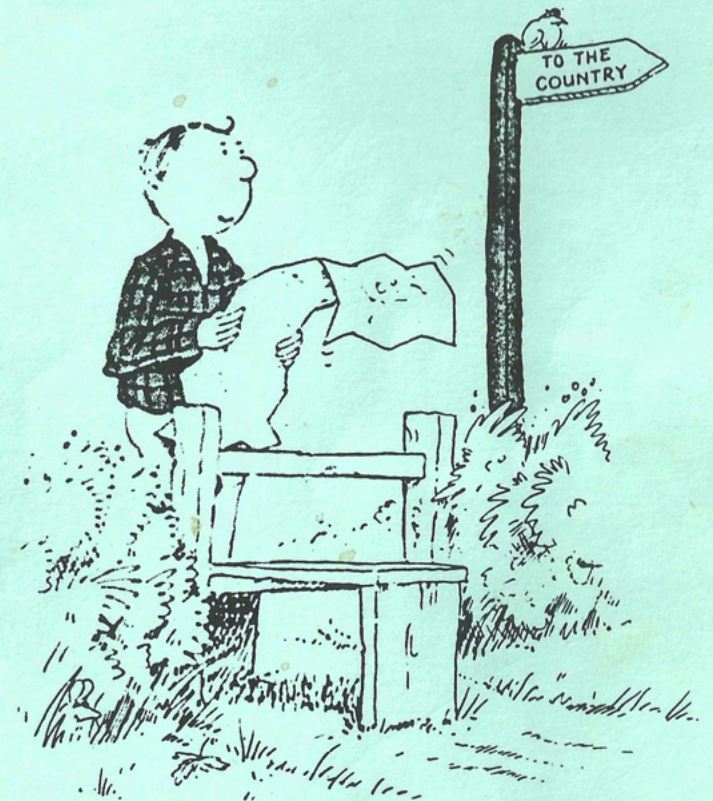


Giant Strides



WALKING IN THE
BRAMERTON GROUP OF PARISHES

RICHARD CROSSKILL

£1.25

C O N T E N T S

ALPINGTON -----	18
ASHBY ST MARY -----	4, 10
BERGH APTON -----	1
BRAMERTON -----	2, 3
CARLETON ST PETER -----	5, 10, 11
CLAXTON -----	4, 5, 12, 14, 16
FRAMINGHAM PIGOT -----	6
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KIRBY BEDON -----	19
ROCKLAND ST MARY -----	7, 9, 14, 17
SURLINGHAM -----	8, 9, 13
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YELVERTON -----	18



Country Ways

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the 'Country Ways' Group who contributed to this booklet are:

Peter Armitage (Rockland St Mary)
 Jen Green (Alpington with Yelverton)
 Jill Green (Claxton)
 Ken and Liz Masters (Bergh Apton)
 David Thurman (Framingham Pigot)
 Graham and Jane Watt (Rockland St Mary)

In addition, we thank Phyllis Ellis for permission to reproduce the Surlingham Walk notes written in 1980 by her late husband Ted, so lovingly.

THE RIGHTS OF WAY ACT (1990) clarifies the rights and responsibilities of both landowners and local authorities. It strikes a good balance between the need to farm and the right of path users to enjoy the countryside. Important points to note are:

Minimum Footpath Widths: 1 metre for a cross-field path and 1.5 metres for a field edge path.

Ploughing and Cultivating: A path may be ploughed but it must be restored to convenient usage within 14 days of the first disturbance, and within 24 hours of any subsequent disturbance.

Crops: Crops, other than grass, must not be allowed to grow on or overhang the minimum width of the path. It is now a criminal offence to obstruct a public footpath, or make it difficult to use.

However, it is not the duty of the landowner to keep the path free of undergrowth, or waymark the route. The latter tasks are the responsibility of the Local Authority. It is hard to imagine the Local Authority keeping all our footpaths clear, so we suggest you walk them regularly and carry a pair of secateurs!

More information on the Act is contained in free pamphlets, available from Countryside Commission Publications, 19-23 Albert Road, Manchester M19 2EQ.

The 'Country Ways' Group is most grateful for the substantial grant of £250 towards the production of this 'Walks' booklet, from -

Norfolk Rural Community Council

G I A N T S T R I D E S

When the predecessor to this booklet was published in 1980 - a thousand copies of "Eleven Walks" were sold in all - there was not quite the degree of acceptance and generous co-operation over rights of way that there is now.

Giant strides taken by landowners, parish councils and walkers alike have caused a great advance in footpath signing, clearance, organised rambles, footpath information and general activity within the Bramerton Group of (Church) parishes.

Of course, there are one or two landowners holding out on improvements or on new paths, wherever they become the subject of public inquiry or public determination. To us, their motives are quite unfathomable. But generally, the enjoyment of young and old, singles and families, town-dwellers out for a breath of fresh air, and country people wanting to walk off a good lunch, is very clear to see.

Paths that connect the Church with the village inn, or groups of old cottages with the wide fields beyond, tell us something of the work and leisure patterns of a couple of hundred years ago and further back still.

The right to walk on private property across the countryside is a wonderful gift to be used carefully and with thankfulness. 'Giant Strides', which includes longer inter-village walks than the previous booklet, symbolizes the spread of the 'footpath movement', if movement it be, as the year 2000 appears on the horizon; just a few stiles away, in fact.

Richard Crosskill

WALK 1 BERGH APTON (Circular) 3¼ Miles

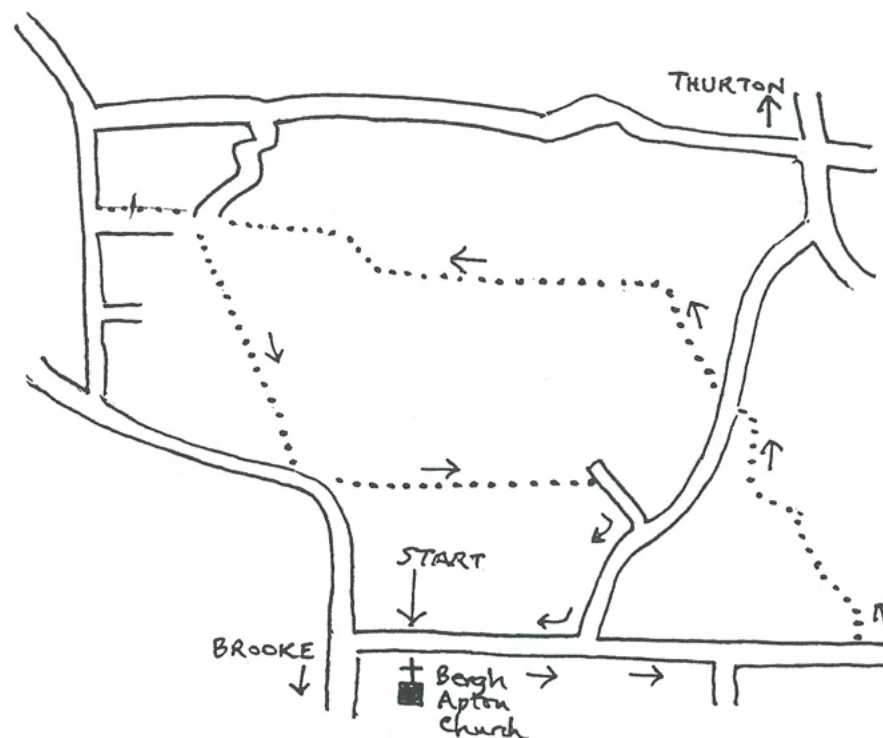
Start outside Bergh Apton Church and head towards Thurton (ie so that the Church is on your right). Keep straight along the road ignoring firstly a left turn to Thurton and secondly a right turn to Seething. Opposite a barn on the right take a track on the left (there is a small concrete marker post next to it inscribed AV). After 150 yards curve round to the left. The track peters out but stick to the field edge. At the corner swing round to the right and continue to keep the hedge on your left. At the next corner go straight through a gap in the hedgerow into a green loke. Cross over the narrow tarmac road and into the drive immediately opposite.

Go past the small copse which will be on your left as the track bends round, and when the green track comes to a 'T' (no features mark this spot except there is either a crop or a ploughed field if you go straight ahead), turn left. At this point the tower of Bergh Apton Church will be over to the left.

Shortly after a row of tall, bladed holly trees, your route becomes slightly 'sunken'. At the end of the track, (and do not be tempted to veer prematurely to the left towards a sign saying 'No Footpath, No Horses) just before the cottage, swing round onto a new track. At this point Bergh Apton Church tower is straight in front of you.

Where the track 'disappears', go ahead in a straight line, keeping to the right-hand edge of the field. A short distance away, climb over the stile next to the footpath sign and resume the same direction keeping the hedge on your left. Down to the bottom corner (in earshot of the road), over another simple stile, through the gate and out on to the tarmac road, where you turn left along it. After 40 yards on your left take a grass track off the road again. Note the small pond on your right. Keep to the edge of the field. Go straight over a small stile(?)

