Where is Earl Stonham?
Earl Stonham is a small village located five miles east of Stowmarket. The village is one of three Stonhams in the area – the other two are Stonham Aspal and Stonham Parva also known as Little Stonham.

The Country Code…….
- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under control
- Keep to public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences and hedges
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise

This leaflet can be used with OS Explorer Map Sheet No 211 Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket.
Discover more circular walks and great days out in the countryside at www.discover suffolk.org.uk

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Access Suffolk project
www.earlstonham.org.uk
www.suffolk.gov.uk

Earl Stonham Circular Walks

Early Stonham

EARL STONHAM

featuring four circular colour marked walks from the village of Earl Stonham

The Shepherd & Dog at Forward Green serves excellent meals and is home to the famous Wagyu burger.

Food and drink……
The Shepherd’s Dog at Forward Green serves excellent meals.

Parking……
You can park in the Village Hall car park at the centre of the village of Earl Stonham.

History
Dating back to Roman times, Earl Stonham is most famous for its church St Mary’s Church, the Church of St Mary the Virgin, the only grade one listed building in Earl Stonham. Built in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries of stone and flint, it has probably the finest single hammer beam roof in the country. In addition there are medieval wall paintings and a unique set of hour glasses.

In the Suffolk Records Office there is a copy of a map dated 1557 of the village which shows a church at the centre of the village.

Today much of the village is surrounded by farmland and many open spaces on the edge of the field. The land is divided into large open fields, the main open spaces are the greens, Forward Green, Broad Green and Wicks Green. These greens are also shown on the map from 1557.

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Earl Stonham Circular Walks

Starting from either the Parish Church or Village Hall in Earl Stonham there are a number of possibilities for walks of differing lengths. To aid walkers various sections have been colour coded, red, gold, green and blue.

By linking these sections together, circular walks varying from one hour to three and half hours can be created. Even if you are unfamiliar with the area, by following the coloured waymarkers you should have no difficulty in following any one route.

There is an alternative starting point at the church in Stonham Parva, sometimes known as Little Stonham.

Food and drink..... The Shepherd & Dog at Forward Green serves excellent meals and is home to the famous Wagyu burger.

Parking..... You can park in the Village Hall Car Park at the centre of the village. Parking is prohibited on the Village Green.

History

Dating back to Roman times, Earl Stonham is most famous for its church St Mary’s Church the Church of St Mary the Virgin, the only grade one listed building in Earl Stonham. Built in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries of stone and flint, it has probably the finest single hammer beam roof in the country. In addition there are medieval wall paintings and a unique set of hour glasses.

In the Suffolk Records Office there is a copy of a map dated 1587 of the Manor of Earl Stonham. A manor was an area of land allocated to a lord by the King in payment for services. The map has the same boundaries as the parish of Earl Stonham today.

The map shows four greens, Middlewood Green, Forrolde (now Forward) Green, Broad Green and Wicks Green. They are all shown as open spaces on the map, whilst the rest of the land is divided into areas with the name of the farmer written on each area.

Today, much of the village revolves around the Village Hall, located in the centre of the village. It is also the home to a thriving cricket club and many community activities.

Earl Stonham is a local hotspot for recreational walkers, with beautiful countryside and gentle footpaths offering hours of foot stepping for even the occasional rambler.
The highlighted coloured circular routes were created by Earl Stonham Parish Council as walks of particular interest. They are all marked on waymarkers with coloured discs.

- Red Route: 5.5km
- Blue Route: 6.2km
- Green Route: 6.5km
- Gold Route: 8.7km