Join the road to Wyverstone for a short distance, past 'Little Thatch' and over the bridge. Should you decide to walk to Bacton, continue a little further before turning left along a bridle path: 'Carr Lane'. The lane passes four medieval agricultural strips, 450 yards from the road, which are worth a detour to view.

The circular route turns right off the Wyverstone Road about 20 yards past the bridge and beside an interesting wetland area. The path continues on the left side of the hedgerow, past a field entrance, for 500 yards. You will notice the gaps in the hedge have recently been planted with traditional hedgerow shrubs. At the next footbridge, by turning right, you can take an alternative shorter route back to Westhorpe, which brings you out opposite the Old School.

The main route crosses the footbridge to turn left alongside the row of trees. At this point a former pollarded willow marked the parish boundary with Wyverstone. Travel on the right-hand side of the ditch and pond until you reach a junction. The path to the left takes you through Park Farm towards the village of Wyverstone. You will notice the listed flint barn with its date of 1886 in brick embedded in the wall.

The circular walk turns right at the junction, across an open field, to a row of oak, ash and lime trees planted in 1981. Can you spot the Japanese Elm? At the end of the row, turn right, along the field boundary, turning left at the footpath sign which will lead you down to the Church past Town Yard Cottages, recently renovated, and the listed barn of Rookery Farm.

### Traditional Hedgerow Trees and Shrubs:

- Ash
- Beech
- Birch
- Bird Cherry
- Blackthorn
- Cherry Plum
- English Elm
- Crab Apple
- Field Maple
- Haworth
- Guilder Rose
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Holly
- Horse Chestnut
- Willow
- Dogwood
- Elder
- Field maple
- Guilder Rose
- Hawthorn
- Hazle
- Holly
- Horse Chestnut
- Willow
- Oak
- Poplar
- Rowan
- Spindle
- Sycamore
- Wayfaring Tree
- Whitebeam
- Wild Cherry
- Wych Elm

### Remember to follow the Country Code.

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Fence 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.

### Car Parking:

There is room for about 6 cars to be left on the road beside the churchyard wall.
FOOTPATH MAP OF WESTHORPE

The complete circular route takes approximately 1 1/2 hours, with a detour to view the medieval strips.

KEY
- CIRCULAR ROUTE
- SHORTER ROUTE
- ADJOINING PATHS
- HEDGEROW
- WATER COURSE
- ROAD
- POND MOAT
- BUILDING LANDMARK

FOOTPATH MAP OF WESTHORPE

THE WALKS:
from WESTHORPE CHURCH

Facing the Church, take the opening at the right-hand end of the front wall with the laurel hedge on your right. Pass the end of the Church and continue to the bottom of the Churchyard where a gap in the hedge leads onto the edge of an 81/2 acre field. Note the tower of Finningham Church on the horizon to your right, about 1 1/2 miles distant.

At the bottom of the field – turning left will lead to Walsham-le-Willows, – turn right onto the circular route and travel for 600 yards in the direction of Finningham. The area which spreads to the north is part of the historic Westhorpe Deer Park. Today 3 Roe deer and 2 Red deer are often seen but back in 1538, the Deer Park boasted 100 Red and 200 Fallow deer.

At the next footbridge, instead of turning right across it to continue the circular route, you can continue on along the field edge until you reach a farm track which turns left and leads to Finningham. The recently planted hedgerow beside this track includes some 30 different species and has been achieved with help from Suffolk County Council.

The circular route crosses the footbridge and goes through Pond Meadow. The pond was de-silted in 1991. On reaching the concrete road you will notice Westhorpe Hall on your left, now a residential home for the elderly but steeped in history. During 1990/91 much of the moat was restored. The original hall was the home of Mary Tudor, sister of Henry VIII and Queen of France. Mary lived here after her marriage to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. Her mansion covered all the area within the moat and was a significant building with a courtyard.

At the street cross the road and go along the path, opposite, onto the village green an area rich in some 50 different species of wild flowers and grasses. Once, the green was cut regularly, but now it is managed as a traditional hay meadow, which greatly enhances its conservation value.

Brown Hare at full speed.