (1)** known locally as the Monkey. This possibly refers to the Geraldine Ape, which can be seen supporting the Strutt coat of arms above the front door. It is a large, popular pub and restaurant, well used by villagers and with plenty of outside and inside seating. Directly opposite you will find the **Owl's Hill Tearoom (2)**. This quaint facility is also popular, particularly with cyclists and walkers. It may not be large but it has a wide range of food as well as plenty of covered seating.

FAIRSTEAD

This delightful village is situated in the heart of rural Essex. It includes the hamlets of Ranks Green, Fuller Street and Fairstead (Church End) itself. The name 'Fairstead' originates from Old English, meaning 'fair place' and was probably a place of communal activity, perhaps where a travelling fair entertained local households. In the Domesday Book of 1086, Fairstead had a total population of 17 households, most of these being smallholders. The 2011 census however shows the population has risen to 133 households with few people now employed in the agricultural industry.

Within the parish there are 23 listed buildings, the most important being the Grade I listed parish church of St

Mary the Virgin which stands in the middle of Fairstead (Church End). The church is not only a perfect place for quiet reflection after a tiring walk along the Essex Way but is also, historically, of great interest, dating from the 11th Century. Inside there are noteworthy wall paintings and a detailed history of the church itself.

Ranks Green is approximately 1.5 miles to the NW of the church. Here you will find **Bixes Farm (6)** which supports a highly recommended farm shop. In the middle of the hamlet is the former pub, the Pretty Lady, now a private residence. It is believed that in the late 19th Century the then landlord, John Searles, named it after his daughter, Ann.

The hamlet of Fuller Street lies approximately 1 mile to the south of Ranks Green and is the home of the **Square and Compasses (3)**. This popular Public House and restaurant dates back to 1652 when it was two farm cottages. There are two outside dining areas for food and drink as well as a garden with uninterrupted views over the undulating countryside. It is on the Essex Way and is well worth a visit. It is known locally as the Stoke Hole, maybe because George Stokes (a blacksmith) lived there at the time of the 1911 census. Turning towards Terling you will pass The Old Stores, another Grade II listed building, now a private residence. It has an unusual sign above the original shop window that changes as you pass. If you are in your car it might be wise to note that the family-run village garage, **Hillside Motors (7)**, is just up the hill!

The parish areas of Terling and Fairstead both lie on the 81 mile footpath, the Essex Way the full route of which can be seen at

<http://www.essexway.org.uk/documents/Essex Way booklet.pdf>

The cover of the Terling & Fairstead Parish Footpath Map. At the top is a green circular logo featuring a person walking a dog, with the word 'TERLING' written across the bottom. The main title 'Terling & Fairstead' is in large red letters, followed by 'PARISH FOOTPATH MAP' in large green letters. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text 'Please obey the Countryside Code' and a circular logo for 'The Countryside Code' with the words 'RESPECT - PROTECT - ENJOY'.