

11 Circular Walks from Needham Market

Distance 2 to 9 miles

By Derek Magnall



Derek Magnall

I lived in Lancashire (West Pennines) all my working life. On retiring I moved to Needham Market and have lived here for the last twenty years. As a long standing member of the Long Distance Walkers Association, I served on the National Executive Committee as the Group Secretary for four years and Publicity Officer for five years, representing the interest of walkers on the National Sports Council.

I have undertaken many challenge walks around the Country and completed 100 mile walks in less than 30 hours on several occasions. I also enjoyed walking long distance paths around the country.

I have written more than sixty walks varying in length from 2 miles to 47 miles and have published five booklets including one written for the Cooperative Movement to celebrate their 150 years anniversary called the 'Pioneers Round'. I was approached by Mid Suffolk Council to write a collection of walks for the new Visitor Centre and café at Needham Lake. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share my favourite walks from Needham Lake with others and hope you will get the same pleasure from these walks as I do.

Derek Magnall

Chairman Needham Market Walks

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1196402

Needham Market Walks is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose mission is the promotion of health, fitness and mental wellbeing in the community by encouraging walking around the Needham Market area. We rely on grants and donations to print this free booklet. We hope these walks will help you enjoy the local countryside.

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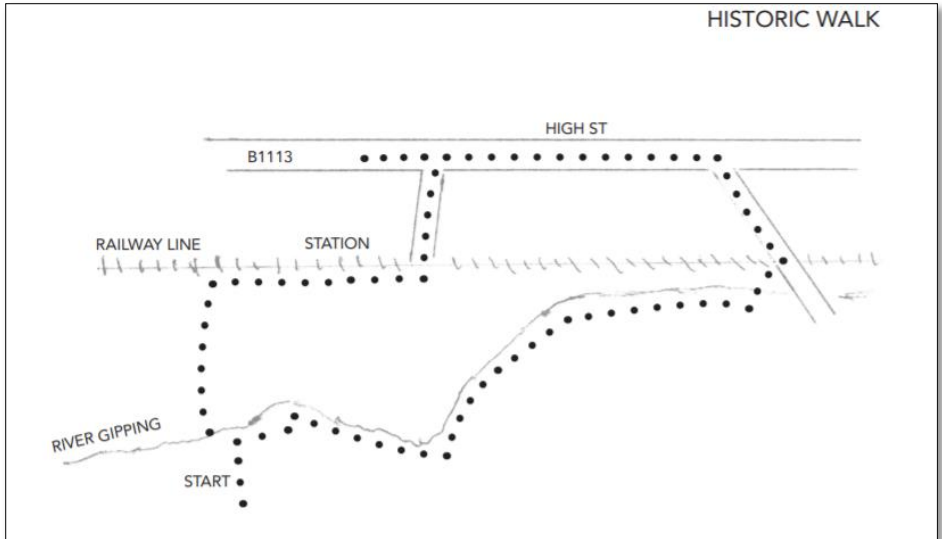
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Pub Walks: Walk 8 and Walk 10

If you complete walks 6 (Barking Circular), 9 (Creeting Circular), 10 (Gt Blakenham Circular) & 11 (Badley Circular) (marked **M**) you will have completed the Magnall Round, a 22 mile Long Distance Path. To obtain a full route sheet for the Magnall Round email: walkingmansuffolk@gmail.com The walk can be done in four sections of 4 to 6 miles using public transport.

Ordnance Survey Explorer map 211 (Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket) shows the areas covered by these walks, or for a live location download the OS maps online App. Route descriptions can also be found at www.walkinginengland.co.uk under Suffolk: Stowmarket.

Walk 1: Needham Market Historical Walk - 2 Miles



From the information Centre, cross over the footbridge towards the lake and turn left. Keep the lake on your right and the railway line on your left. Turn left through the Cattle Tunnel (bow your head) and turn left again to reach Station yard. Consider the **Victorian Railway Station**, designed in 1849. Built on land bought from the Theobald Foundation for £275, it originally had curved Dutch gables and resembled a miniature Blickling Hall in Norfolk.

Continue towards the High Street and find **Theobalds Grammar School** on your left. It was established in the seventeenth century and used as a school until the early part of the twentieth century.

Facing you, across the road is **Chainhouse Farm**. From 1663-5 Needham Market was isolated due to the plague and a chain was erected at both ends of the town, hence the names still in use, 'Chainhouse' at the south end and 'Chainbridge' at the north. The chains would not have been an effective

physical barrier, but acted as a psychological deterrent. The plague marked the decline of the wool trade in the town.



Needham Market Victorian Station

Turn right along the High Street to number 12, formerly the **Waggon and Horses Public House**. Built in 1591 as **New Hall** it is now a private dwelling called **The Waggon**.

Continue to **Christchurch**, previously the United Reformed Church, which, in its present building dates from 1837. The scientist, Joseph Priestly, who was minister here from 1755 to 1758, discovered oxygen and whilst working on the nature of gases, invented soda water.

On the left is the **Town Hall**, opened in 1866 and designed by Frederick Barnes.

Across The Causeway are the **Almshouses** which housed two medieval carvings, probably survivals of earlier buildings on this site, and are now

situated in **St John the Baptist Church** porchway. Further up the High Street on the right is **The Pightle**.

The '**Kings Head**' public house, now 62 High Street, opened in 1716 and finally closed in 1931.

The present Post Office, on the left, was the **Quakers Meeting House** and Graveyard. The building dates from 1772 and was an important centre for the Friends for several generations. Many Quaker families are buried in the graveyard including the Alexanders.

On the right the **Bull Inn** has a finely carved **Angel Corner Post**.

The Limes Hotel on the left is where the Guilds met. It was a calling house for pilgrims on their way to Bury St Edmunds and believed to have been named Boule House. The Georgian facade masks Tudor carvings and oak beams.

Tudor House, also on the left, is a fine timbered house typical of many fifteenth and sixteenth century houses which lie behind the brick facades in the High Street. Once the home of George Ewart Evans, who has written many books based on the oral reminiscences of Suffolk people.

