



Open all year, the tourist office provides information and advice on accommodation, attractions, local and national public transport timetables and is an agent for National Express and local coach companies for day trips. It also has an extensive range of books, souvenirs and gifts. Open 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Saturday with seasonal adjustments. (telephone 01379 650523)

Diss Tourist Information Centre

The 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey Explorer map 230 Diss and Harleston is useful for planning local walks.

At a country park. If you want to know the best place for off-road cycling, suggestions for horse riding trails, or where to watch wildlife, Discover Suffolk will have something for you. The event listing has plenty of ideas on getting close to nature in the heart of the countryside. And many events are free!



Worham church

A series of three walking routes around Diss and the Waveney Valley. Walks for all abilities between 2.5 and 11 miles in length.

DISS WALKS

Country code

- ✦ Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- ✦ Leave gates and property as you find them
- ✦ Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- ✦ Keep dogs under close control
- ✦ Consider other people

To get your free copy of *Waveney Valley Walks* visit your local Tourist Information Centre or contact Suffolk County Council by emailing discoversuffolk@suffolk.org.uk. For more great ideas on free places to visit throughout Suffolk visit www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

The Waveney Valley is one of the best areas in East Anglia for stretching your legs and discovering some of the most scenic parts of the countryside. Within the valley lies the Angles Way, a waymarked long distance footpath. The path is full of hidden gems: discover where the hovercraft was invented, watch marsh hatters float over reed beds, visit an ancient Saxon fishing port, shop in fine old market towns and wander around lush meadows. A free guide to the Waveney Valley has been produced by Suffolk County Council. *Waveney Valley Walks – Circular Walks along the Angles Way* features a series of circular walks from just 1 mile to 7 miles. Each walk will help you explore this beautiful and somewhat hidden valley, using sections of the Angles Way.

The Waveney Valley



Fair Green

Diss is situated on the A1066 road to Thetford and is easily accessible by road, rail and bus. The town is surrounded by attractive countryside that is visited on this walk.



Diss Circular Walk – The full circuit is 5.5 miles but the walk can be broken down into shorter walks of 2.5 miles upwards.

The paths are mostly level and there are no stiles or other obstacles to negotiate. The main route is signed with 'Diss Circular Walks' waymarks.

The walk starts at the Tourist Information Centre by the Mere. The path initially heads north up Mere

Street and Mount Street to join a footpath opposite Diss High School. Level paths are then followed to Brewers Green in Roydon. Heading south now the path reaches Fair Green where the River Waveney is crossed into Suffolk at Denmark Bridge. The route

climbs to Palgrave before descending on a surfaced path to The Lows to cross the river again and return to Diss.



Diss church

Diss (1) is a lively market town with the attractive **Mere** at its heart. The Mere is a natural feature being formed around 12,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age. The **church of St Mary** dominates the town and dates from about 1300. There are many fine timber-framed houses surviving in Diss, often hiding behind a brick façade. One of the town's most famous citizens was John Skelton, rector of Diss in the early 16th century. He was the childhood tutor of Henry V and became Poet Laureate. More information about the history of the town can be found in the award-winning **Museum** in Market Place or from the **Tourist Information Centre** in Mere's Mouth.

Brewers Green (2) is an area of commonland that is still grazed by horses. There are several ponds including one called the Dipping Pond. The Green was the scene of a famous riot in 1893 between right-holders and the Lord of the Manor.



East route

Follow the Angles Way or Boudica's Way to Billingford Mill complete the circuit to give a full days' walk with a stop at the pub in Billingford. Remote churches are a special feature of these walks.

The walk starts at the Tourist Information Centre by Diss Mere and leaves the town by Mere Street and Church Street. Angles Way waypoints are followed all the way to the minor road just to the north of Billingford Mill. Bus service 580 for Diss stops by the Horseshoes pub (timetables from Diss Tourist Information Centre).

Diss to Billingford Mill via Angles Way - 5 miles

This walk leaves Diss by the same route and separates at Fenzeze church. Boudica's Way waypoints are followed to just beyond Thelveton church from where footpaths lead to Billingford church and Mill.

The two routes described above can easily be combined to give a longer walk returning to Diss. Despite being close to Diss, Fenzeze has the air of a remote settlement. The tiny church (1) dates from the early 14th century and has a fine Tudor brick porch. Inside there are important brasses of the late medieval wall painting on the south wall.

Diss to Billingford Mill via Boudica's Way - 6 miles

The lonely ruined tower of **Thorpe Parva church (2)** is all that remains of the building. As early as the 17th century the church was in ruins in a parish of only 350 acres. Less than half a mile from Thorpe Parva church is the similarly isolated **Billingford church (3)**. Both churches testify to the great wealth of the area in early medieval times. Billingford church had a tower but it was cut down and replaced of the area in early medieval times. Billingford church had a tower but it was cut down and replaced with a pyramid roof. Inside the medieval roof is a scissor-braced and there is a late medieval wall painting on the south wall.

Billingford Mill (4) stands in the middle of commonland on the banks of the Waveney. The five-storey building was erected in 1862 and was the last working mill in Norfolk restored by the Norfolk Windmills Trust and is again in working order.

Thelveton church (5) stands in open countryside surrounded by fields. It has a Norman north doorway and a fine 15th century font. The nearby **Thelveton Hall** can be glimpsed through the trees. The Hall, built in 1592, has an Elizabethan or Jacobean brick facade based on an E-plan.



Billingford Mill



West route

Two fascinating nature reserves are visited on this circular walk that follows a section of the Angles Way. A shorter walk to Roydon Fen is also described.

Worham Ling and Roydon Fen circular - 5.5 miles

This circuit starts at Fair Green, follows the Angles Way over Denmark Bridge into Suffolk, and then visits Worham Ling. The route passes Worham church before returning to the Ling and crossing back into Norfolk. Roydon Fen is then visited and the path is followed back to Fair Green.

Also starting at Fair Green a short walk around Roydon Fen can be completed by walking through the fen and returning on Fen Street.

Roydon Fen circular - 2 miles

Fair Green (1) is surrounded by picturesque cottages dating from the early 17th century. It was here that the traditional Diss Fair was held for hundreds of years until it was abolished in 1872. Modern fun fairs still come to the Green every year.

Worham Ling (2) is an unexpected area of heathland in the Waveney Valley. It is very popular



Worham Ling



Worham church

with local people and is managed as a nature reserve by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The Ling is at its most colourful in August when the Heather is in bloom but Green Woodpeckers can be seen feeding on anthills at any time of year.

The enormous round tower of **Worham church (3)** is the largest in Suffolk, having a circumference of 91 feet. The Normans may have originally built it as a watchtower. Nearby is a roadside **monument (4)** commemorating the stand made by Richard Rash in 1933 against the tithes to support the living of the local priest.

Roydon Fen (5) is one of a series of important fen nature reserves along the headwaters of the Waveney and Little Ouse. A boardwalk leads through a variety of wetland habitats including fen meadow, sedge fen and alder woodland. An information board has more details of the wildlife to be found on the Fen.