

Welcome

Dalham lies nestled in rolling countryside between Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds. The village is full of character with thatched cottages reflecting their original uses – a forge, a carpenter's and a laundry – and which retains an old malt kiln and a windmill.



Nearby Dalham Woods are carpeted with bluebells and wood anemones in spring, and hares and deer are often seen in the fields. The walks pass several historic buildings, including Dalham and Denham Halls, Old Desning Barn and the mounded remnants of Denham Castle.

All walks start at the Affleck Arms, the village pub (*open all day weekends, evenings mid-week – 01638 500306, CB8 8TG*). There is free parking at Dalham Village Hall on The Street (CB8 8TF).

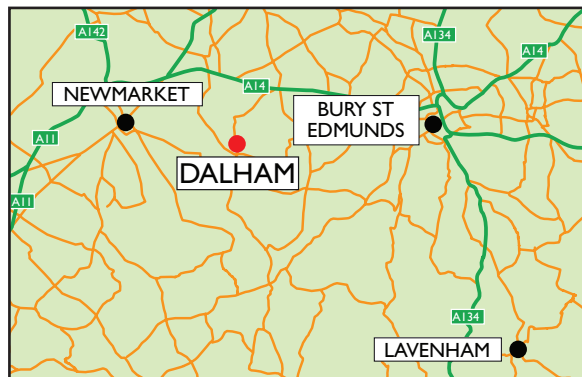
Each walk follows public footpaths, bridleways, farm tracks and quiet roads. There are no facilities along the walks so do take something with you or time your walk with the pub's opening times. Take care with dogs due to numerous game birds on the Dalham Estate.

Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you would find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under effective control.
- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs.



Location



Dalham is located 3 miles south of the A14 just south of Gazeley, mid-way between Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds. The post code for the Affleck Arms, where all walks start, is CB8 8TG

Public Transport

Dalham is served by bus service 312 between Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket. Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables and www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk (0871 200 2233) to plan your journey.

OS Explorer Map

Use O.S. Explorer Map 210 Newmarket & Haverhill to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

Discover Suffolk

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Circular Walks

Dalham Walks

Three circular walks in rolling countryside






Dalham Hall and Beech Row

DISTANCE: 2 miles (3.2km)

DURATION: 1 hour



WAYMARKER: Circular Walk





From the Affleck Arms , walk up The Street following the River Kennet on your left, past the village hall and Church Lane on your right. You'll pass a 19th century Malt Kiln on your left, once used for brewing beer and just one of 2 surviving malt kilns in Suffolk. Go through the wooden kissing gate on your right and head up the avenue of horse chestnut trees. This is a section of the Icknield Way , a prehistoric track that stretched from Norfolk to Wiltshire. Said to be the oldest road in Britain, the track was a trading route for East Anglia's Icení tribe. At the end of the avenue of trees, pass through a metal kissing gate to see Dalham Hall and Dalham Church .

Dalham Hall, a fine Queen Anne house, dates from 1705. It was purchased by the Affleck family (hence the pub's name), who were MPs for Cambridge and Suffolk. The hall remained in the Affleck family until 1901 when it was bought by Cecil Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia. He died before taking possession, but his brother Frank lived in the hall. It was later bought by Sheikh Mahktoum, the ruler of Dubai.

There is an obelisk monument to General Sir James Affleck outside the church. Walk around the church for views towards the hall.

Facing the church turn right down the road, fork left up the lane. At the top of the rise at a crossing of paths  continue ahead past a house on your right, cross a concrete track and head down a broad path between trees. This is Beech Row . If you look to your right you can see the beehive cap of Lower Windmill, an 18th century smock mill that once had 4 sails, which blew off in a gale in 1802. The windmill was in use until just after WW1 and its internal workings are still intact.

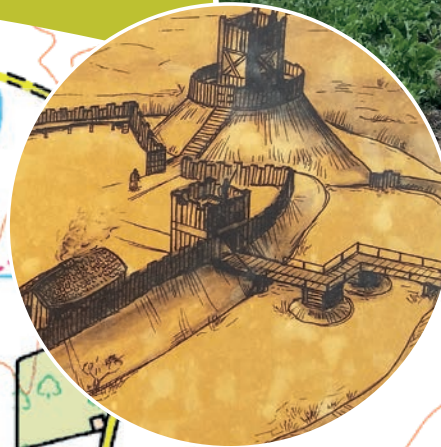
Go downhill, then briefly up until another track crosses and bear slightly right to find a path on the far side amongst trees. Follow this to skirt the edge of Leipsic Wood, and at a path junction  continue straight ahead on a beech lined path to Denham Road.

