PLACES OF INTEREST

Newe House. This fine Jacobean structure, built in 1622, features Dutch gables and a two storey porch with triangular pediments.

St. Mary’s Church. A beautiful cruciform building of flint, with Barnack stone dressings, built around 1100 A.D. The unusual octagonal crossing tower was added in the 14th century.

Nether Hall. Built around 1600, on the site of an earlier house which until the 14th century was the home of Lord Longford’s family, who still have Pakenham as their surname. The parish boundary between Thurston and Pakenham runs through the middle of the house. Owned in the 19th century by the Greene family, it was used as a Country Club until fairly recently.

The Dell. Is the site of an old chalk workings. It became a walled garden belonging to The Lodge before it was left to the village as a recreational area.

Pakenham is unique in having both a working windmill and watermill. Although not on the circular footpath route they are easily accessible and well worth a visit.

Watermill. A fine 18th century working watermill. The Domesday Survey records show that there was a watermill on the present site since 1086, thus corn has been ground here for 900 years. Bought and restored by the Suffolk Preservation Society in 1978, it is open to the public from Easter to September.

Windmill. Often seen on the screen in the early days of television and more recently in ‘Campion’. This magnificent five storey tarred brick tower mill was built about 1816. It was restored to full working order in the 1950’s. Open to the public by appointment.

FURTHER READING:

Pakenham - Village of Two Mills by N. R. Whitwell. Available from the Post Office.

The circular walk described in this leaflet lies 5 miles north east of Bury St. Edmunds in the Parish of Pakenham. It is approximately 5¼ miles long with opportunities for shortcuts back to the start. The route is clearly marked with public footpath signs and yellow waymark arrows displaying a circular walk symbol and should take about 2½ hours to complete. Although the route can be described as easy walking, waterproof footwear should be worn except in the driest of weather conditions.

The following Ordnance survey sheet would be useful to show the rights of way in adjoining areas: Pathfinder series sheet TL 86/96 Bury St Edmunds and Woolpit.

HOW TO GET THERE .......... 

By Road:
From Bury St Edmunds:
Off the A143 at the Bunbury Arms
From the A14:
Off the A1088 at Stowlangtoft

Parking:
Ample parking is available in the Church car park at the rear of the Church. Please park with care and consideration. The start of the walk is approximately opposite Newe House.

Refreshments:
The Fox Public House. Food available during opening hours. Village Stores and Post Office. (Early closing: Wednesday)

Watermill. (Open: Wed. Sat. Sun 2-5.30pm Easter - end Sept)

Produced by The Pakenham Conservation and Footpath Group

Funded by Suffolk County Council

Parish Paths partnership
A Countryside Commission Initiative

Printed on recycled paper Jan 1998
The Walk: From the Church car park follow the road back down Church Hill, turning right at junction with The Street and Fen Road. As you approach the Post Office on the left, you will see Newe House opposite. Continue over the river and on to The Owell estate, where the footpath passes behind some garages and gardens arriving at sign (2) on your right. Climb the stile and follow the circular footpath signs across the arable fields to Old Hall Farm and sign (3). Turn right through the farmyard turning right to follow the headland and climb the stile into the meadows and by circuitous route to Fen Road at sign (4).

Turn left and continue along the road past the council houses and bungalows to the bottom of the hill. Turn right where the road forks and carry on a short distance until the road meets a farm track at Baileypool and sign (5).

Pass along farmland, climbing 4 stiles before eventually reaching Bull Road at sign (6). Cross the road and follow the track to Beaumonts Hall Farm, passing between ponds and keeping to the left of the large modern storage barns. Continue onto the track leading to Pakenham Wood, and bear right to follow around perimeter of the wood to arrive at sign (7). Turn left here and pass through the wood, then turn right into the farm track before re-entering the wood to emerge finally at the rear of Newe House and sign (8).

Bear left over the stile and follow around the top of the meadow (The Close), uphill to enter the churchyard through the kissing gate, to St Mary's Church with its unusual octagonal tower. Leave via the main path and cross over the road to Nether Hall drive, sign (9), and continue until you reach the kissing gate. The route now leads straight across beautiful parkland, with a magnificent view to your right, of Nether Hall. Leave the parkland by a stile and a kissing gate and turn right into Sheeps Lane, which takes you to Thurston Road.

Turn right and continue along the road until you reach Home Farm Lane, sign (10) the next turning right. Follow this lane to emerge at the top of The Street. On the opposite side of the road is The Dell, an old chalk pit, which is well worth a visit, especially in early Spring, when it is carpetted with Snowdrops and Aconites.

Continue down The Street past the Old Village Pump, alongside The Fox Public House, and then on to the junction with Church Hill and back to the car park.

FOLLOW 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 close control
Keep to public paths across farmland
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
Take your litter home
Help to keep all water clean
Protect wildlife, plants and trees
Take special care on country roads
Make no unnecessary noise.

Circular Walk
Short Cuts
Other Footpaths
Metalled Roads

"Courtesy of St. Edmundsbury Borough Council"