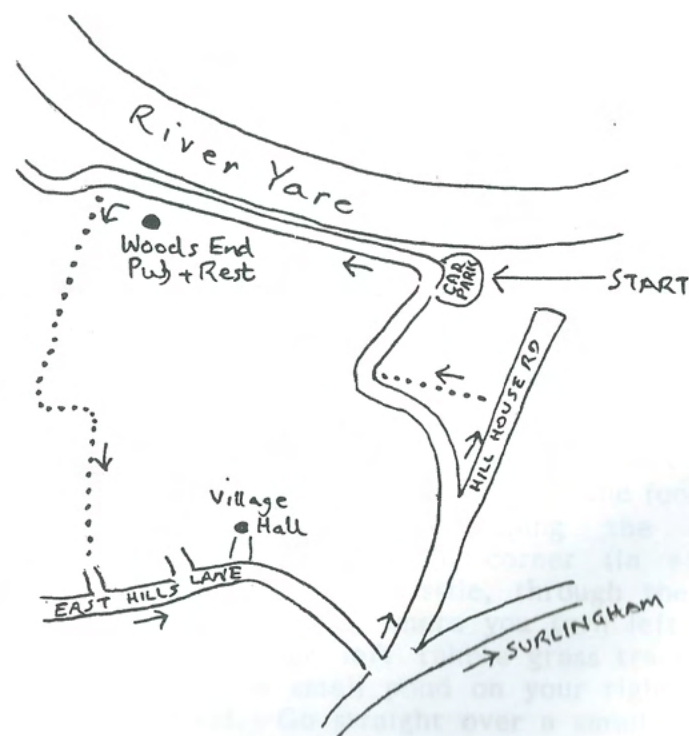
at the end and hug the hedgerow of the next field keeping to the grass headland, then over a small stile (?) into a gravel track and turn right through an iron gate, which please be sure to shut, by driving home the bolt, and wheel right on to the tarmac road. Turn right at the signpost and back to the Church again.



WALK 2 BRAMERTON (Circular) 1½ Miles

Start at gravel car park adjoining Bramerton Common next to the river. Walk past Bramerton Woods End pub and follow the oak finger post sign 'public bridleway' left shortly thereafter.

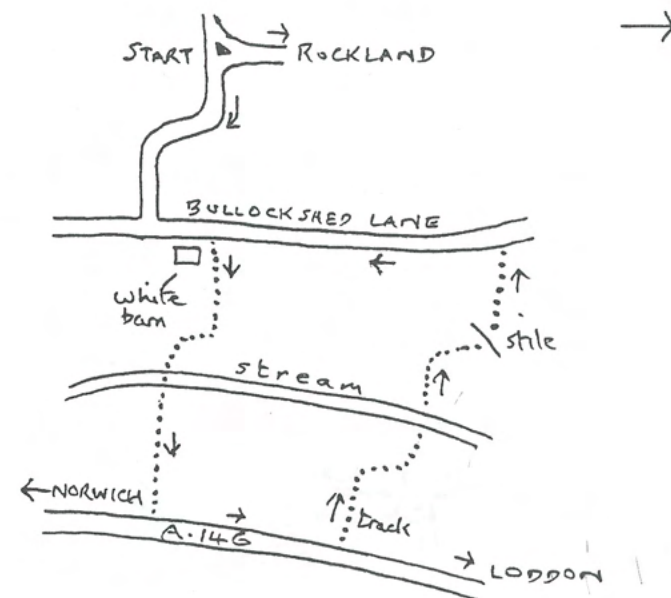
Follow the track to a tarmac road and turn left (part of the walk so far has been just within the Kirby Bedon boundary). Turn left again and follow the sign to 'Woods End'. Take the next fork right (Hill House Road) and at the end of the allotment gardens turn left down a narrow path between hedges (not the broad track next to it) and right at the end. So back to your starting point.



WALK 3 BRAMERTON (Circular) 1½ Miles

Start outside Bramerton Grange (at the Rockland end of the village street) and pass under the spreading cedar tree, going towards Framingham Pigot. After some ten properties on the left, take a turn left towards Rockland. This is a very narrow gauge lane called Bullockshed Lane. (On old maps it is shown as St Edmunds Way; rather more elegant perhaps. It is thought to have led in a very straight line from Rockland Staithe, encompassing the edge of Bramerton, going straight through Framingham Pigot, across into Upper Stoke Holy Cross and direct to the Roman Settlement at Venta Icenorum (Caistor St Edmund)).

A few yards down Bullockshed Lane, turn right by the front of a brick and asbestos barn and down a track which proceeds gently downhill after a bit. Before it swings round to the right climb over the stile and set off for the far hedge, keeping the ditch ahead of you at your left-hand side. A footpath sign points to a footbridge over the beck (stream) and this denotes the Bramerton boundary with the minor hamlet of Holverston.



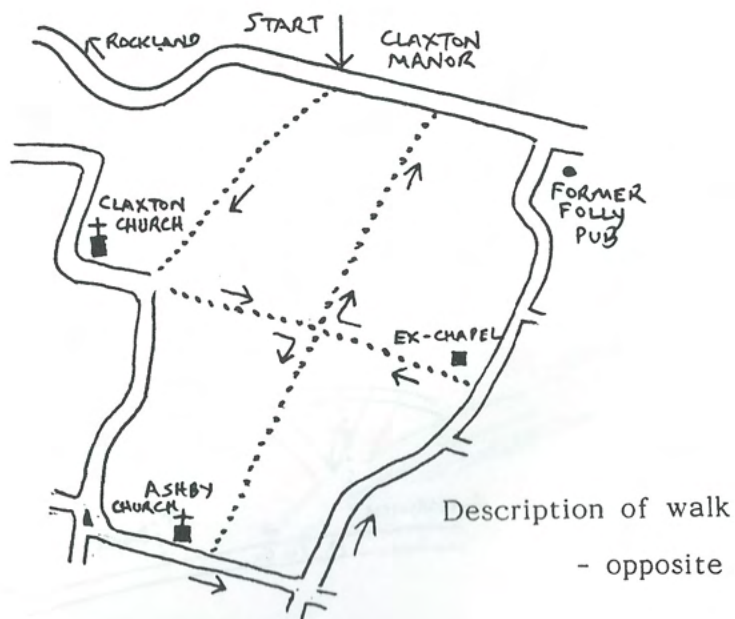
Go straight across the middle of the field on a newly-created walkers' 'strip' and out on to the verge of the main A146 road at the top end. Turn left towards Loddon and very shortly left again on to a broad gravel track which goes downhill. At the bottom go through a field gate and keeping to the edge of the meadow with the hedge on your right, cross the planks over the stream, then through the field gate on your right and turn left immediately along the hedgerow, so it is now on your left. Ahead of you is another plank footbridge.

Continue your walk into the next field and follow it around the left-hand side, passing one iron hurdle-gate, and round to the next one, beside which is a stile. Climb over the stile into a green loke and turn left onto the road at the top. Turn right at the signpost and back to the Grange and your starting point.

4

WALK 4

CLAXTON - ASHBY ST MARY - CLAXTON
(A Figure of Eight) 2½ Miles



Exactly opposite Claxton Manor, take a wide gravelled drive ('The Home Piece') and continue along it for about ½ a mile. You will see Claxton Church tower over to your right and its newly re-thatched roof. Ashby St Mary and Claxton Church towers are exactly 5/8ths mile apart as the crow flies.

Before reaching the tarmac road, follow the broad track round to the left in front of some low farm buildings. From your uphill position, there are some superb views of the surrounding countryside. About ¼ mile after you wheeled left at the farm buildings, a broad track joins you from the left. At this point, turn right exactly opposite it and keeping the hedge on your right-hand side, walk along the grass headland, which in the following field has disappeared altogether (or, rather, it had when we tested the route).

Keep Ashby St Mary Church tower straight in front of you. Two fields away from the Church, the path (in theory) goes straight across the field. There is sometimes a route shown by the tramping of many feet, but we suggest you go round the right-hand edge of the field and following it round, you pass the side of the Church (its external state and the tidiness of the churchyard signify another caring community). You next pass the back of the Old School House and immediately after, and before the neighbouring house, is a track which brings you out on to the tarmac road.

Turn left at this point and at the signpost, further left to Claxton. Note the VR (Victoria Regina) post box in the wall next to Ashby Villa (can't be many of those left). The Church tower through the trees on your right is that of Carleton St Peter, exactly 5/8ths mile again as our busy crow flies, from Ashby tower.

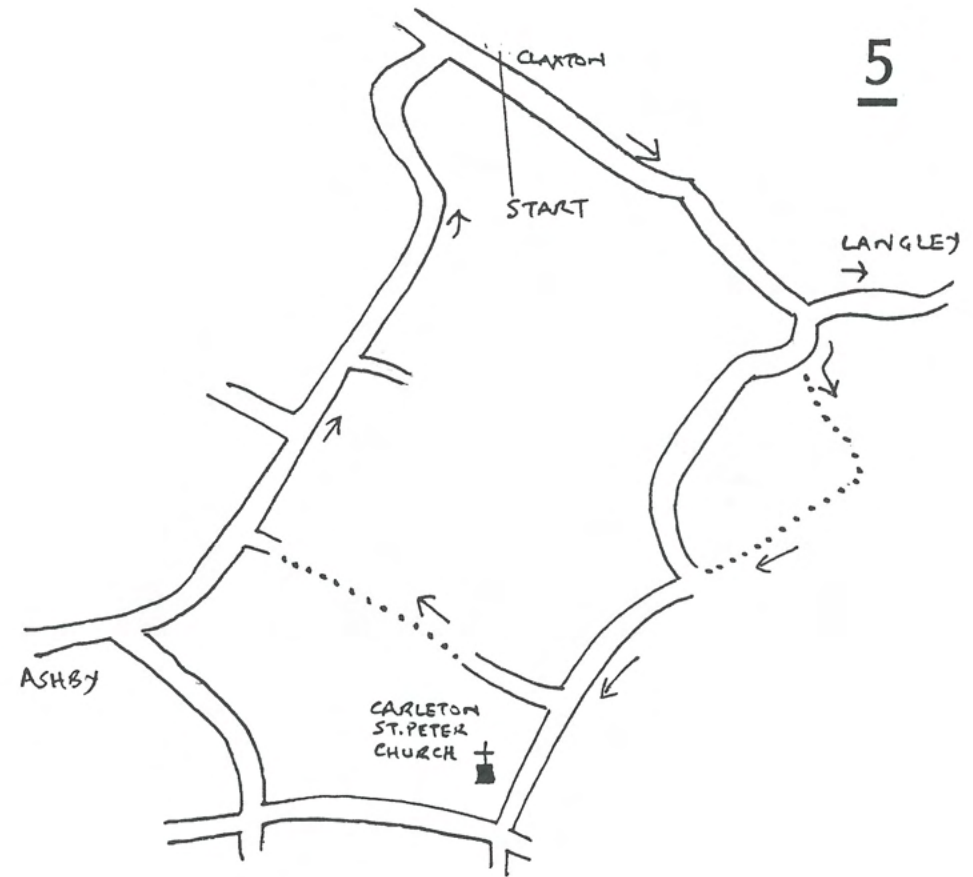
Take a track to the left in front of a converted chapel, badly struck by fire in early 1993. In another ¼ mile you reach the cross over point of the figure of eight. Turn right this time and keep going for about ½ mile until you regain the Claxton-Langley road. Go left here and in some 250 yards you come back to the starting point.