St John the Baptist Church, on the right, dates mainly from the mid fifteenth century. Inside is a magnificent roof which is, "the culminating achievement of the English carpenter" Munro Cautley.

Barclays Bank used to stand on the corner of Barrats Lane but closed in September 2014. Previously **Alexander's Bank**, founded by the Quaker family as one of the earliest private banks in England, and moved to its present site in 1756.

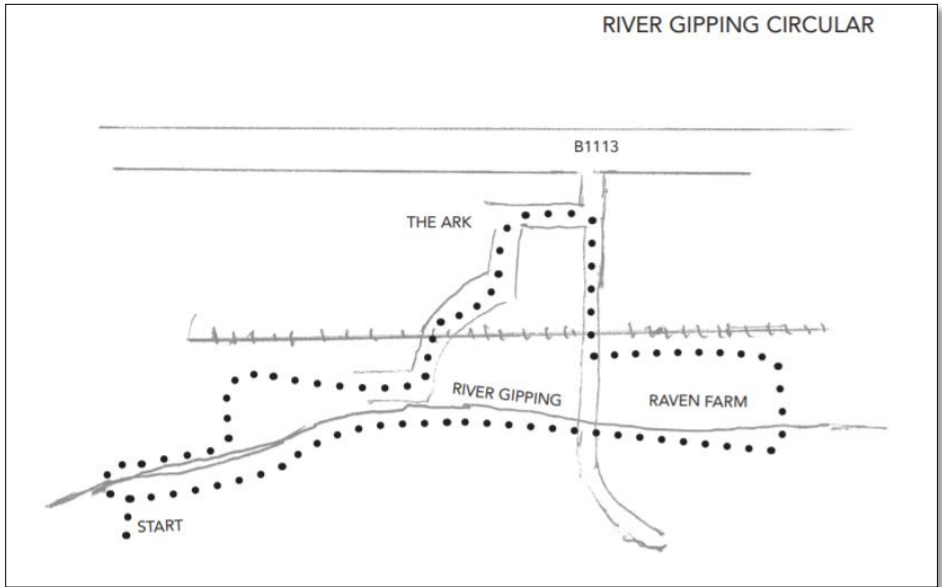
Turn right down Hawks Mill Street to **Hawks Mill**, passing the **Ancient House**, which was built in 1480 and has been much restored. The garden wall still bears a plaque stating that the Suffolk Agricultural Show was held in the town in 1893.



There has been a mill on the **Hawks Mill** site since Domesday times. The present building dates from 1887 and is now converted to residential use. There are many other very old and interesting buildings in the town, many of them hiding behind modern facades. The whole High Street is designated a Conservation Area and most of the buildings are Grade II listed.

Continue along the road and cross the road bridge over the River Gipping. Turn right immediately down the steps, the River Gipping on your right. Continue along the path keeping the river on your right until you return to the Information Centre.

Walk 2: River Gipping Circular – 2.5 miles



Leave Information Centre. Turn Right along the path keeping the River Gipping on your left. Path keeps close to the river. Ignore any paths going off to the right and bridge and path joining to the left. Continue straight ahead with River Gipping on your left, At fork take dirt path on the left passing under the road bridge.

Continue along path over footbridge passing Hawks Mill Lock continue and ahead crossing another footbridge. Continue along the path keeping the river on your left until you meet a bridge crossing the River Gipping. Turn left over the bridge, continue straight ahead passing Ravens Farm on your left. Continue along the wide track. Turn Left through gate, continue along wide track trees on your right. Pass through another gate and then Hawkes Mill Barn on your left until you meet the road. Turn right and continue along the road passing under the railway bridge.

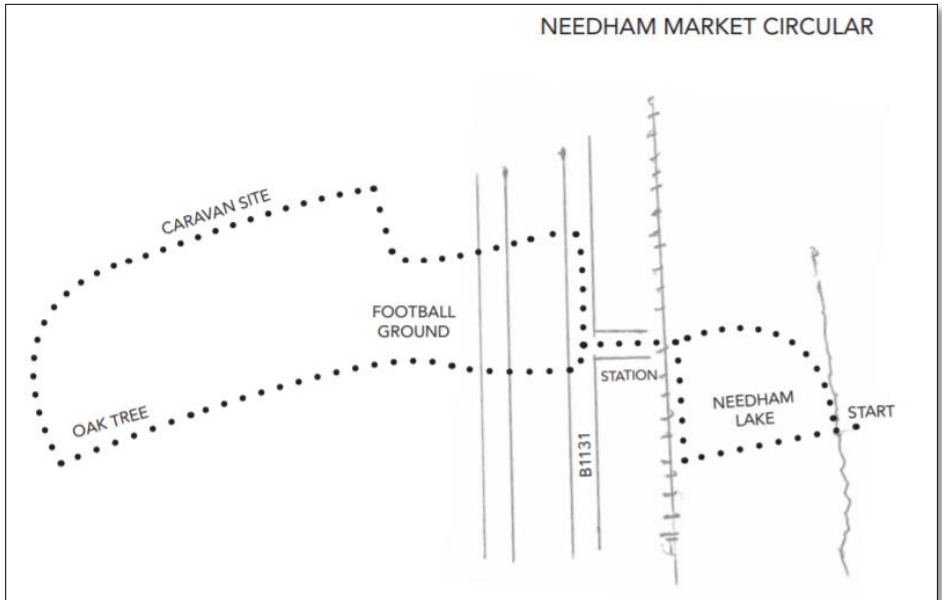
Before the main road turn left at the Ancient House dated 1480. Turn left again at the Ark, follow the road bearing right into King William Street

dropping down. Turn left under the railway bridge and follow the road round with houses on both sides and the railway on your right. Continue into the camping land, bearing right and passing the Cattle Tunnel and railway station on your right. Bear left along the grass track and left again along the path circling Needham Lake and Nature Reserve. Continue along the path till you see the footbridge. Turn left over the footbridge back to the Information Centre.



