

Welcome

Wickham Market was recorded in the Little Domesday Book in 1086 when it was called Wikham. It has been a village of some importance with a town hall in which quarter sessions were held; a weekly market and two fairs were granted by Henry VI in 1440.

This medieval village has been a focal point since the Roman times having grown up around the market square, known as The Hill. A market is now held monthly here.

The East Suffolk Agricultural Show, forerunner of the Suffolk Show, was held in the village between 1832 and 1849.

Today, there are a number of shops and businesses including a post office, pharmacy, supermarket, hardware shop and a butcher/delicatessen. There are several cafés, restaurants and pubs in the village and nearby.

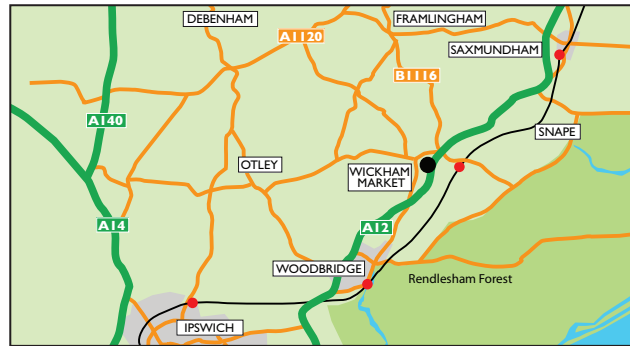
All the walks in this leaflet start at The Hill, where there is plenty of parking and public toilets.

Terrain

Public footpaths, bridleways, natural tracks, cross field and country roads; along which care must be taken. During periods of wet weather, the routes alongside the River Deben can be impassable.



Location



Wickham Market is situated on the B1438 just off the A12, about 13 miles north east of Ipswich, 5 miles north east of Woodbridge and 6 miles south of Framlingham.

Public Transport

Regular buses run to The Hill in Wickham Market and there is a train station at Campsea Ashe, just over half a mile from The Oaks, where you can pick up the green route. Visit www.suffolkonboard.com or www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk (0871 200 22 33) for timetable information to plan your journey.

Use the O.S. Explorer Map 212 Woodbridge and Saxmundham, to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

Discover Suffolk

Discover more walking leaflets and great days out across Suffolk by visiting Discover Suffolk at www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

Produced by Suffolk County Council and Wickham Market Parish Council.
www.wickhammarket.onesuffolk.net
and www.wickham-market.org.uk



Circular Walks

Wickham Market

A Gem of a Village



The River and Abbey Route



DISTANCE: 6 miles (9½ km)

DURATION: 3 hours

WAYMARKER: Green Circular Walk

All Saints Church is a 14th century flint church with an octagonal tower; which is the only tower of this type in Suffolk.

Pass to the right of the church through the churchyard to a tree-lined path. At the terrace houses turn left and follow the path to the lane ①, turn right. At the junction ② turn left under the A12 then ③ left again along a track until you reach the river, turn right.

The River Deben stretches 25 miles from its source near Debenham to the sea at Felixstowe Ferry. In summer look out for the Yellow Water Lily and Blue Banded Demoiselle.

Follow the river, turn left over the main footbridge ④ and go straight up through The Oaks.

The Oaks, a small ancient wood, has a variety of soil conditions resulting in a diversity of flora. Rush and iris can be found along with native trees such as oak, ash, wild cherry, spindle and hazel.

Turn right at the road and continue until the kissing gate on your right ⑤, follow the footpath through the trees, across a paddock to the lane ⑥. Turn right past Ashe Abbey.

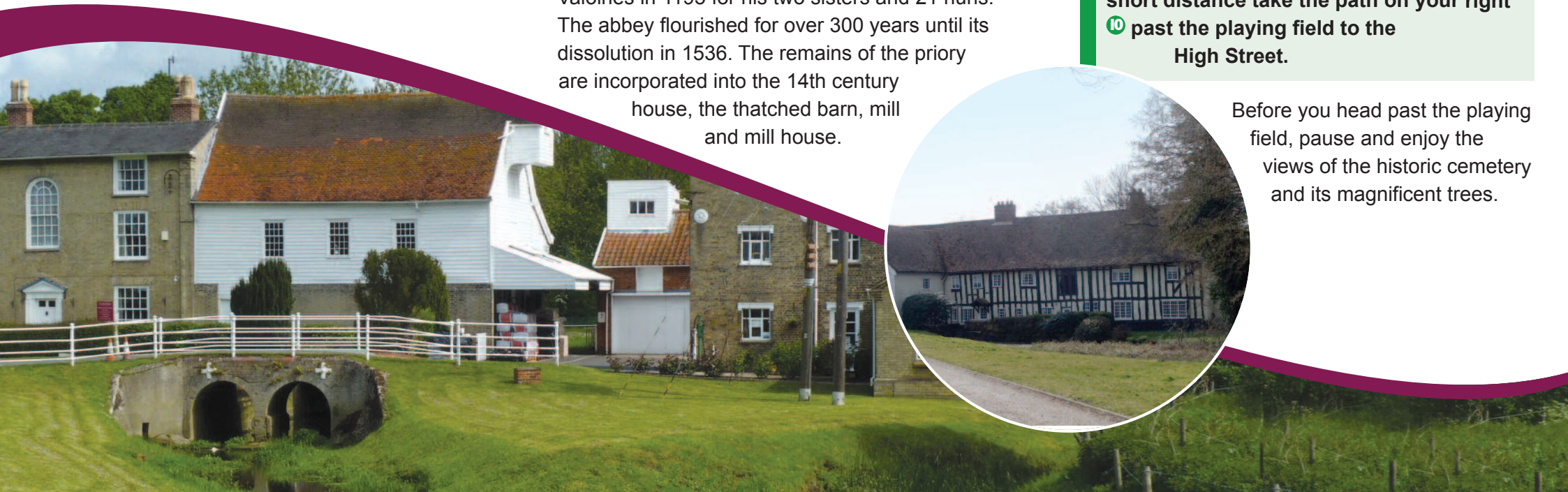
Ashe Abbey was founded by Theobold de Valoines in 1195 for his two sisters and 21 nuns. The abbey flourished for over 300 years until its dissolution in 1536. The remains of the priory are incorporated into the 14th century house, the thatched barn, mill and mill house.