WALK 5 CLAXTON - CARLETON ST PETER -
CLAXTON (Circular) 2½ Miles

Start at the private house still recorded on maps as 'The Folly' public house and continue towards Langley. Turn right at the Carleton St Peter sign and immediately beyond the first property on the left, over the stile and along a grass path at the field edge. This is fenced off from the field but rather overgrown, particularly at the end where you go through the gate opposite some cottages, and turn right into a broad track. Continue past the farm and left into the tarmac road at the end.

Turn right shortly down a gravel path just before Carleton Church and at the end a lovely period house confronts you. The most helpful owners often have to direct walkers at this point; your direction is now right, actually just in front of the garden boundary hedge, and follow the wired-off path round till you come to a gurgling stream (which ultimately flows into the Yare at the Beauchamp Arms). Then over the footbridge into the wood.

Through the wood along the beaten path into the open field at the end. The path then goes diagonally across a fenced field and the helpful owners have provided stiles. However, as this field contains horses, you may prefer to follow the excellent path which is provided around the edge of the field. You then strike a track, which in turn joins a tarmac road. At this point turn right and keep straight on for 'The Folly', Claxton from where you started.



WALK 6 FRAMINGHAM PIGOT - FRAMINGHAM
EARL - FRAMINGHAM PIGOT (Circular) 3½ Miles

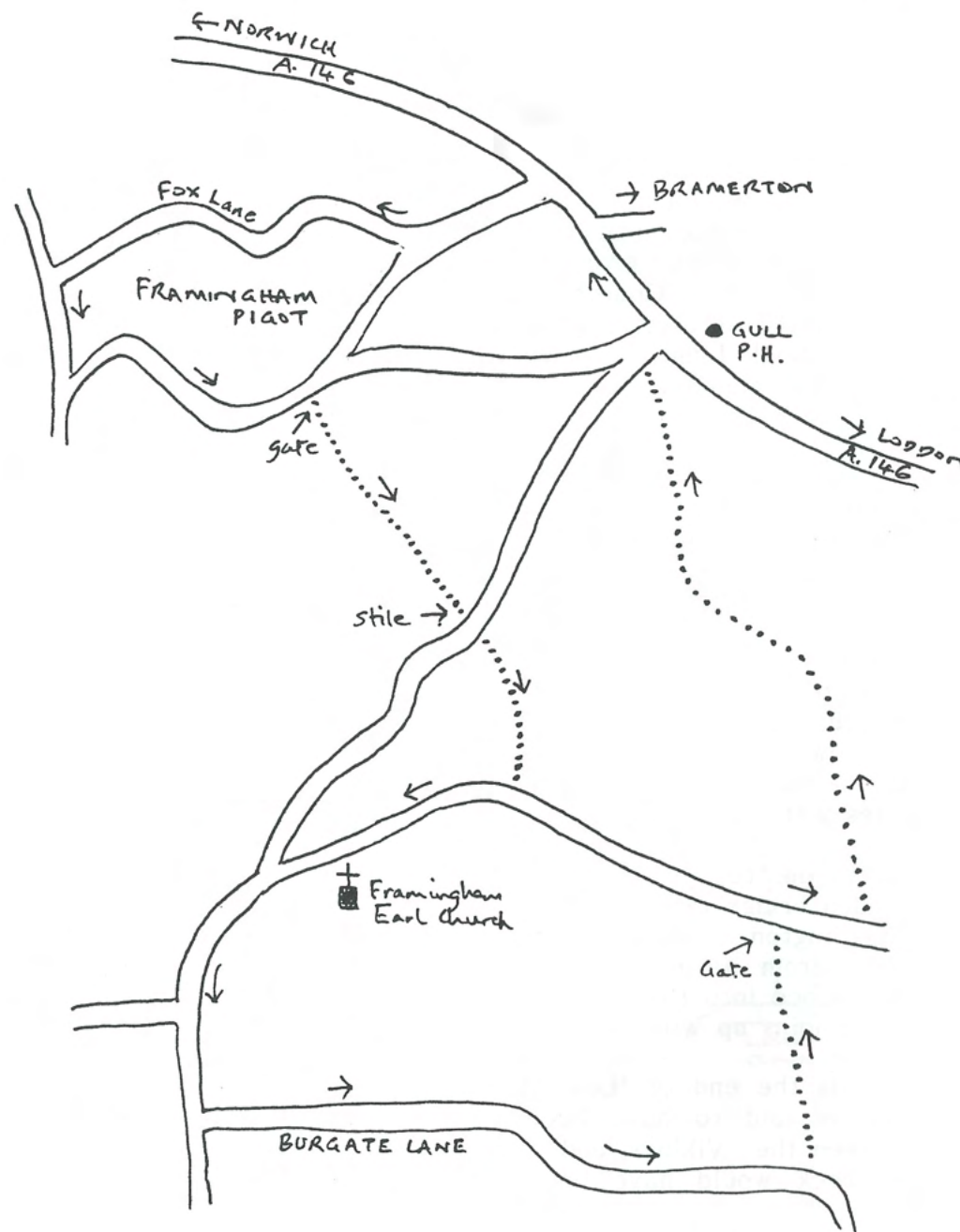
Start at the Framingham Gull Inn (built 18th Century) on the A146 Norwich to Beccles road and walk on the grass verge on the side going towards Norwich.

In ¼ mile take the left turn by Highway Nurseries, (Woolner's Lane, Framingham Pigot) and at the Old Rectory cross into Fox Lane. The walk continues around the magnificent park and woods of the Manor House, built in 1862. Turn left at the next two road junctions and follow the road through Framingham Pigot village to the parish church built by Kerr in 1859 to replace an earlier church.

Take the track to the right of the church, go through the gate, turn left and follow the path down the hill. Cross the stile at the bottom, cut across the corner of the field and enter the path at the edge of the woods by another stile.

Cross Gull Lane and take the path along the edge of the field opposite. Turn right along the road past St Andrew's Church, Framingham Earl, which has a Saxon chancel and a fine Norman round tower and nave. Turn left at the next three road junctions and follow Burgate Lane until the second sharp turn right. Turn left and follow the wide track past Church Farm.

Turn right along the road then left through Boundary Farm. Follow the track, which tends to be muddy where it narrows, and then swing left along the top of the field. Turn right and follow the path along the edge of the field onto a track. On the left is an ancient hedge marking the parish boundary. Cross over the A146 to the Gull Inn - and you're back.



WALK 7 ROCKLAND ST MARY - HELLINGTON -
ROCKLAND ST MARY (Circular) 2 Miles

Start outside 'The Normans', Rockland St Mary. (This is at the Bramerton end of the village just into the Hellington turn (Run Lane), has a walled courtyard and castellated gables and is opposite a pond). At the left-hand edge of the property is a gravel path which takes you up to the Church. Follow it to the end of the churchyard, into the gravel drive beyond and turn left into School Lane opposite Rockland School. When you reach the main street turn right along it towards Claxton passing Rockland Post Office and Stores on your left further on.

Continue along the road and just beyond some small commercial units on your right (south side) there are three pairs of bungalows. Immediately after them is a long grass path next to the small 30 mph repeater sign. Take this path for about 130 yards and then for a further 150 yards in the same direction it becomes a beaten earth track. Over a stile and the path goes straight across the middle of the field - but if a crop is growing, it would be kinder to go round the edge. At the far side, straight into a smallish flat - and sometimes wet - meadow, keeping to the right-hand hedgerow.