Mushroom sculptures at Needham Lake Nature Reserve

Walk 3: Needham Market Circular – 3.5 miles



From the information Centre, cross over the footbridge towards the lake and turn left. Keep the lake on your right and the railway line on your left. Continue along side of the Railway Line. Turn left through the Cattle Tunnel (bow your head) and turn left again to reach Station yard.

Leave Station Yard heading towards High Street and cross the road to the Swan. Go through the entrance to the car park, following footpath sign. Head to far left hand corner through narrow passage walled both sides. Straight across minor road and up to School Street

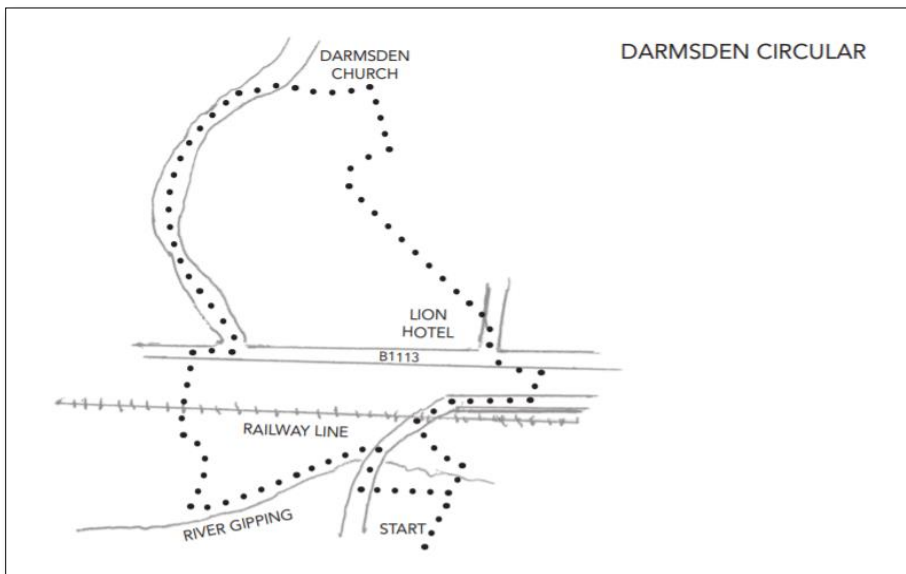
Continue till you meet road, cross road straight up passing football ground on your right. Continue along wide track until you meet hedges on your right. Pass through hedge over footbridge. Turn Left along enclosed path. Continue along path crossing wide track. Continue along enclosed path, **passing under**

large oak tree. Then turn right through hedge, continue along path, hedge on your left. Over footbridge. Continue along path to the top of the field, path bears right, hedges on your left. Continue along path meeting wide track, continue straight ahead down wide track. Reaching caravan site turn right along wide track, caravan site on your left. On meeting minor road turn right.

Continue to the bottom of the hill. As the minor road starts climbing, turn right at the footpath sign. Continue crossing field to far right corner to hedges. Turn left and continue along enclosed path to meet road. Cross road and continue down The Causeway. Continue to main road, B1113. Turn right and cross at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right and continue to Station Yard.

Turn left in Station Yard, keeping to the left to return to the Cattle Tunnel. Pass through the tunnel and turn right. Bear left along the grass track and left again along the path circling Needham Lake and Nature Reserve. Continue along the path till you see the footbridge. Turn left over the footbridge back to the Information Centre.

Walk 4: Darmsden Circular - 4 miles



From the information Centre, cross over the footbridge towards the lake and turn left. Keep the lake on your right. At the end of the car park turn left to join the road and continue under the railway bridge. Continue on the footpath turning right and after 30 meters carefully cross road B1078. Go through passageway ahead fenced on both sides, and continue along Pinetree Way bearing to the right. Cross the road, go down Limetree Close and at the end bear right along path passing between two bungalows. Carefully cross main road B1113. The Lion pub on your left.

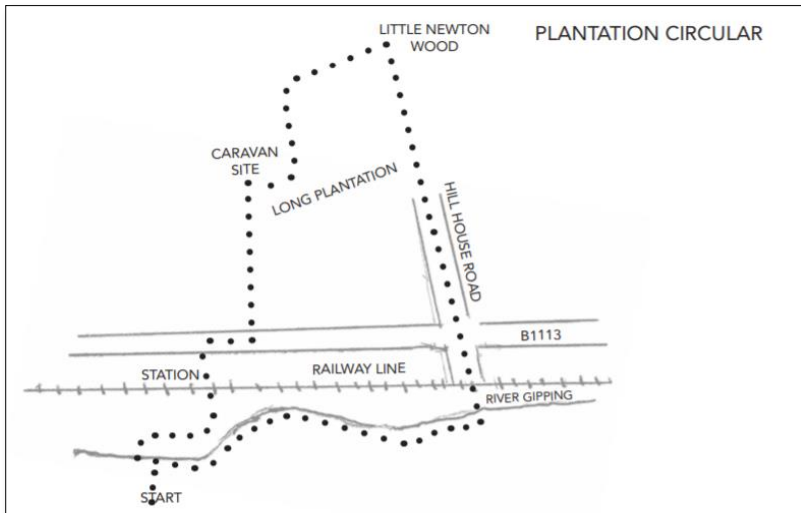
Head up Grinstead Hill and after 30 meters cross the road, turning left at the footpath sign up Mill Lane. Continue along footpath climbing steadily with trees and bushes both sides. After a time the path levels out. Continue along path, which becomes a wide track and continue straight ahead with fields on both sides. Track now splits, take the track on the right, bearing round to the right, hedges on the right, then bearing left. Continue along track. Turn left to join wide track dropping down passing under pylons. Pass St Andrews Church, Darmsden, on your right. In 1970 the community got together and bought the church after it was declared redundant; services are still held in there today. Darmsden is the second smallest parish in Mid Suffolk.