Turn right and follow the road back to Dalham, turning right onto The Street to return to the Affleck Arms .



Dalham Walks

Three circular walks in rolling countryside



KEY TO MAP

- Dalham Hall and Beech Row
- Brick Kiln Wood and Desning Hall Barn
- To Denham Castle and Denham Hall
- Public Footpath
- Bridleway
- +++++ Byway

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Brick Kiln Wood and Desning Hall Barn

DISTANCE: 5 ¾ miles (9 ¼ km)

DURATION: 2-3 hours

WAYMARKER: Circular Walk



Starting at ❶, follow the green walk to ❷. Turn left to follow the Icknield Way into Brick Kiln Wood. Follow the path through trees, down the left side of a field and sharp left into the wood again before crossing a clear area known as The Lawns ❸, a cross shaped patch created by the Dalham Hall estate, possibly for shooting. You pass a large oak on your left, then re-enter the wood and after a sharp left and right reach a post marking a fork in the path. Take the right hand fork over a plank bridge, emerging into farmland.

Turn right along the hedge to Desning Hall Barn ❹, part of which is 13th Century. At the barn turn right, then left, then right along a metalled farm track. Old Desning Hall, now vanished was once in the wood to your left. Shortly, turn left onto a bridleway. To your right is a trig point which, at 103m, marks the highest point on the walk.

Continue until you pass a small wood on your right and emerge into a field. Ignore the metal kissing gate in the hedge ❺ and continue on the left side of a field, over a wooden bridge, then diagonally across another field to its far right hand corner. Once through the hedge, follow a broad grassy path straight beside fields to eventually reach Denham Road ❻.

Turn right, and soon after Jillings Farm, right through a gap onto a footpath. This leads diagonally left across a

field, over a concrete track and the corner of another field, to a hedge line. Keep the hedge on your right to head downhill to a small footbridge. In the trees you cross another plank bridge and a small field before entering Leipsic Wood, an ancient woodland full of oaks, beech and elms.

Leipsic Wood is believed to have been named after the Battle of Leipzig (the Battle of the Nations) in 1813 – the decisive defeat of Napoleon's armies after his disastrous Russian campaign of 1812.

On reaching a T-junction of footpaths ❷, turn left to follow the green walk back to Dalham.

To Denham Castle and Denham Hall

DISTANCE: 5 miles (8km)

DURATION: 3 hours

WAYMARKER: Circular Walk



Start at ❶ and follow the red walk to ❷. Pass through the kissing gate, turning right to follow the edge of a large field. Ignore the track on your right to continue to a grassy path between fencing. You'll soon see the earthworks of Denham Castle ❸.

Denham Castle, built on top of an Anglo Saxon complex, was built during The Anarchy of King Stephen's reign in the first half of the 12th century, a time of ceaseless and chaotic civil war between partisans

of Stephen and his rival and England's first ever ruling queen, the formidable and extraordinary Maltida (whose son, Henry II, eventually succeeded Stephen in 1154). Like many emergency fortifications of the time, this was a simple timber and earth motte and bailey castle. Occupied by a garrison for just 10 years (1132 to 1142) it was positioned so that it could signal to Ely Cathedral, whose tower would be visible across the fens. An interpretation board tells more of its story.

Follow the path through a gate and head straight on alongside a fence downhill to a small wooden gate by a house. Go down the lane, then right at a footpath sign for Denham Church. At the tall deer gates, go through the first gate and then second on the right onto a broad grass track. This opens onto a field. Turn left onto the metalled track, then left at a finger post and follow another track uphill. Denham Church is in the distance.

Continue to a tarmac road, cross it to a path opposite and head up the right side of a field towards Denham Hall ❹.

Moated 16th century Denham Hall was home to Edward Lewkenor, parliamentarian under Elizabeth I, knighted by James I, but ultimately killed with his wife and son of smallpox. There are monuments to them in Denham Church just to your right.

Carry on around Denham Hall, keeping to the outside of the wooden fence and moat. At the end of the moat turn left and follow the footpath with a ditch to your right until a hedge, turn right and cross by a small bridge. Follow the left side of a large field, ignore the gap, at the corner turn right, then very soon left over another small bridge. Cross the field to the Denham Road ❺.

Turn left and follow the road past the junction with Dunstall Green Road ❻. Follow the red walk back to Dalham.