

Welcome

Situated near Suffolk's northern border, Eye, once the smallest borough in the country, is full of history.

Its name means 'island' and it is thought the settlement was once surrounded by rivers and marshes.

Eye Castle dates back to the Norman Conquest in 1066. Although it lost its strategic importance in 1265, its prison was used until the early 17th century. Today, little remains except the remnants of a false keep and house.

The views from the Castle's viewing platform are superb and include the 14th century Church of St Peter and St Paul. The church's 30m tower was described by architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner as "one of the wonders of Suffolk".

The town is full of historic architecture, much of it 14th century. There are three Grade One listed buildings (the Guildhall, the Castle and the Church), 7 Grade Two*, and 150 Grade 2 buildings. Between the 17th and 19th centuries, Eye became the centre of a localised lacemaking industry. Its 19th century Town Hall is an imaginative and unorthodox design.

Today, Eye is a vibrant and charming market town with a wide variety of high street cafes, a chocolatier and shops. One of its former 20 pubs survives: The Queen's Head is located behind the Town Hall (01379 870153, www.queensheadeye.co.uk).

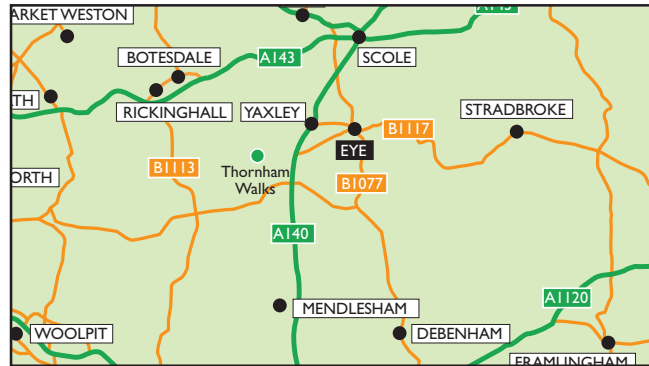
To explore the town centre with its historic attractions copies of the Eye Town Trail can be found at Eye Library, and cafes around town or online www.eyesuffolk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Eye-Town-Trail.pdf

Please follow the Countryside Code:

- ✓ Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- ✓ Leave gates and property as you would find them and follow paths.
- ✓ Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- ✓ Keep dogs under effective control.
- ✓ Plan ahead and be prepared.
- ✓ Follow advice and local signs.



Location



Directions

Eye is signposted off the A140, just 5 miles south of Diss. All walks start at The Pennings Nature Reserve , ½ mile east of town off the B1117 by Abbey Bridge. Look out for the white on brown tourism sign and sign for Eye Cricket Club on to Ludgate Causeway. The car park is first right off Ludgate Causeway.

Public Transport

Eye is served by a number of bus services. Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables and www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk. (0871 200 2233) to plan your journey.

OS Explorer Map

Use OS Explorer Map number 230 (Diss and Harleston) to enjoy this walk and the wider area

Discover Suffolk

Discover many more walks and great days out in the countryside at www.discover Suffolk.org.uk. Follow us on:



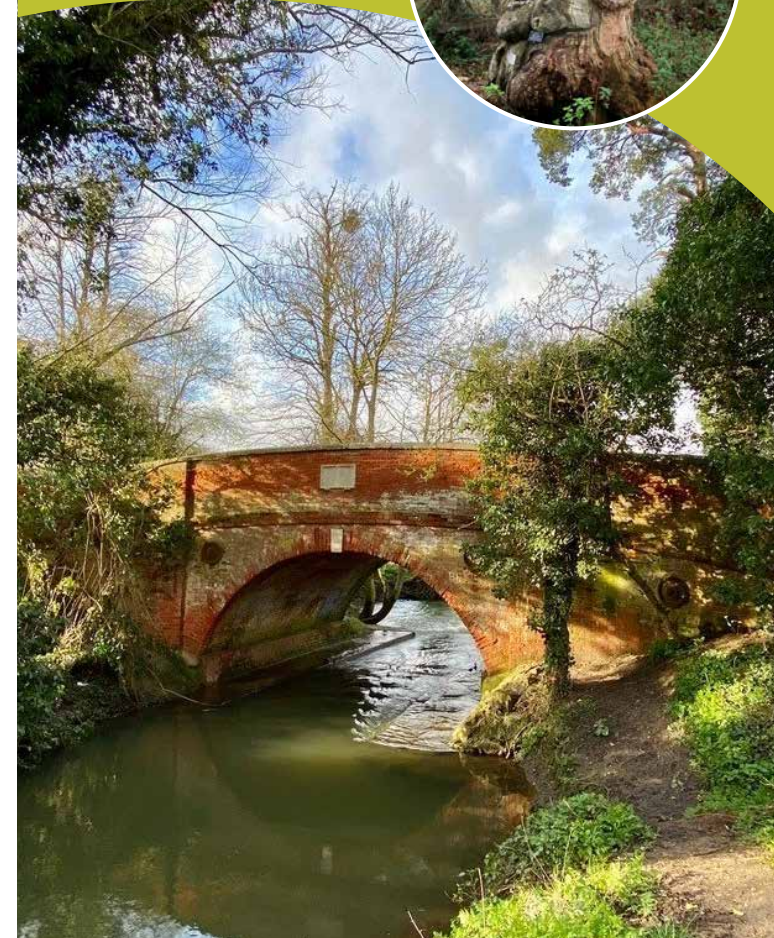
Produced by Eye Outdoors Group and Suffolk County Council.