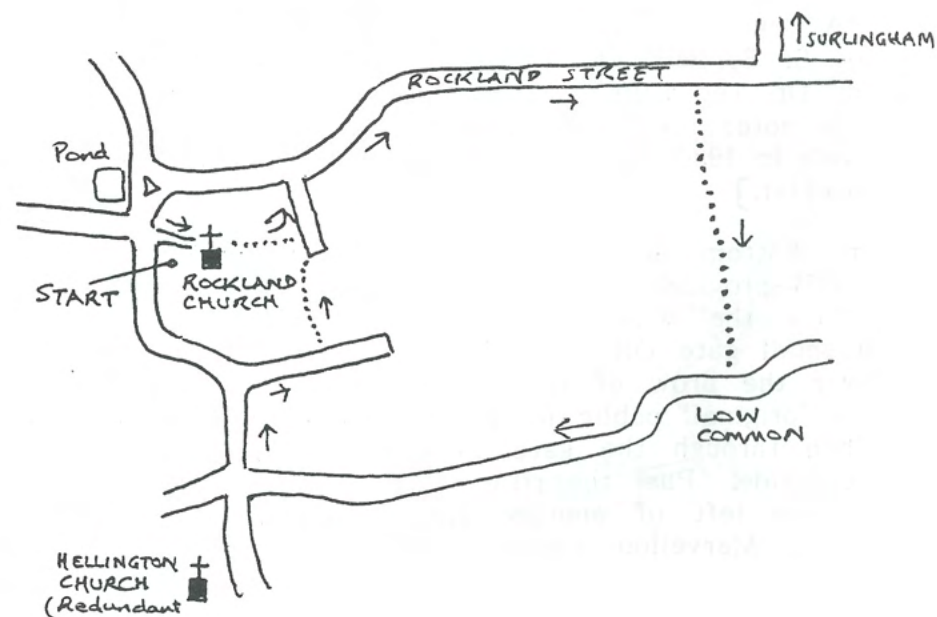
Carry on to the far right-hand corner and cross the wooden bridge over the beck (stream). This is the Rockland - Hellington boundary. The beck is the same one which flows from Bramerton and it goes to Claxton Corner and thence into Rockland Dyke. The path over the wooden bridge joins up with a road where you turn right.

(This is the end of 'Low Meadow, Hellington'. The marsh area is said to have been the site of a pitched battle between the Vikings and the Saxons. Bear in mind that the beck would have been navigable at the time, being

part of the flood plain. In the early part of this century, the marsh gas tended to ignite itself and the resultant flashes were held by some to be the souls of the soldiers who fell in battle a thousand years before.)

Back to the present. Continue along the road for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and then turn right at the T-junction towards Rockland again. Over a bridge under which passes the beck and at the bend turn right down a broad gravel track, Star Loke (according to the 1972 Ordnance Survey, but re-named locally 'Star Lane'). Star House on your right was formerly a pub until the early sixties. Immediately at the end of Glebelands Apiary frontage take an uphill track, Star Piece, on the left-hand side between two hedges.

At the top bear right following the track to the end where it joins St Marys Close and School Lane. Turn left and left again (Rectory Lane) opposite the school onto the gravel drive to Rockland Church and beyond, up which you travelled earlier.



WALK 8 SURLINGHAM (Circular) - Plus Optional Leg to Bramerton 2 Miles + $\frac{3}{4}$ Mile

This is the only walk in the series where some walkers ahead of us disappeared....a volley of rifle shots rang out....and they were seen no more.

However, all was well. The Norwich and District Parrabellum and Full Bore Club were having an evening shoot, red flags were hoisted, warning notices were placed prominently, and the 'walkers' were obviously club members.

The public footpath in question is properly wired off from the range.

Start at Surlingham Church, with the Church on your right and face towards the river. Turn right into a gravel track behind the Church. (You will notice also, another path directly in front of you which leads to the river's edge and thence to Surlingham Ferry.) The gravel track becomes a grass one as you go downhill.

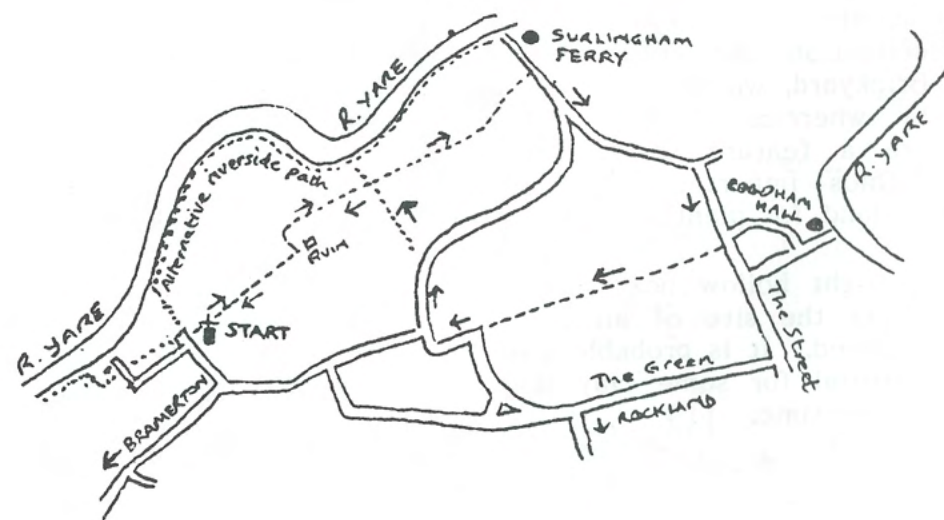
[*A few yards straight ahead of you, close to the ruins of St Saviour's Church, is to be found the resting place of Dr Ted Ellis, the Norfolk Naturalist, who contributed the notes for the Surlingham - Rockland St Mary Staithe walk in 1980 and which are included elsewhere in this booklet.]

Swing left at the bottom and over the stile. Then EITHER take the RSPB-provided path which is straight ahead of you and follow the wire which takes a right-angled course to a small gate OR 'cut off the corner' by going diagonally over the brow of the hill to the same gate. (This was the 'original' public footpath which is still in legal being). Then through the gate with the cottage on your right-hand side. Past the rifle range on your right and shortly to the left of another gate, following the well-beaten track. Marvellous views.

Keep to this track and turn right into a tarmac road between the houses. Fork left (sign says Coldham Hall) and opposite the small house known as 'Tree Tops' on your left, take the public footpath on your right, past the parish allotments. Keep to this very straight path and into the road at the end, keeping straight ahead. Turn right (signposted Surlingham Ferry) and 220 yards on your left, take the public footpath shyly hiding behind a track. This brings you to the line of the original walk, but this time, turn left and re-trace your steps to Surlingham Church.

Still keen for more? To the right of the private road leading to 'River Barn', 'Riverscourt' and other private properties, you will see an oak finger post pointing you to the right, and behind some cottages. At the end of this path, over a stile and turn right into a small tarmac road, following it downhill for 30 paces.

The path resumes on the left-hand side between the hedge and a wire fence, and continues round the edge of the field. Now turn to page 20.



WALK 9 **SURLINGHAM - ROCKLAND ST MARY**
 STAITHE 1½ Miles

Start at the junction of The Green with The Street at Surlingham and follow the Rockland footpath signpost. On your left is Cut Loke which leads to marshland near the river Yare; it was formerly linked with a cut furnished with a wide turning place for wherries.

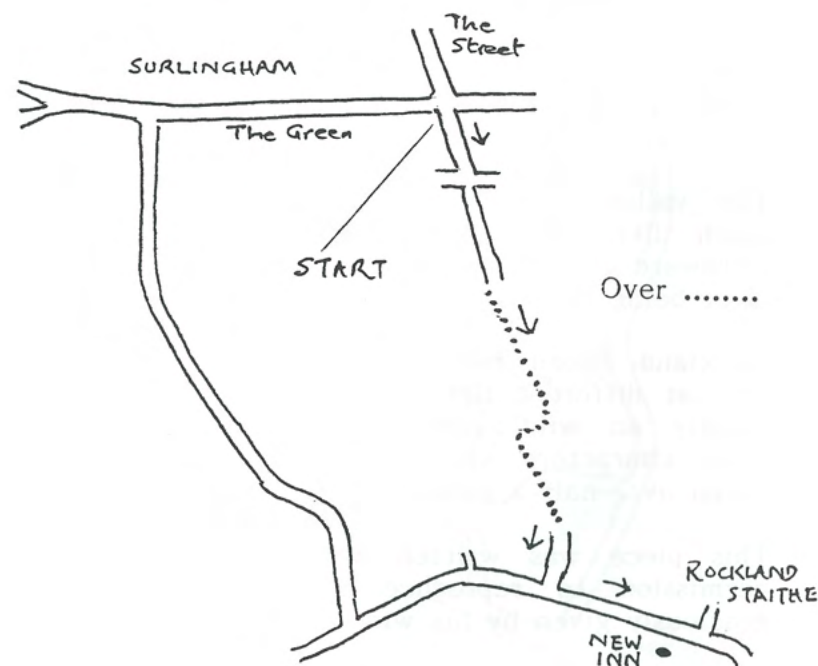
Opposite is Lesingham House, now a Buddhist Retreat, graced by a variety of beautiful trees, under which galaxies of crocuses carpet the ground in winter. A fine patch of butcher's broom, a low prickly shrub formerly used for making besoms, grows at the roadside. The grazing meadows to the east are known as the Shearwater or Sharewater Hills, although no rising ground is visible there.

The footpath runs for about ½ mile along Covey Lane, so named because it leads to a surviving remnant of Surlingham Wood, known locally as 'The Covey'. After passing a cottage on the right, a short track (Dorman's Loke) is seen leading to an arable field upland and almost opposite is Brickyard Farm, now the site of a wildfowl collection and formerly the site of Surlingham's No 1 Brickyard, where locally made bricks and tiles were shipped by wherries from a staithe. Numerous golden willows are a feature of the landscape - all originating from withies imported as a wrapping for some roses from Holland for planting in a local garden.

A slight hollow next to the road in a field on the right, marks the site of an old pond in which eels used to be fattened. It is probable that this pond was dug to provide material for some clay lump buildings which stood nearby at one time.

Further cottages are seen on the right before reaching the fine, partly Elizabethan grange with its modern farm buildings, spacious lawn and surrounding trees and flower beds. Opposite, the Smee Loke runs towards the river and fenny ground known anciently as the Smea or Smeath, doubtless a meadow in Saxon times when the water level was much lower than now.