Turn left and continue along minor road dropping down. Continue for about a mile passing a number of houses on both sides and Darmsden Hall on your right. When you meet the main road B1113 carefully cross the road, turn right and continue 70 meters to a footpath by the bus stop sign. Turn left along footpath through trees with bushes both sides. Continue along the path meeting a wide track. Bear left along the wide track passing over railway bridge, continue along wide track bearing left. Turn right at footpath post over stile to narrow path.

Continue along the path with trees and lakes on both sides. On reaching the River Gipping turn left to cross two footbridges and through a gate. Continue along river path passing Creeting Lock on your right and Anderson Fishing Lake on your left. On reaching the main road B1078, cross road very carefully

and turn right on the footpath over the bridge. At the end of the bridge turn left through the gap with River Gipping and Bosmere lock on your left. This is the oldest example of a lock designed by John Rennie, the architect of the flight of 29 locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Continue along the path to the Information Centre.

Walk 5: Long Plantation Circular - 4 miles



Leave Information Centre and turn right along river path, River Gipping on your left, keeping close to the river. Ignore any paths going off to the right and the bridge and path joining from the left. Continue straight ahead River Gipping on your left. Take dirt path passing under road bridge, continue along path over footbridge passing Hawks Mill Lock. Continue straight ahead crossing over second footbridge.

Continue along path, river on your left until you meet footbridge crossing the River Gipping. Turn left over the footbridge, continue straight ahead passing Ravens Farm on your left. Continue along wide track. Continue straight ahead along narrow path to the left. Cross railway line carefully. Continue along road to main road B1113. Cross road and up Hill House Lane. Continue up passing houses on both sides. Continue straight ahead along wide concrete track, hedges on your left. Pass under pylons, hedges now both sides.

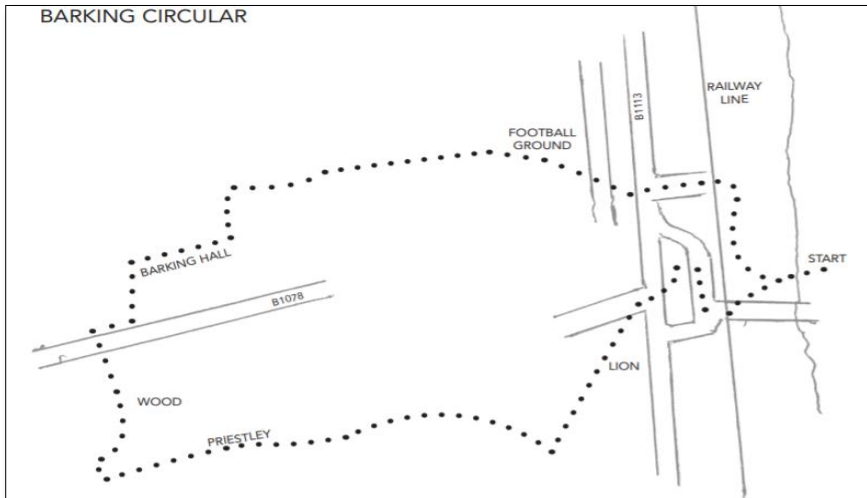
On reaching the end of the hedge turn left at footpath post opposite **Little Newton Wood**. Continue along the grass track, hedges on your left. Continue straight ahead, passing through hedge. Turn left through the passage fenced on both sides into caravan site. Continue through caravan site on the minor road to the bottom of the hill.

As the minor road starts climbing, turn right at the footpath sign. Continue crossing field to far right corner to hedges. Turn left and continue along enclosed path to meet road. Cross road and continue down The Causeway. Continue to main road, B1113. Turn right and cross at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right and continue to Station Yard.

Turn left in Station Yard, keeping to the left to return to the Cattle Tunnel. Pass through the tunnel and turn right. Bear left along the grass track and left again along the path circling Needham Lake and Nature Reserve. Continue along the path till you see the footbridge. Turn left over the footbridge back to the Information Centre.



Walk 6: Barking Circular – 5 Miles



From the information Centre, cross over the footbridge towards the lake and turn left. Keep the lake on your right and the railway line on your left. Continue along side of the Railway Line. Turn left through the Cattle Tunnel (bow your head) and turn left again to reach Station yard.

Leave Station Yard heading towards High Street and cross the road to the Swan. Go through the entrance to the car park, following footpath sign. Head to far left hand corner through narrow passage walled both sides. Straight across minor road and up to School Street with buildings on your left, cross road. Continue straight up passing Needham Market Football Ground on your right. Continue along wide track until you meet hedges on your right, pass through hedge and over footbridge. Turn left along enclosed path. Continue along path crossing wide track (ignore any paths leading off to the right). Path eventually swings round to the left, continue ~ 200m along path then turn right over stile, through hedge/fence. Follow path across field keeping hedge on your left. Continue along the path crossing to the far-right corner of the field. Over another stile. Path now continues through a coppice, pond on your left. Follow the hedge around to the left and then continue straight across the field on footpath. At field edge turn left and continue to the road. Turn right along footpath.

Continue ~180m to footpath sign on opposite side of the road. Carefully cross road (B1078). Footpath passes between hedges into field. Climb steadily with ditch and hedges on your left walking under pylons. Continue past the wood on your left, over footbridge through the hedge. Turn right, hedges on your right. On reaching the wood turn left along path just inside the trees. Crossing two footbridges, continue straight along path around field edge with trees on your left. At T junction turn left.

