BARKING & BACK AGAIN

A CIRCULAR WALK OF 5½ MILES STARTING FROM NEEDHAM MARKET RAILWAY STATION

THE RAILWAY STATION

It must have been an impressive sight in 1849 when the railway station at Needham Market opened. The station master standing outside the red brick and stone booking hall. Passengers waiting on the platforms as steam billowed around the distinctive towers and gables.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Step inside this church, there is an excellent example of a ‘hammer beam’ roof. Marvel at the skills of the medieval carpenter, who built this roof in the 15th century. Writers have referred to this church’s roof as ‘the climax of English roof construction’ and ‘culminating achievement of the English carpenter’.

Can you spot the ‘Green Man’ in the roof?
Before 1901, the church used to be a Chapel of Ease, for travelling pilgrims

THE CAUSEWAY

The Causeway was part of the route taken by funeral parties from Needham to Barking Church. The Chapel of Ease did not have a graveyard, so it was necessary to take the dead for burial at Barking graveyard. The Causeway is thought to be a corruption of ‘corpseway’.
**WALK INFORMATION.**
The walk starts and ends at Needham Market Railway Station. For times of trains to Ipswich, Stowmarket and beyond, contact Anglia Railways (01603 764776). Tickets may be purchased on the train. For timetable information on buses please call the National Traveline on 0870 6082608 (local call rates). This half day walk is waymarked with ‘To Barking & Back Again’ discs.

**THE GIPPING VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT.**
THE GIPPING VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT is the result of close co-operation between Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council.

The Project also provides:
- Countryside management services at local picnic sites & nature reserves.
- Environmental education advice & assistance.
- Environmental advice & practical assistance to landowners.
- A programme of guided walks, talks and events.

If you would like to try one of the other self guided trails in the Gipping Valley or require further information on the work of the Project, please contact us at:

**The Gipping Valley Countryside Project,**
Suffolk County Council, Environment & Transport
St Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich. IP4 1LZ
Telephone: 01473 583174
Email: gipping.project@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk
Website: www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/countryside/projects/

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**BARKING CHURCH AND RECTORY**
The church, in Parson’s Lane, used to serve both Barking and Needham. It is mentioned in the 11th century Domesday Book. Near the church is a fine Regency building, originally built as a rectory.

**PRIESTLEY WOOD**
Originally, woodland would have covered the Gipping Valley. Local people cleared the wood for farmland, fuel and building materials. Priestley Wood is a remnant of this ‘Ancient Woodland’. It is mentioned in the survey of the Bishop of Ely’s estate in 1251. Ancient Woodlands are important because of their enormous diversity of wildlife. Priestley Wood is a haven for wild flowers, birds and a large variety of native trees.

**NEEDHAM LAKE**
Beside the River Gipping, Needham Lake is an ideal place for a picnic. Watch the birdlife on the lake; including swans, grebes and dozens of ducks. Orchids & other flowers grow in these riverside meadows.