The present grazing meadows on the left-hand side bear the names of 'Common 9 Acres', 'Middle Common Piece' and 'Further Middle Common Piece', the last recorded anciently as including a plot of land once in the ownership of 'Alnut the Saxon'. Next on this side is the entrance to Wheatfen with its fens, reedswamps and waterways a sanctuary of wildlife, then the woodland commonly known as 'The Covey', which is part of the same estate. The wood contains some fine oaks planted around 1830 when the then owner, Carles Tuck, 'improved' this part of Surlingham Wood. In the great gale of March 1895, most of this wood was flattened and the water blown out of Rockland Broad.



To the west can be seen a fine sweep of farmland from which several hedges have been removed in recent years. The original fields formed part of extensive woodland, clearly dominated by birch trees as is implied by their names 'Bush Close', 'Oak Close', 'Long Birch', 'Birch' and 'Wheatgate Birch'. In one of them a huddle of trees and bushes marks the site of one of the larger pits from which brickearth was extracted for the local manufacture of bricks.

Where the lane ends, the path (should be signposted at this point) continues in the same direction, skirting the farther piece of woodland until it turns right alongside a hedge bank on rising ground.

After 150 yards, turn left through 90° and through a field to Rockland Broad Farm, where your route then becomes a lane. During this part of the walk there are some fine views of Rockland Broad and of the Yare beyond, over to your left. The lane (Green Lane) joins New Inn Hill at the end. Turn left to the New Inn and Rockland Staithe.

Footnote The inhabitants of Rockland have fishing and other sporting rights on this piece of water which, like all other Broads, originated as a turbary (peat digging).

The valley here has a wild and primitive appearance, much like that of the ancient fens in the days of Hereward the Wake - the only alien feature visible down river being the Cantley sugar beet factory.

Rockland Broad has been the home of several 'loners' who at different times have lived afloat there, subsisting largely on wildfowling and eel catching. The last of these characters was 'Scientific' Fuller, still well remembered over half a century after his death.

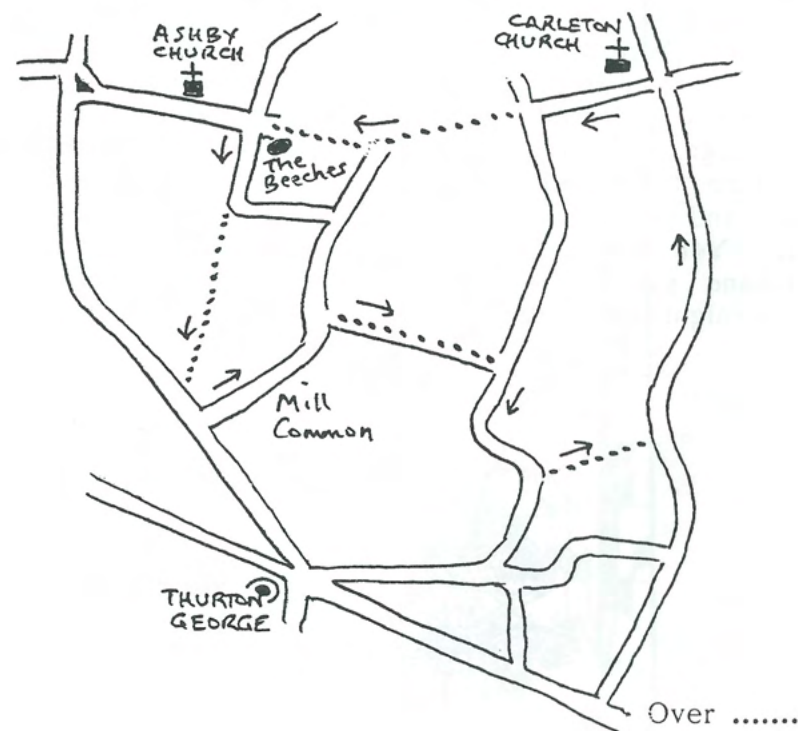
This piece was written by the late Dr Ted Ellis, and permission to reproduce it in this booklet has been graciously given by his widow, Phyllis.

WALK 10 ASHBY ST MARY - CARLETON ST PETER - ASHBY ST MARY 3 Miles

Start from Ashby Church, with the Church gate on your left-hand side. At the road junction 160 yards in front of you, turn right, passing 'The Beeches' on your left.

In 115 yards, at the bend, keep straight; pass over the grass at the extreme right-hand edge of a private garden, keeping close to the field edge and to the left of an electricity pole marked 'Ashby St Mary Woodview'. Follow the beaten track at the edge of the field in front of you.

At the end, the path goes downhill through a copse and then climbs uphill between fenced gardens to a tarmac road. Here, turn left, and immediately left again down 'Mill Common'.



After 1/3 mile, turn right (just after the speed de-restriction sign) down a hedged loke marked 'Public Bridle-way'.

Turn right at the end on to a tarmac road and follow its S-bended route through trees for just under 1/3 mile. You will see a footpath sign on the left-hand side just before a pair of semi-detached cottages, pointing diagonally over the field. Either follow this line across the field if ground conditions permit or follow the left-hand head-land for about 400 yards to its corner point, turning right through 90° by some hedging and trees for 230 yards to the next corner, turning right again for 100 yards to another line of trees.

At this point both the 'proper' and the 'makeshift' route join up. Follow the trees and field edge to a hedge facing you downhill, which conceals a sunken tarmac road behind.

Turn left here and ½ mile later on (having passed Pond Farm on your right), you reach a crossroads where you turn left (signposted Ashby). 500 yards later at a 'Give Way' sign, go straight over in to Sandy Lane. Where the lane bends left, fork right just after an electricity pole, and uphill with an overgrown hedgerow on your left. You have come back to 'The Beeches' on your left-hand side - and Ashby Church, your starting point lies straight ahead.



Thinks:

Now I'm lost!

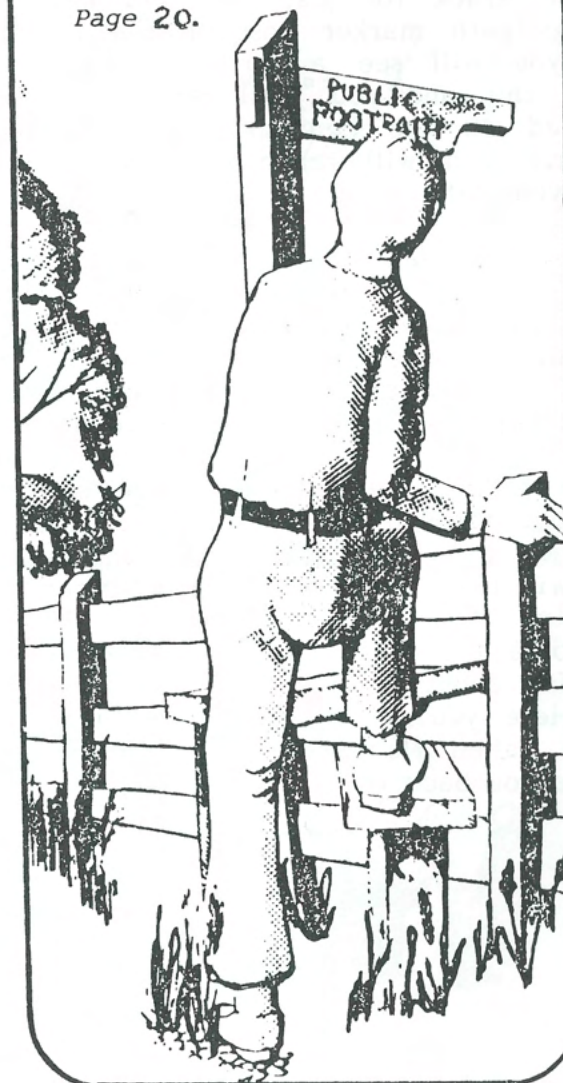
*Which of the Eleven Church
Towers can that be?*

*A Round Tower with an
octagonal belfry.*

Where am I looking?

Answer

Page 20.