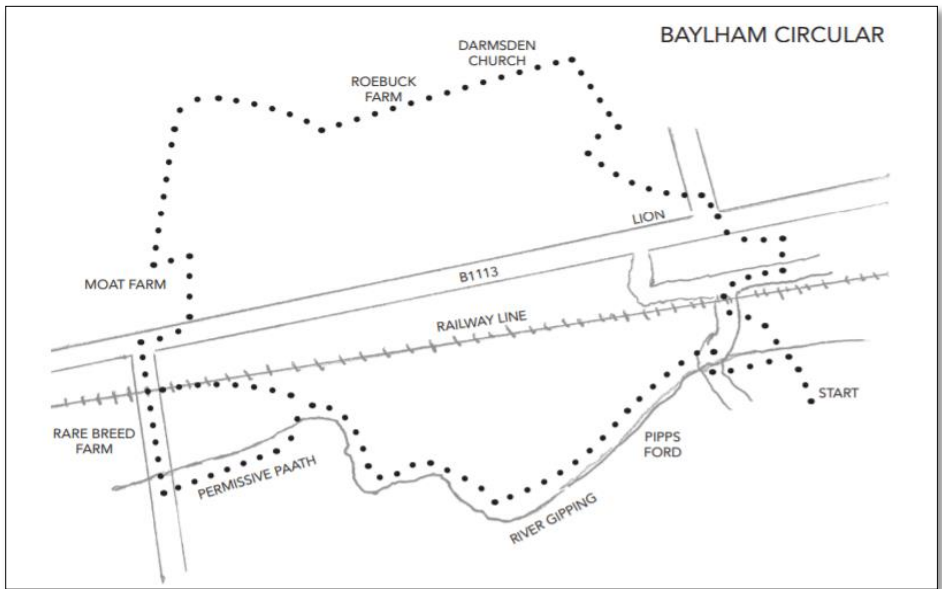
Follow path, with hedges on your right, winding round to the right. Continue straight ahead through wooden gate. Pass Priestley on your left. Continue along path through kissing gate onto enclosed path and then into field with hedge on right. Pass through hedge and continue with hedge on left. Continue through gap in hedges, hedge now on right. Meet wide track and continue.

When wide track turns right continue straight ahead along wide grassy track, fields both sides. On reaching hedges turn right along grass track, hedges on your left. Track now bearing left. Ignore track on the right. Continue along wide track fields both sides. On reaching narrow path, continue with trees and bushes each side, mesh fencing on your right, dropping down for 500 meters to road, Grinstead Hill.

Cross road, turn right continue down to main road B1113. Passing Lion Pub on your right. Cross main road B1113. Continue straight ahead the path goes between two bungalows. Bear left along Limetree Close. At the T junction turn right along Pinetree Way. Bear left through passage way fenced both sides leading onto Coddendam Road, B1078.

Cross the road. Turn Right continue along footpath under railway bridge. Turn left into Needham Lake carpark, keeping the lake on your left. Continue over footbridge to the Information Centre.

Walk 7: Baylham Circular – 5.5 miles



From the information Centre, cross over the footbridge towards the lake and turn left. Keep the lake on your right. At the end of the car park turn left to join the road and continue under the railway bridge. Continue on the footpath turning right and after 30 meters carefully cross road B1078. Go through passageway ahead fenced on both sides, and continue along Pinetree Way bearing to the right. Cross the road, go down Limetree Close and at the end bear right along path passing between two bungalows. Carefully cross main road B1113. The Lion pub on your left.

Head up Grinstead Hill and after 30 meters cross the road, turning left at the footpath sign up Mill Lane. Continue along footpath climbing steadily with trees and bushes both sides. After a time the path levels out. Continue along path, which becomes a wide track and continue straight ahead with fields on both sides. Track now splits, take the track on the right, bearing round to the

right, hedges on the right, then bearing left. Continue along grass track. Turn left to join wide track dropping down passing under pylons. Pass St Andrews Church, Darmsden, on your right.

At T junction turn left onto minor road. As the road bears left after ~ 50m, turn right on to the wide track to Roebuck Farm following footpath sign. Continue along track passing telephone mast and three bungalows on your left and farm buildings on your right. After passing farm buildings turn right along path keeping trees on your left. Path drops down to the left through trees. Continue to field edge then continue straight ahead to woods opposite. Climb steadily through the trees gradually bearing to the left until you reach the top. Continue straight ahead on path crossing the field. On reaching hedges and footpath post on your left, turn left. Path drops down, hedges and trees on your left. Bear left, hedges on your left. Pass through hedges on both sides. Turn right, hedges now on your right.

Continue down the path to meet a hedge and tree on your left. At the sign post turn left, hedges on your left, fence on your right. On reaching sign post turn right and follow path down to Moat Farm, fence on both sides. Path becomes a track. As track turns left, bear right along path through hedges onto main road B1113. Cross the road, turn right. Continue along footpath passing bungalow on your left. Turn left down Mill Lane over railway crossing.

* See alternative route below. Turn left along narrow path, railway line on your left. Continue along path for 500m, leaving railway line bearing right to River Gipping. Turn left along path.

* Recommended alternative route, subject to permissive permission is to continue down Mill Lane to the Rare Breeds Farm and Cafe.

Cross the bridge over the River Gipping. Take permissive path to the left. New path gives a better view of the Mill at Baylham. Continue along the path, River Gipping on your left. When you meet the new footbridge cross the bridge and turn right, River Gipping now on your right. Public footpath now joins from the left.

Continue straight ahead along path passing Pipp's Ford Lock. Crossing two footbridges and through a gate, continue along path passing Creting Lock.

Pass through another gate. Continue along path at side of the river eventually passing through another gate and passing Anderson Fishing Lake on your left. Through two more gates leading on to main road B1078. Cross road very carefully and turn right on the footpath over the bridge. At the end of the bridge turn left through the gap with River Gipping and Bosmere Lock on your left. Continue along path through play area to Needham Lake and Information Centre.



Creting Lock, part of the Stowmarket Navigation

Passing College Farm on your right. Continue through Farm yard with farm buildings both sides. Turn right down track, then after 30 meters turn left. Continue along track, hedges on your right. Track narrows, hedges now on both sides. When reaching wide track, continue straight ahead, hedges on your left. Track bears right.