Circular Walks

Eye Circular Walks

Off The Beaten Track



The Eye Circular

DISTANCE: 4 miles (7km)

DURATION: 2 hours

TERRAIN: Tarmac, natural footpaths and cross-field paths, some may be muddy.



Turn left out of the car park **A** and right at the B1117, crossing the road to take the footpath opposite, a section of the Mid Suffolk Footpath **1**.

Red brick Abbey Hall (1580) hides a timber-framed medieval Benedictine Priory of St Peter built in 1381. Initially under French control, the Priory was freed by Richard II in 1385. By the end of the 14th century it was poor with only 4 monks. Beyond the hall, obscured by trees on the right, are the priory fishponds.

Pass through a gate, cross the River Dove over Bolser Bridge, and after the next gate turn right **2**. Continue to a hardstanding area in front of Waterloo Plantation.

Basil Brown, of Sutton Hoo fame, excavated a section of the plantation in 1955 finding flint pottery shards in what was once a Saxon cemetery.



Just north of here, during WW2, two bombers from Eye Airfield collided whilst flying in formation in cloud. Only three of a total crew of 20 survived.

Turn left and continue uphill along a farm track. Follow this track to the road and turn left **3**. At the end enter a cycle path and continue, crossing a road to continue over Lamsey Beck, to reach another road. Turn right and at the main street cross the B1077 and turn right **4**.

The fire station sits on the site of the old reading room and is opposite the almshouses. Further along Lambseth Street is Chandos Lodge, with its crinkle-crankle wall. Chandos Lodge was once the home of Sir Frederick Ashton, choreographer and founder of the Royal Ballet. He lived here from 1957 until his death in 1988.

After the fire station, turn left on to the footpath next to Lamsey Beck **5**.

Lamsey Beck is a small tributary of the River Dove. This area is known as the Rettery: flax was “retted” here, meaning the plants were soaked until soft enough to turn into linen.

After the allotments bear left and follow the footpath up the incline, passing Eye Poultry, formerly the site of Eye railway station.

Until 1931, this 3-mile branch line provided a passenger service to Mellis, making it the shortest branch line in east Anglia. A freight service continued until 1964, carrying goods inward such as coal to the gasworks, and goods out such as sugar beet. During the war the station was a transshipment point for materials destined for local airfields and was once

machine-gunned by a German plane. The station master, George Chappel, escaped injury from bullets by diving under a wagon.

Cross Magdalen Street **6** and follow the path opposite into the playing field and around Eye Community Centre. Cross its car park and cross a wooden footbridge into The Town Moors. Turn left to follow a path skirting the woodland.

The Town Moors is worth a visit. The woodland was a former plantation of poplar trees originally destined for matchwood. After the great storm of 1987, damaged trees were left as a memorial with an imaginative re-planting scheme creating a new landscape.

Continue along the path over two footbridges to reach an open field and footpath. Turn right uphill. Opposite a triple cart shed **7**, turn left through the kissing gate and enter a field (this may contain livestock). In the field keep right and walk ahead looking out for a gate on your left. Go through the gate to join the Mid Suffolk Footpath and continue over the water meadows through a series of gates to reach Park Lane Track.