WALK 11 LANGLEY - CARLETON ST PETER

3½ Miles

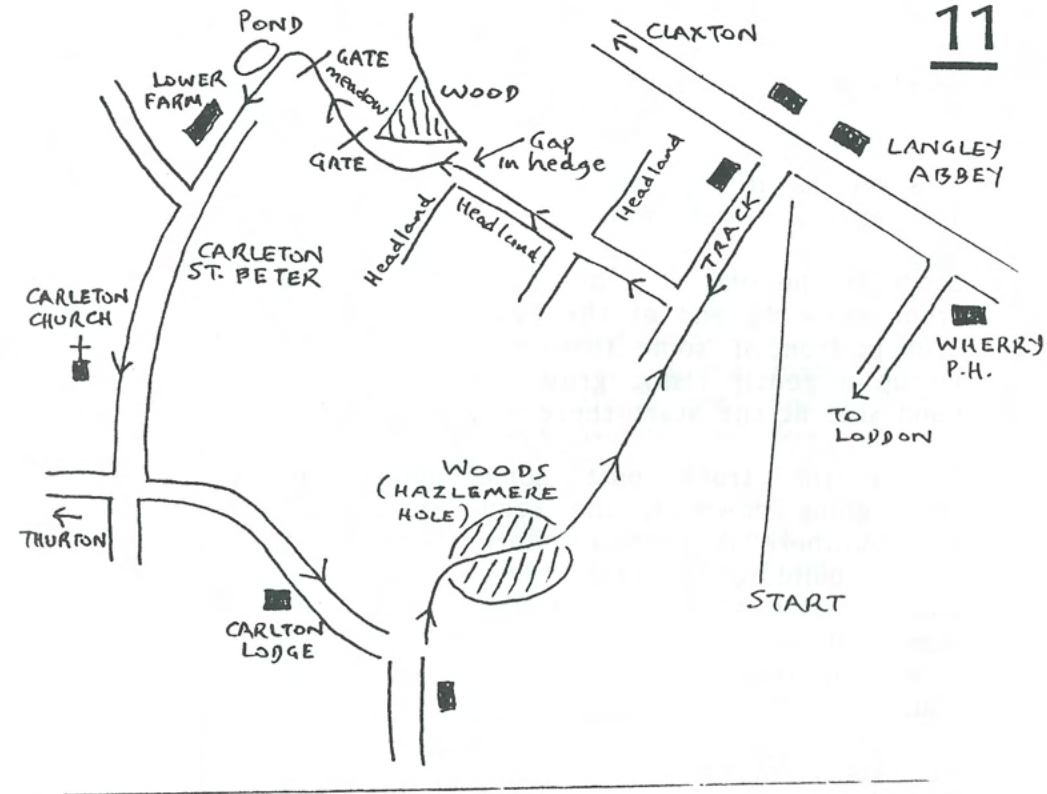
The start of the walk is an unmade road almost opposite the remains of Langley Abbey (just through Langley Green, as approached from the Rockland/Claxton direction). You will see the public footpath sign in the left-hand hedge.

Go down this track for just over 1/3 mile (ignoring a new NCC footpath marker post on the right after 225 yards) and you will see a further track going to the right. Take this and you will reach a T-junction. Go straight ahead on the headland, with a hedge shortly on your left. You will reach some woods and another headland on your left.

You now need to leave the headlands, so go through a gap in the hedge on your left - and keeping in the same general direction (do not swing hard to the left uphill), go along the edge of a field with the wood on your immediate right-hand side. You will soon come to a five barred metal gate which leads in to a meadow.

The footpath follows the left-hand edge of the meadow and comes out through another gate at the other end. Turn left onto the farm track and continue along this road, which will take you past Carleton Church.

When you come to a crossroads, turn left. Follow this quiet lane for about a mile, until it sharply bends to the right. Here you turn left on to a track into some lovely woods called Hazlemere Hole. Follow this track until it brings you back to Langley.



How to deal with obstructions

If a highway you are using properly is obstructed you may remove just enough of the obstruction to allow you to pass, but you must be careful. You must do the minimum of damage to the obstruction, and if your way is blocked by someone you believe to be the landowner or occupier or a person representing them, you must not use or threaten force against them or their property, although you can politely, but firmly, continue to exercise your rights.

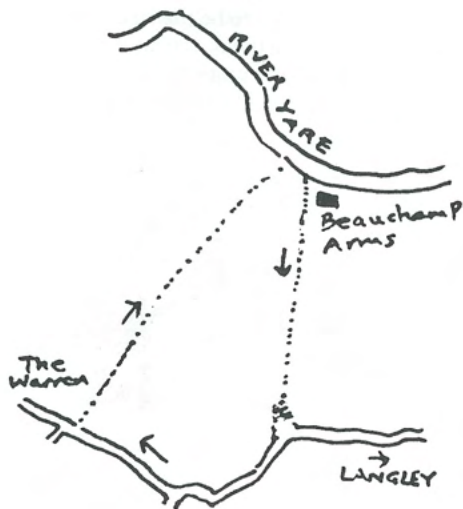


Most walks in this booklet are circular, or even square. Welcome to a walk which is triangular in shape.

Start at the end of Claxton main street (ie furthest away from Norwich) and at the end of the large oblong grassed area in front of some terraced housing called 'The Warren', go up a gently rising gravel slope. (Check on your right-hand side at the start there is a postbox.)

Follow the track past some undistinguished landscape until going downhill, the scene suddenly becomes transformed....here is your authentic Norfolk marshscape, with not a building in sight. Over a stile (near this point you enter Carleton St Peter parish) and right at your side will be a broad stream. Eventually over another stile and there is the river Yare straight in front of you.

At this point, make sure your dog is on a lead. The Beauchamp Arms pub is on your right. Go over its car park and head back inland. The Buckenham Sailing Club's base is then just behind you. Swing round right through some trees to the road, turn right, and back to the start. There - just 2 miles - try a longer walk next time!



Not many walks begin by crossing an immaculate lawn between two flower beds - but this one does!

Start outside the door of Coldham Hall (pub) and facing the river, turn right through 45° (two o'clock will do) and walk towards the quay heading some 45 paces away across the grass and between the flower beds. Along the concreted path to the oak finger post ahead of you and head inland, past 'Heron's Marsh' and down a farm track.

This brings you out to the tarmac road, where turn right. (After about 300 yards, you will spot another public foot-path sign on the left, part of another walk featured in this booklet.)

A $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on and take a track on the right (opposite a metal sign 'The Street' in the left-hand bank) and this brings you out to a road, where turn left to regain the spot from where you started. (This last 'loop' has the status of a bridle path, along which one may walk or ride or lead a horse.) This is a popular Sunday afternoon stroll.



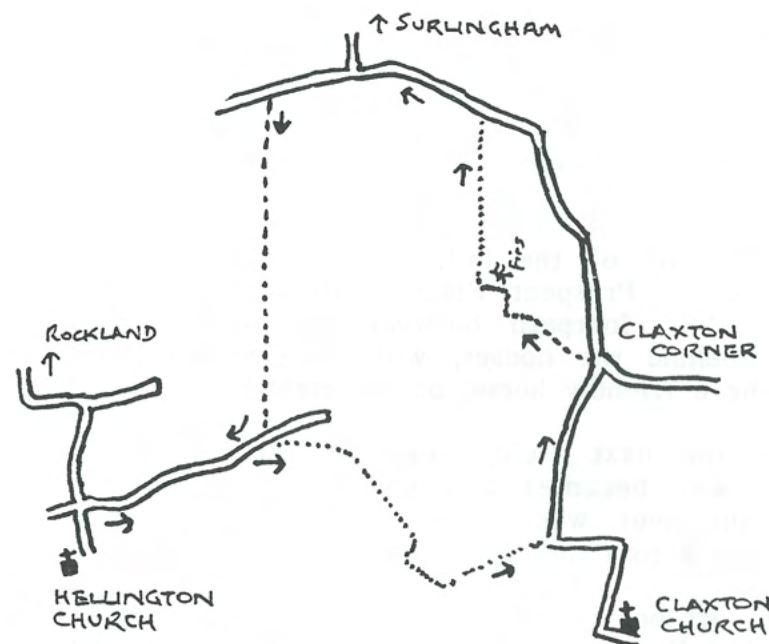
WALK 14 HELLINGTON - CLAXTON -
ROCKLAND ST MARY (Circular) 3 Miles

Start from the signpost downhill from Hellington Church, (towards Rockland St Mary) and take the turn marked Low Common opposite a GR postbox and parish notice board.

After about half a mile turn right uphill by a public footpath sign, with the hedge on your right. (At the time of going to press, this section of the footpath was obstructed and awaits clearance by the Local Authority.) At the top through into another field, hugging the boundary on your left. Just after this latter field's corner go through the opening at the left, and 75 yards down to a track where you turn left. After 275 yards turn left onto a surfaced road.

Five hundred yards later, near to Claxton Corner, turn left towards 'Lambs Court' (no sight of lambs, just a large house nestling rather privately) and keeping the house on your right, dip down to the left-hand hedge and out onto a grassy headland. (Thank you Mr Farmer for leaving it so.) Follow its right-hand curve, then fork left, and pass a small fir plantation on your right. Shortly afterwards, turn right along an uphill track and some 650 yards later, you meet a surfaced road; turn left here towards Rockland village.

Half a mile further on, between nos 86 and 88 The Street on your left, (where a public footpath finger post ought to be in place) go through the gap. Continue along the grass track and over a stile into a large field, and where the beaten track goes right through the middle and presumably follows the line of a long lost hedgerow. Keeping bushes and trees at your right-hand continue into another meadow and cross the footbridge over the beck at the far right-hand corner. Along a track and out onto the other end of your original starting road. Turn right and eventually back to the start.



Ploughing rights of way

A landowner or tenant farmer may plough a footpath or bridleway in the interest of good husbandry where it crosses arable land. He may not usually plough a footpath or



bridleway running along the headland of a field, nor may he plough any part of a byway. When ploughed, he must make good the surface, normally within two weeks, or he can apply to the highway authority for a temporary diversion.

WALK 15 THURTON (Circular) 2½ Miles

Start at Thurton's 'George and Dragon', and walk along the nearside verge of the main A146 in the Norwich direction.

At the top of the hill, there is a group of houses on the left - Prospect Place. After the second one, take the public footpath between the wooden railings; this goes behind the houses, with an electric-wired field containing a friendly horse, on the right-hand side.

Over the next field, again at the left-hand edge, and your way becomes a track leading to a tarmac road. Straight over where the oak finger post indicates, and straight across the field (A-B) as best you can manage.