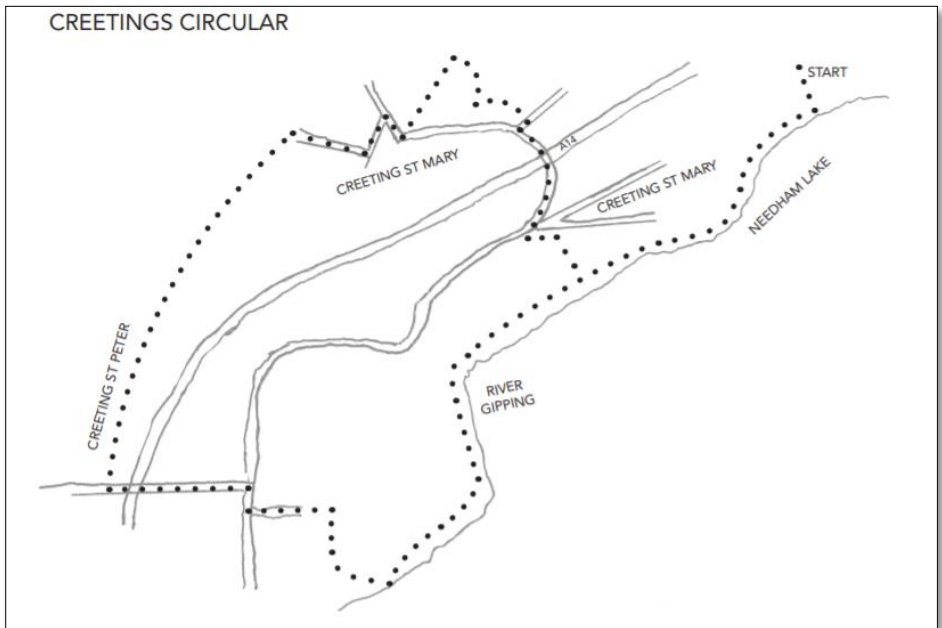
If you wish to visit the Highwayman Public House (01449 760369) leave the track and continue straight ahead along grass footpath to main road. Turn right along footpath to the **Highwayman**.

To return to the walk leave the Highwayman and turn right. Walk to the end of the buildings and turn right along footpath, hedges on your right. At the end of the hedges meet a wide dirt track, turn left along the track and continue with the walk. At the time of writing this path was overgrown and impassable (Suffolk County Council informed), if this is the case retrace steps to return to the walk.

Turn left along wide track bearing right. Continue along track which then goes round to the left, dropping down with hedges on your left. On reaching sign post turn right into Sally Woods Lane, hedges on your left. Climbing steadily with good views at the top. Continue hedges now on both sides. On meeting minor road turn left then right. Continue down road passing two houses on your left. At T junction cross the road.

Turn left and continue over A14 road bridge. Continue down to T junction and cross road. Turn left, houses on your right. Continue along grass verge to next junction. Turn right and after 15 metres cross road. Go down footpath at the side of two metal gates on your right, hedges on your left. Path bears right, hedges on your left. On meeting minor road, turn left along footpath, passing across entrance to Alder Carr (café and shop). Bear left and continue along path with the River Gipping on your right and hedges on your left. Cross the first footbridge. Turn left and continue along minor road houses both sides. Pass through the camping land bearing right, passing the cattle tunnel and railway station on your right. Bear left along grassy track and left along path circling Needham Lake going through the nature reserve. Left again over the footbridge back to the Information Centre.

Walk 9: Creetings Circular – 7.5 miles



Leaving the Information Centre head towards the footbridge and turn right onto the path (do not cross the footbridge) with River Gipping on your left. Path keeps close to the river (ignore any paths going off to the right). Ignore bridge and path joining from the left, continue straight ahead keeping the River Gipping on your left.

Fork left to take dirt path passing under road bridge. Continue along path, River Gipping on your left, over footbridge and passing Hawks Mill Lock. Continue straight ahead over second footbridge.

On reaching footpath post turn right across field. Pass through trees, over footbridge and along path with houses on both sides. Path leads on to minor road. Turn left and at T junction cross road and turn right onto footpath. Continue along footpath and bear left into All Saints Road, climbing steadily across road bridge over A14.

Turn Right down minor road, signed to Creeting Hills with two houses on your left. Turn left on footpath passing through a gate. Continue across field straight down and over footbridge, then winding round. On reaching track and footpath sign turn left. Continue with hedges on your left, then passing houses both sides. On reaching the road cross carefully and turn right. Take the first turning on your left. At T junction at the bottom turn right, continue along minor road until footpath sign on left.

Turn left down enclosed path, over footbridge (River Jordon) and along boardwalk. Continue along path to minor road. Turn right, and after ~ 60m turn left at footpath sign with hedges on your right. At the top follow footpath through the hedges, turn left over ditch and continue with hedges and ditch on your left. Path then continues on same line of travel across the field towards the village of Creeting St Peter.

Keep hedge on right, then pass through gap. Continue up track with hedge now on the left to the road (The Lane). Houses on both sides to T Junction. Turn left and continue along road across A14 road bridge. Continue along road passing Hill House on your right. At T Junction turn right, then continue along road taking the first turning on the left, leading to Creeting Hall Farm.