The Orchard Walk: Join the Mid Suffolk Footpath and continue over the water meadows through a series of gates to reach Park Lane Track **8**. Turn left and note the millennium line of 25 oak trees.

Park Lane Track originally led to Eye Deer Park and is raised above the level of the fields which were often under water. This flooding isolated the town and its castle – hence the name ‘Eye’ meaning island.

Cross the B1077 **9** and continue along the footpath, noting the carved Big Head.

This “Big Head”, by the Hearts of Oak Organisation, is part of the Hearts of Oak Sculpture Trail. The little plaque doesn’t reveal whether the head is supposed to be anyone in particular or symbolic of anything, or perhaps just a big head!

Continue along the footpath to reach Ludgate Causeway. Turn left to return to The Pennings Nature Reserve **A**.



Eye Circular Walks

Off The Beaten Track



The Orchard Walk

DISTANCE: 7 miles (11.5 kms)

DURATION: 3.5 hours

TERRAIN: Tarmac, natural footpaths and cross-field paths, some may be muddy.



Follow the Green Walk to the triple cart shed ⑦, turn left through the kissing gate and keeping right ignore the next gate on the left. Continue ahead following a section of the Mid Suffolk Footpath through a series of gated meadows until you reach a kissing gate and a grassy path between trees.

Turn left ① and follow the path past the Orchards on the right. At the lane, turn left ② and pass through the Church Farm farmyard to St Mary's Church.

Only the chancel of this church survives. A Victorian church was built in the village to replace it, taking with it St Mary's Church's elaborately carved doorway!

Continue along the track, passing through 2 gates to cross the River Dove. The footpath leads to a lane. Turn left ③ and continue for approximately ¾ mile.

You'll pass Clint Farm. In 1781 labourers unearthed a lead box by the river containing about 600 Roman gold coins dating from 364-423, the largest hoard of Roman gold coins ever discovered in Britain.

Turn left onto a footpath between gate lodges ④. Follow the concrete track, passing through Park Farm farmyard and at the far end cross the stile. Follow the track downhill and where it turns very sharp left ('Private' sign), turn right onto a grassy path. This is Park Lane Track. At the kissing gate follow the green trail ⑧.



To Denham Street and Back

DISTANCE: 4.5 miles (7.5km)

DURATION: 2 hours

TERRAIN: Quiet country lanes, field edge and cross-field footpaths. Some sections can be muddy.



From Pennings Nature Reserve ① turn right and continue up Ludgate Causeway until you reach the gates of the Cricket Club ①.

Turn left onto a path between trees and continue to the end. Turn right onto a small lane and continue, enjoying the views of rolling, wooded countryside, until Cocks Road ②.

At the triangle with Cocks Road, fork left, cross the road and step up the bank opposite to enter a narrow footpath between wire fences. You'll follow this footpath for nearly 1.5 miles (2km).

You soon cross a wooden bridge. Turn left and almost immediately right, keeping to the edge of the arable field with a tree belt on your right. Cross a stream ③ and veer left to have the tree belt now on your left. Keep ahead until you enter a wooded avenue.

Continue into a more densely wooded area and follow a slightly meandering footpath exiting into open fields.

You soon reach Denham Street ④.

Turn right and follow the road. At Street Farm workshops, turn right onto a footpath ⑤. At the end of the field, by a small



pond, turn right then immediately left, and keep following the footpath along the edge of a field on your right.

Cross a wooden bridge and veer right and left to follow the edge of the field on your right. With a hedge on your left, continue through a wide gap into another field and cross a wooden footbridge on the far left. Cross the farm track and cross the next footbridge.

Keeping the hedge on your right, pass through four fields. Cross the footbridge, turn left and continue, turning right through the kissing gate. Cross the lawn area and go through a kissing gate onto a tarmac track.



Continue on the track passing Uplands Farm. At the junction with Cocks Road ⑥, cross the road and follow the footpath with the hedge of Uplands Cottage on the right. Turn left at the waymarker post, go straight across the field to go through a gap in the hedge on the far side. Descend onto the footpath with care. Turn right and continue.

Pass through two former stiles, then turn left and proceed through the wooded footpath to re-join the path you walked at the start of the walk. At the gates to the Cricket Club ①, turn right and return along Ludgate Causeway to Pennings Nature Reserve ①.