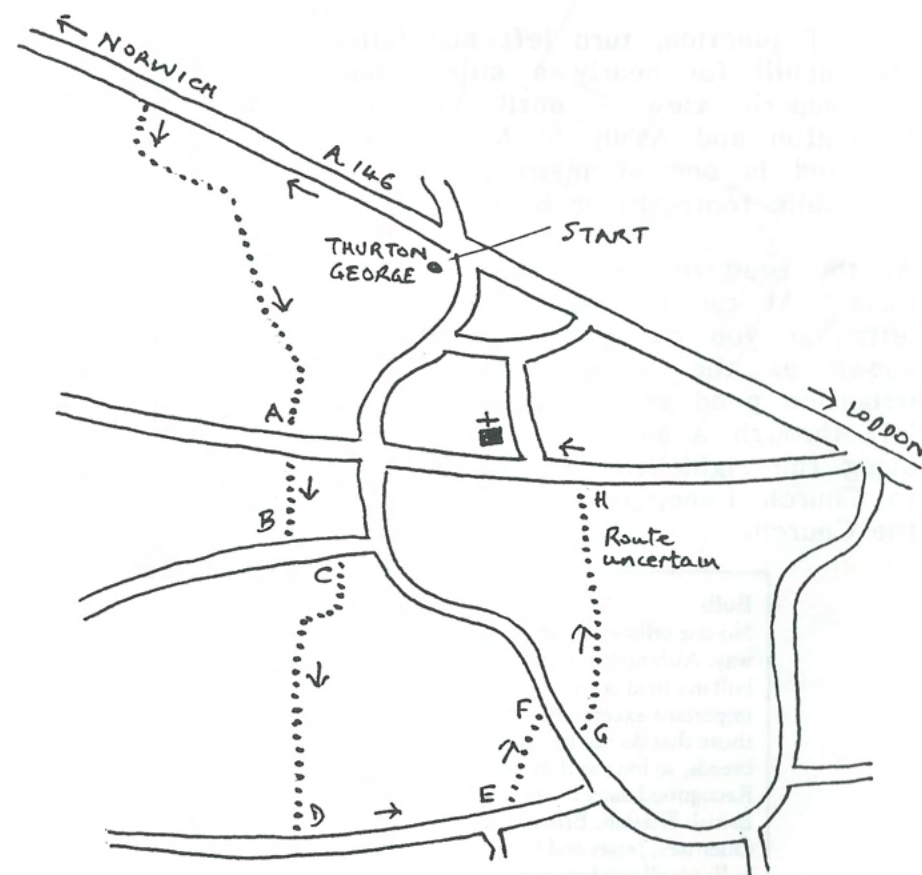
Turn left on the road and walk for three or four minutes to the finger post in the right-hand verge, opposite a wooden five-barred gate and wooden garage. Take this route (C-D) down to the far side, then right (along the headland) until, several hundred yards away on your left-hand side, you are aligned with a large farmhouse and outbuildings. Turn left towards these, walking a highly exposed, unmarked, route as you do so.

Once you gain another tarmac road, turn left and some 75 yards later, there is a finger post in the left-hand verge, opposite a white road sign listing Loddon/Seething/Brooke. Clamber up the left bank, following to the right of the trees in an imaginary straight line - at this point there are no waymarks or physical features to help you.

You need to make for the right-hand edge of all the houses and farm buildings on the near horizon in front of you, gaining entry to a huge field across which there is another very exposed walk (the final part of G-H) to the tarmac road, coming out by the side of a small Dutch gabled barn, at the right-hand edge of all the farm buildings.

At the road edge, turn left back towards 'The George', using the loke just before the Church.

Something of a frustrating walk, but with more signs in place than there used to be.



Start from Claxton Church and go out of the north wrought iron gate. Cross Church Lane and take the footpath around the back of the Old School House. Follow the headland a short distance around the edge of the field until it comes to an end, and then go through a gap in the hedge on your right. The headland then continues downhill, with some woods on your left.

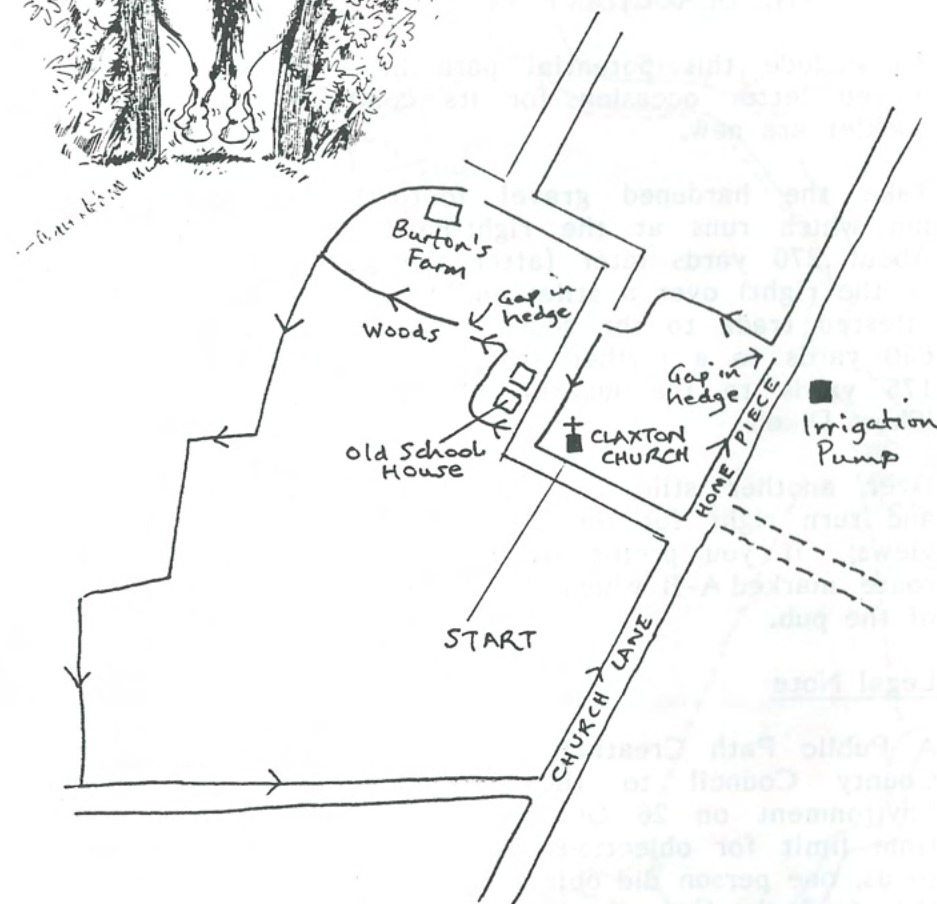
At a T junction, turn left and follow the beautiful headland uphill for nearly a mile - pause and look back at the superb view - until you meet the road linking Hellington and Ashby St Mary (Green Lane). (This wide headland is one of many provided by Major Allhusen on the public footpaths on his land.)

At the road turn left, then turn left again down Church Lane. At the bottom of the hill the road turns to the left, but you can carry straight on down a wide track, known as the 'Home Piece'. When you come to an irrigation pond and pump on your right, 20 yards on turn left through a gap in the hedge and follow the headland along the right-hand edge of the field. When you come to Church Lane, turn left and make your way back to the Church.

Bulls

No one relishes the prospect of meeting a bull on a right of way. Although it is an offence punishable by a fine to keep a bull in a field or enclosure crossed by a right of way, there are important exceptions - bulls under eleven months old and those that do not belong to one of the recognised dairy breeds, so long as they are accompanied by cows or heifers. Recognised dairy breeds are currently defined as Ayrshire, British Friesian, British Holstein, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey and Kerry. Although this means that some bulls are allowed on rights of way, a person responsible for a bull that is known to be dangerous may be liable for damages if it injures someone. The law also requires employers and employees to take precautions to ensure that their activities do not endanger the health and safety of third parties.

Report any problems to both the local highway authority and the Health and Safety Executive.