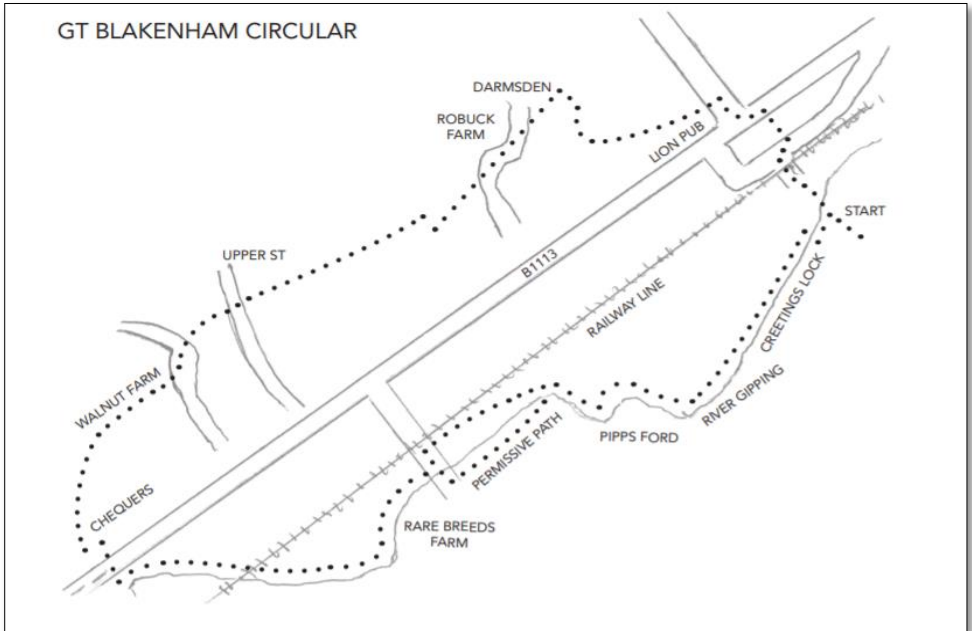
Continue along hard surfaced road till you meet footpath post. Turn right, along path towards trees, keeping trees on your right. At the bottom bear right, hedges on your left, immediately turn left over footbridge and stile through the hedges. Follow the path bearing left over the field towards a gate. Continue across the field to another gate.

On reaching the River Gipping turn left. Keeping the River Gipping on your right, continuing for about 2 miles over stiles and footbridges passing Hawks Mill Lock then under road bridge. Eventually you will return to the picnic area and Visitor Centre.



Sculpture at Needham lake

Walk 10: Great Blakenham Circular - 8 miles



From the information Centre, cross over the footbridge towards the lake and turn left. Keep the lake on your right. At the end of the car park turn left to join the road and continue under the railway bridge. Continue on the footpath turning right and after 30 meters carefully cross road B1078. Go through passageway ahead fenced on both sides, and continue along Pinetree Way bearing to the right. Cross the road, go down Limetree Close and at the end bear right along path passing between two bungalows. Carefully cross main road B1113. The Lion pub on your left.

Head up Grinstead Hill and after 30 meters cross the road, turning left at the footpath sign up Mill Lane. Continue along footpath climbing steadily with trees and bushes both sides. After a time the path levels out. Continue along path, which becomes a wide track and continue straight ahead with fields on

both sides. Track now splits, take the track on the right, bearing round to the right, hedges on the right, then bearing left. Continue along track. Turn left to join wide track dropping down passing under pylons. Pass St Andrews Church, Darmsden, on your right.



St Andrew's Church, Darmsden

At T junction turn left onto minor road. As the road bears left after ~ 50m, turn right on to the wide track to Roebuck Farm following footpath sign. Continue along track passing telephone mast and three bungalows on your left and farm buildings on your right. After passing farm buildings turn right along path keeping trees on your left. Path drops down to the left through trees. Continue to field edge then continue straight ahead to woods opposite. Climb steadily through the trees gradually bearing to the left until you reach the top. Continue straight ahead on path crossing the field. Continue straight ahead along path with hedge on your left to the end of the field.

Down 4 steps passing through gateway on your the left. Bear right, follow path across field to second gateway, leading on to minor road. Continue along road, Church Lane, with houses both sides passing Baylham Church on your right. At T junction turn left. After ~10m turn right down enclosed footpath. Continue through field with hedges now on your left and after a short

distance start to climb through trees to minor road. Turn left with Walnut Tree Farm and pond on your right. Turn right after the pond, passing through gate. Continue along path, trees on your right passing through second gate. Follow path across the field to join wide track between the hedges/trees. Turn right continuing along wide track, trees on your right. At track junction turn left and continue until track turns to minor road, Chalk Hill Lane. Continue down to main road B1113, Great Blakenham. **The Chequers** pub (01473 830455) is on your left.

Cross the road with care in front of The Chequers, opposite the church. Go down the footpath with the church and houses on your left. Turn left at footpath sign down passageway between Mill Cottage and Herb Cottage reaching the River Gipping. Continue with the River on your right for the next four miles. Passing through three gates and under railway bridge crossing minor road. Ignore gate on your left, passing Sharmford Lock, through kissing gate after passing bridge. Ignore bridge on your right. Through kissing gate, over stile and footbridge. Through kissing gate, over footbridge continue along path through gate, Rare Breeds Farm on your right.

* see alternative route below. Turn left continue along minor road to railway crossing. Before crossing turn right along narrow path, railway line on your left. Continue along path for 500m, leaving railway line bearing right to River Gipping.

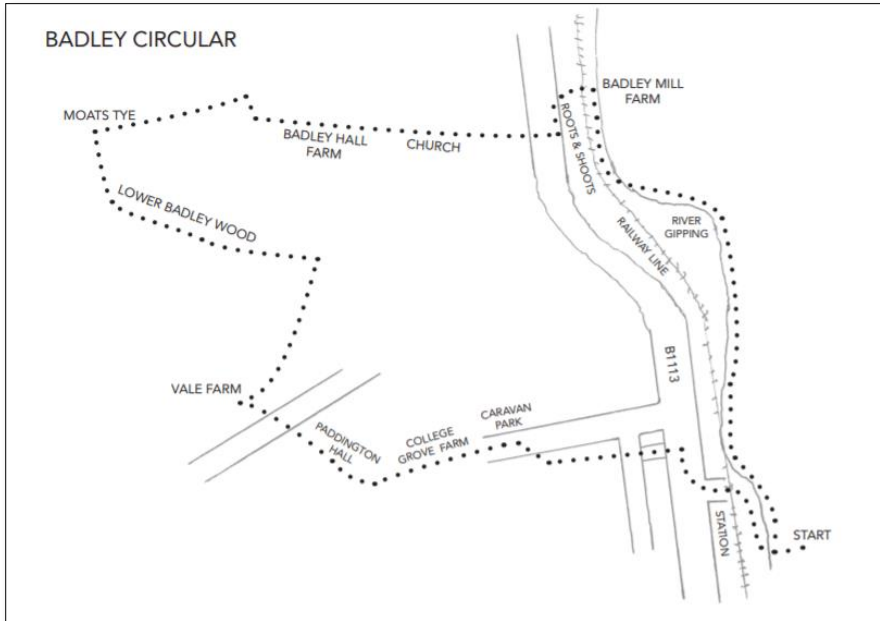
*Recommended alternative route, subject to permissive permission is to continue down Mill Lane to the Rare Breeds Farm and Cafe.

