BARHAM PICNIC SITE
THE PICNIC SITE was the location of the Bosmere and Claydon Union Workhouse which was built in 1766, and was finally demolished in the 1950s. It is thought that Charles Dickens based his classic novel “Oliver Twist” on the workhouse. During World War II the site was used as a Prisoner of War camp.

BARHAM PITS
THE FLOODED PITS have been dug out over the last 50 years to supply sand and gravel to the building industry. These minerals were deposited here at the end of the last Ice Age. Mammoth, rhinoceros and elk fossils were found when digging first started. Now the pits provide valuable wildlife habitat and are popular with anglers.

GREAT BLAKENHAM LOCK
GREAT BLAKENHAM LOCK was built in the late 18th century by a team of 200 men who spent three years straightening the river to allow barges to reach Stowmarket. The last barges used the river in the 1930s. The old brickwork of the lock and bridge provide a good nest site for the grey wagtail, a bird you might see flitting from rock to rock.

THE RIVER GIPPING
THE RIVER GIPPING flows for 17 miles from Stowmarket to Ipswich and supports a wide range of wildlife. This includes fish such as bream, tench and pike, and plants such as flowering rush and yellow water lily.
BAYLHAM MILL
BETWEEN BAYLHAM MILL and the A14 lies the ancient Roman site of Combretovium. This was a fort and small town that was developed during Roman times, about 1600 years ago. Part of the site is now used as a rare breeds farm which is open to the public. Baylham Mill is an eighteenth century building, although parts of the mill house are much older. The mill is the last on the River Gipping to retain its machinery, including five pairs of milestones. The wooden lock gates next to the mill are the only ones left on the river.

BAYLHAM VILLAGE
THE VILLAGE OF Baylham is very attractive and sits in a prominent position overlooking the river valley. The church has a “kidnapped” flint tower and shows many Norman features.

DEVIL’S GROVE
THE MYSTERIOUSLY NAMED woodland, Devil’s Grove, is situated next to the path and shows evidence of previously being coppiced. This was the process of regularly cutting trees to produce wooden products such as rake handles.

WALK INFORMATION
BARHAM PICNIC SITE is on Pesthouse Lane, 1 mile to the north of Claydon. Look out for signs off of the Norwich Road. Local buses stop at both Barham and Claydon. For timetable information please call on 0871 200 22 33 (call from landlines cost 10p per minute). The site is open all year round and the walk is signposted with the round BAYLHAM AND BEYOND discs. Half a day will be needed to complete the walk. When walking, please consider the interests of other uses and landowners.