WALK 17 ROCKLAND STAITHE -
THE BEAUCHAMP ARMS Approx 2 Miles

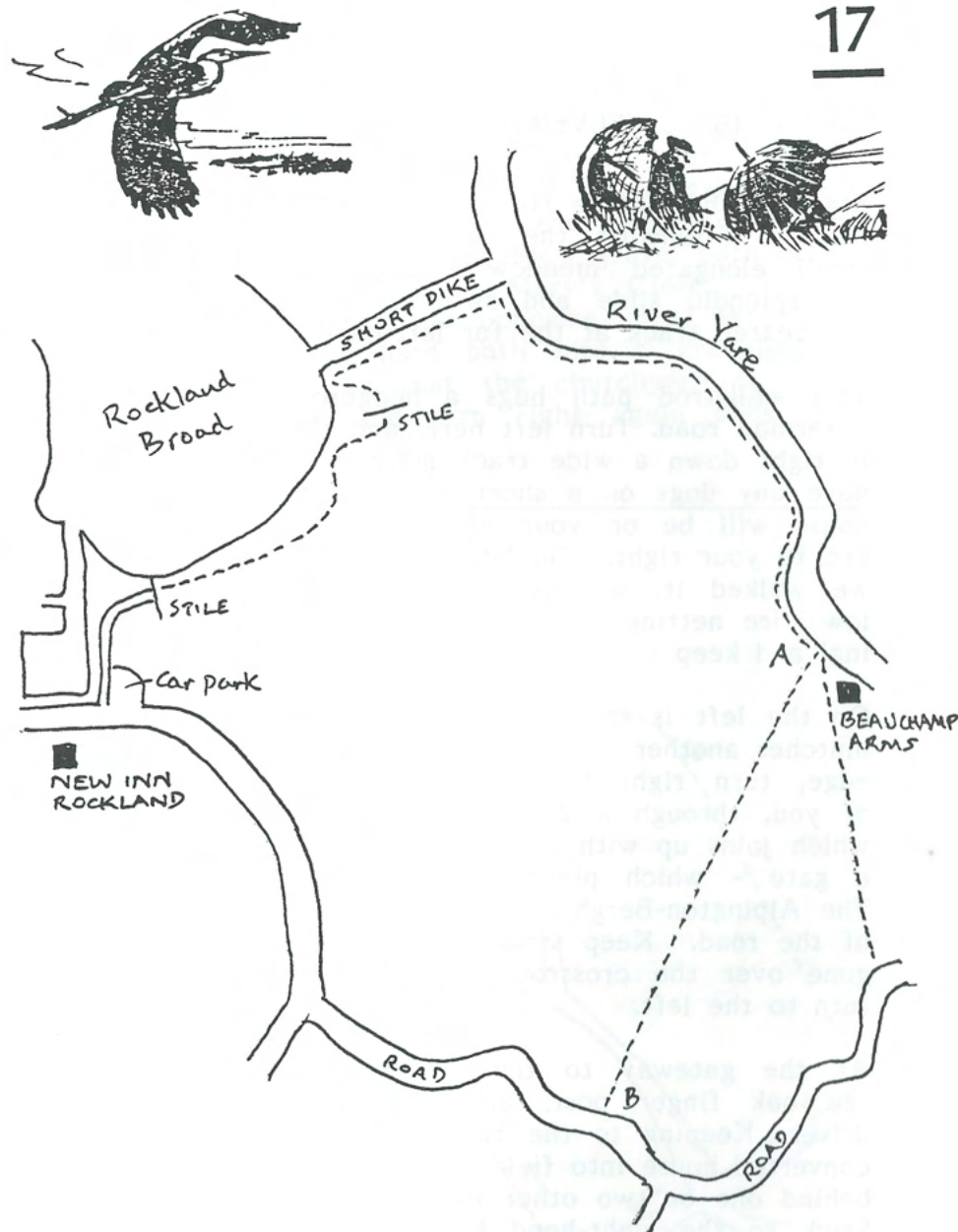
To include this potential path in a 'Walks' booklet is a red letter occasion for its compiler; both path and booklet are new.

Take the hardened gravel footpath opposite the New Inn which runs at the right-hand edge of the staithe. About 270 yards later (after the path has curved round to the right) over a stile; and follow a sometimes nettle-infested track to the south of Rockland Broad for about 650 yards to a further stile. Then through a copse for 175 yards to the junction of Rockland Broad with the 'Short Dike'.

Over another stile to the southern bank of the Yare and turn right for the Beauchamp Arms. Lovely marsh views; if you prefer to complete the circle, take the route marked A-B which starts just to the Rockland side of the pub.

Legal Note

A Public Path Creation Order was submitted by Norfolk County Council to the Secretary of State for the Environment on 26 October 1992 and gave a statutory time limit for objections - on grounds which are unclear to us, one person did object. Until the position is resolved therefore, the Council will not clear the nettles as described above.



WALK 18 YELVERTON - ALPINGTON - YELVERTON
1½ Miles

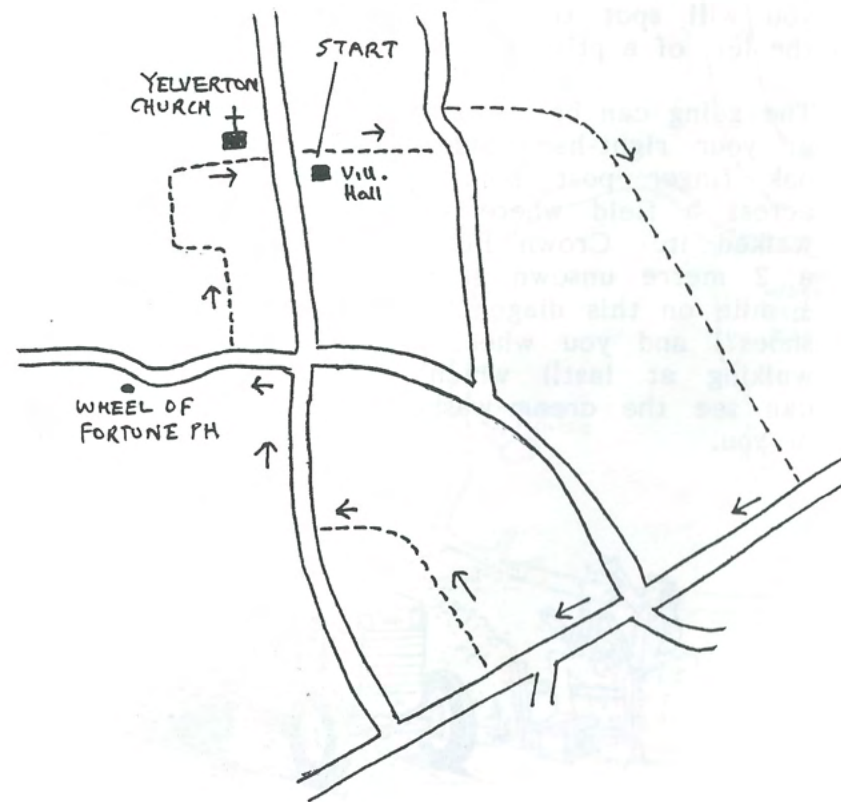
Start at the Village Hall, a few yards south of Yelverton Church. Following the oak finger post, go across the small elongated meadow behind the Village Hall (note the splendid slide and swings for children) and pick up the beaten track at the far left-hand corner.

This well-trod path hugs a hedgerow and joins up with a tarmac road. Turn left here, and then almost immediately right down a wide track marked 'Avenue Farm'. Please have any dogs on a short lead. At the bottom the farmhouse will be on your left-hand side and farm buildings etc to your right. Go 'straight through the middle' (when we walked it, we were careful to trip daintily over a low wire netting fence which kept the hens from wandering) and keep to the left-hand edge of the field.

On the left is the sunken bed of a dried up pond which matches another to your right. Still keeping to the field's edge, turn right at the corner and a little way ahead of you, through a gap in the hedgerow, is a green lode which joins up with a tarmac road (Mill Lane) just beyond a gate - which please shut'. At this point turn right. The Alington-Bergh Apton boundary runs down the middle of the road. Keep straight for about half a mile, having gone over the crossroads (signposted Brooke). Ignore the turn to the left.

At the gateway to the second property on the right, see oak finger post, and turn right down a gravelled drive. Keeping to the right-hand side, go past tastefully converted house into field. At this point you pass directly behind one or two other exquisitely maintained properties. Stick to the right-hand hedgerow where possible. Some 275 yards out, the public footpath turns left - you will see the exit point, having turned left, in the roadside hedgerow in front of you.

Once back on the road, turn right and up to the crossroads; then left into Wheel Road. One hundred and sixty yards from the crossroads, next to a telegraph post on the right-hand side and before the property known as 'East Lynn', turn right down a narrow gravel path between high hedges and out into St Mary's Close. Turn into Church Meadow and on the opposite side, between Nos 16 and 18, take the hard path into a gravelled drive beyond. Turn right, so that the churchyard is then on your left-hand side, and turn right again back to the Village Hall.



Walk 2 We've described this from the 'Village' end rather than the 'Norwich' end, since you may wish to walk through the village on the tarmac road and then loop back. In the middle of this walk, there is one field not in the ownership of the Crown Point Estate, where new direction posts with small yellow arrows have been placed by the Norwich Fringe Project, on each side of the field. These posts may be slightly obscured by nettles etc in summer, and need a keen eye to spot. Going over the field, maybe through a crop, is not easy and you could get 'lorst' unless you bear the general direction in mind. Here goes then.

Start opposite the walled entrance to Kirby House, over a black gate next to the footpath sign, and head at "ten o'clock" for 220 yards over the grassy uplands. Note marker post in hedgerow at left with a yellow arrow indicating that you're heading in the right direction. Keep hedge at left. Seventy yards further on, spot another marker post at your left and go through the hedge into the field. (Now the fun starts - this is the field referred to above.) Either hug the right-hand edge, or go across the field at "two o'clock" to the far side. To the right of a modern house ('The Gamekeeper's House') nestling in the trees, there is a gap in the hedge next to a marker post. Through the gap; turn left and then round to the right at the foot of the house's bottom garden hedge.

At the hedgerow with trees ahead of you, turn right and go gently downhill at "two o'clock" - Crown Point Estate had again left a 2 metre swathe indicating your passage, and you will see a metal gate and footpath sign in front of you at the road edge. Turn left and back, presumably, to where you came from!

Walk 3 Starts beyond Stud Farm, on the left-hand side going into the village from the Norwich direction. Spot the metal gate with its spokes like the rays of the rising sun, at the start.

This is a very clear track to follow, with virtually no sign of habitation in sight for most of it, and only the rabbits for company, and the muted hum of the traffic on the Southern By-pass to remind you that you cannot escape man for long.

You can curve back (section 3-A) onto the concrete road ('The Coach Road') and back to the C202 Norwich road - OR keeping straight on you take the concrete road to the Sewage Works, and an under-pass at the By-pass leads to a well defined track along the river bank after the cottages.

Walk 4 On the Kirby Bedon boundary with Bramerton is described elsewhere, but taken together with East Hills Lane (see map) gives you yet another circular variation to try sometime.



THE COUNTRY CODE

When walking in the countryside, remember that the land is owned by someone.

- 1 Take care not to damage crops growing alongside footpaths.
- 2 Guard against all risk of fire.
- 3 Keep dogs under proper control.
- 4 Avoid damage to fences, hedges and walls.
- 5 Leave no litter.
- 6 Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees.
- 7 Fasten all gates.

As part of the route may be wet underfoot, you should wear boots or stout shoes.

NOTES