Cross the bridge over the River Gipping. Take permissive path to the left. New path gives a better view of the Mill at Baylham. Continue along the path, River Gipping on your left. When you meet the new footbridge cross the bridge and turn right, River Gipping now on your right.

Turn left along path passing Pipp's Ford Lock. Crossing two footbridges, through gate, continue along path passing Creetings Lock to pass through another gate. Continue along path at side of the river eventually passing through another gate, passing Anderson Fishing Lake on your left and the River Gipping on your right. Through two more gates leading on to main road

B1078. Cross road very carefully and turn right on the footpath over the bridge. At the end of the bridge turn left through the gap with River Gipping and Bosmere Lock on your left. Continue along path through play area to return to the Information Centre.

Walk 11: Badley Circular - 9 miles



**St Mary's Church,
Badley**

Leaving the Information Centre head towards the footbridge and turn right onto the path (do not cross the footbridge) with River Gipping on your left. Path keeps close to the river (ignore any paths going off to the right). Ignore bridge and path joining from the left, continue straight ahead keeping the River Gipping on your left. Fork left to take dirt path passing under road bridge. Continue along path, River Gipping on your left, over footbridge and passing Hawks Mill Lock. Continue straight ahead over second footbridge.

Continue along the path, River Gipping always on your left, ignoring path going off to the right and footbridge on the left. Continue along the path crossing several footbridges and stiles. On reaching a bridge over the River Gipping turn left through a gate and cross the bridge over the river. Turn Left immediately through gate. Follow path bearing right round edge of the field, stream on your left. Turn left over grass bridge. Turn right through small gate, continue along path. Turn Left along track under railway bridge, continue up along track to main road B1113. Turn left, garden centre Roots & Shoots on your left. Continue along footpath beside main road.

After ~250m cross main road to bus stop sign/post box. Walk up wide track, Badley Walk, with bungalows on both sides. Track winds round to the right and continues through Royal's woods. Continue on path through field towards Badley Hall, passing under pylons. Continue through gap in hedge with Badley Church on your left. Continue with Badley Hall Farm on your left. Follow footpath, crossing the field, hedges now on your left. Path now goes through the hedge, turn right along the wide track with hedge on your right. After gateway, at footpath sign, turn left with hedges on your left, eventually passing a house on your left. Continue on through gateway, ignoring path off to the left. Pass through gateway to reach enclosed footpath leading to houses. Turn Immediately left at footpath sign, along wide track with hedges now on your right.

Continue down track, reservoir on your left to T junction. Turn left, hedge on your right. After a short time turn right through the hedge over a footbridge. Turn left, over another footbridge. Continue along path around field edge, hedges and trees on your left for about a mile. Turn left through opening,

then turn right along grass track through woods, hedges and trees now on your right. After a time hedges and trees both sides. When the track becomes firmer continue dropping down. Turn left along track. When meeting minor road turn left. After 25m turn right along grass track, climbing steadily, hedges on the right. Continue along path crossing field, then with hedges on your right and then bearing left. Taking footpath on the right, through the hedge, over stile, across field, over next stile. Continue crossing the field and over the next stile. Paddington Hall on your left.

Continue along enclosed narrow path bearing right, then through the hedge. Turn left along grass track, then immediately right. Continue along grass track, Bungeon's Farm on your right, hedges on your right. Continue along the path, straight ahead, hedges on your left, go through gap in the hedge. At the bottom of the field turn left, hedges on your left, continue round the field, passing College Grove Farm on your left. Join cinder track towards the caravan site. On reaching caravan site, follow footpath sign directing you ahead through the passage fenced both sides into caravan site. Continue through caravan site to the minor road, continue down minor road to the bottom of the hill. As the minor road starts climbing, turn right at the footpath sign. Continue crossing field to far right corner to hedges. Turn left and continue along enclosed path to meet road. Cross road and continue down The Causeway. Continue to main road, B1113. Turn right and cross at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right and continue to Station Yard. Turn left in Station Yard, keeping to the left to return to the Cattle Tunnel. Pass through the tunnel and turn right. Bear left along the grass track and left again along the path circling Needham Lake and Nature Reserve. Continue along the path till you see the footbridge. Turn left over the footbridge back to the Information Centre.

Accommodation

Beacon Hill Travel Lodge - A14 - A140 junction, half a mile from Needham Lake Visitor Centre and Café

Local Shops, Cafes & Pubs

The High Street area of Needham Market has cafés, pubs, take-aways and shops for eat-in or takeaway food and drinks. The Visitor Centre also has a café.

Great Blakenham - The Chequers Public House

Baylham Rare Breeds Farm Café

Alder Carr Cafe & Farm Shop

Root and Shoots Garden Centre & Café

The Countryside Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Guard against risk and fire

Fasten all gates

Keep your dogs under control

Keep to public footpaths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Take your litter home and make no unnecessary noise

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Take special care when crossing roads

Remember that all footpaths are public rights of way at all times

‘Take only photos and leave only footprints’

If you encounter any issues with a public footpath, such as blocked access or a broken stile, please use the simple online reporting link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/report-a-public-right-of-way-issue/#tab2>

If you like walking longer distances at a brisk pace visit the Norfolk & Suffolk Long Distance Walking Association at www.ldwa.org.uk/norfolkandsuffolk



Artists impression of Needham Lake Visitor Centre

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