After the decoy pond, take the footpath on your right and continue across meadowland, turn left at the kissing gate, re-cross the bridge ④ and continue straight ahead through the fields and then follow the drive back under the A12. At ② follow the grass track on your left, cross Chapel Lane and continue along the footpath to the road ⑦. Turn right through a field to the B1438 and take the path opposite through paddocks to Pettistree Church ⑧.

The dovecote of flint and rendered brick, on Thong Hall Road, is said to date from 1775.

Turn left then right at The Greyhound pub through the village then right onto Thong Hall Road. Continue along the road and take the footpath on your right ⑨. Follow the path to the road, turn left, then after a short distance take the path on your right ⑩ past the playing field to the High Street.

Before you head past the playing field, pause and enjoy the views of the historic cemetery and its magnificent trees.



Wickham Market Circular Walks

Three circular walks around Wickham Market



Blue Barbed Demoiselle by Ben Heather

The Gallows Route

DISTANCE: 5½ miles (9 km)

DURATION: 2¼ hours

WAYMARKER: Blue Circular Walk



Leave The Hill with the church on your left, past the post office and take the path on your right after the Co-op ①. At Walnut Lane, turn left and continue to Pettistree village.

Parts of Pettistree are mentioned in the Domesday Book. The name Pettistree comes from Peter's Tree; the 13th century church of St Peter and St Paul was built near an old sacred tree.

Turn right at the Greyhound Pub and after a short walk take the path ②, over the bridge to your left, through a small paddock. Continue behind the houses to the road, keeping the pond on your right, turn right into Byng Lane; follow this until you reach Byng Brook ③.

The nearby Byng Hall is thought to have been a Roman settlement.

Just before the bridge turn right and follow the footpath through the meadows to the road ④; take the opposite footpath, along a track, to Thong Hall Road ⑤, turn left. At the crossroads turn left and take the cross field footpath just before Mountain's Cottage ⑥. When you reach the farm track, turn right and continue through Potsford Wood onto the B1078 ⑦.

Near the edge of Potsford Wood are the remains of Potsford Wood gallows, the site of various hangings in the 17th century. The last recorded hanging was of Jonas Snell in 1699. He was executed for the murder of John Bullard and his son at Letheringham Mill nearby.

Turn right along the B1078 then almost immediately right into a field entrance. Follow the permissive path left along a hedgerow until you reach a mound. Keeping the mound on your left, continue around it then head uphill to bear left through a gap to the road ⑧. Cross the road with care, turn right and follow the grass path to Simon's Cross; re-cross the road and follow the bridleway, Little Lane, opposite ⑨ back to The Hill.

At ⑩ you have the option to turn left along the field edge to Valley Farm Riding School where you can see the array of animals or enjoy further permissive paths which are open to the public; these are accessed via the office area. Whilst there, visit the Café, with windows looking into the indoor riding arena and views over the water meadows.

The Mill Route

DISTANCE: 3½ miles (5¾ km)

DURATION: 1¾ hours

WAYMARKER: Red Circular Walk



Historic houses (39 of which are listed), railings, the village pump and trees line the High Street between The Hill and Deben Mills (now Rackham's Mill).

Leave The Hill with the former White Hart Hotel on your right, walk down the High Street and cross Wickham Bridge over the River Deben at Rackham's Mill ①; take the first road to the right and right again onto a green lane.

Deben Mills was founded in 1885, by Reuben Rackham as flour millers, operating both water and steam driven mills. The mill buildings saw the change over from traditional mill stones to iron roller mills in 1893.

Follow the lane under the A12, passing through a gate to cross a small meadow. Continue over a stile and diagonally left through the meadow until you reach a farm track. ②

As you pass the lake admire the rare native black poplar trees.

Follow the track; turn right ③, then bear right (by the fishing lake) onto a narrow path leading downhill to Quill Farm ④. Cross the driveway to a footpath almost opposite; continue alongside woodland, down steps and through a hazel grove to join the River and Abbey Route ④. Turn right, cross the stream and river through meadows and past Fowls Watering 'hamlet' ⑤ to ②. Continue straight ahead up Mill Lane back to The Hill.

