

Welcome to Ixworth

Ixworth is steeped in history. Whilst little is known about the area in the Neolithic period, apart from scattered finds of flint hand tools, prior to Roman occupation it was occupied by Celtic tribes including the Iceni. With the Romans came settlement, roads and a Roman Fort which stood on the outskirts of modern Ixworth, probably built to suppress the Iceni tribe and their infamous Queen Boudicca.

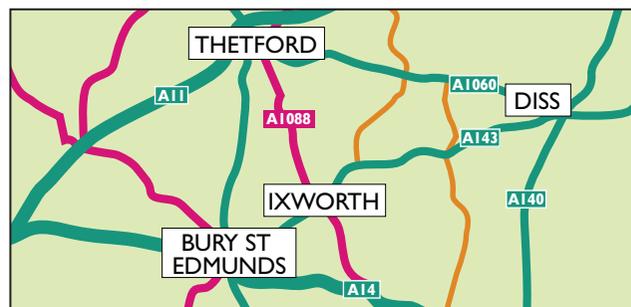
After the Romans came the Angles and Saxons who settled in scattered hamlets. By the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), there were two main Manors in the village and by the Domesday Book (1085-6) the population was recorded as being little more than 50 people.

With the Normans came great upheaval and many of the fine timber framed buildings, which can be seen today, were constructed after this time.

Today, Ixworth is a thriving community with a vibrancy that reflects its rich cultural legacy, with a lovely cafe, 2 pubs, a diverse range of shops and an excellent children's play area by the village hall.



Location



Ixworth is 6 miles north east of Bury St Edmunds, just off the A143 Bury to Diss road.

Free parking is available in front of the village hall, opposite the Church of St Mary the Virgin, at the southern end of High Street. All walks start from there. Public toilets (including accessible) are available beside the village hall

Public Transport

Public transport is available to Ixworth. Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables or www.travellineeastanglia.co.uk (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

Use O.S. Explorer Maps 211 Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket, and 230 Diss & Harleston to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

Discover Suffolk

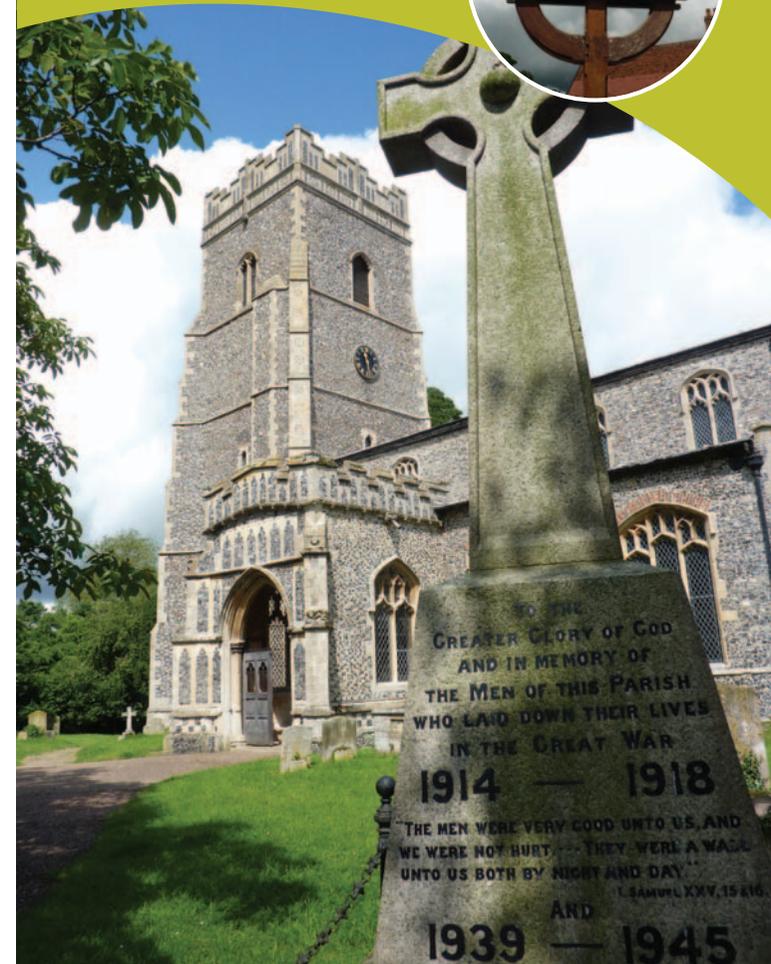
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Produced by Suffolk County Council and Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council



Ixworth Walks

Three circular walks
around historic Ixworth



Ixworth Circular Walk

Start: Village Hall/Library

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) or 5 miles (8kms) with western loop

Duration: approx 2-3 hours

From the Village Hall walk across the High Street to the Church of St. Mary the Virgin **1**. At the time of the Domesday survey (1086) this was a Norman church and today the oldest surviving structures are the Priest's door and the chancel arch (1200).

Notice the flint flushwork patterns on the tower and the angel roof inside.

Terrain: Generally level walk on footpaths, bridleways and quiet lanes with no steep hills or stiles. All walks do include crossing the A143 which needs great care. The Roman Trail includes steps to the A143 crossing. In wet weather paths will be muddy so may be less suitable for pushchair and wheelchair users

Turn right at the war memorial, through the churchyard to exit on to Commister Lane. Turn left and curve right and take the bridleway on the left opposite Abbey Close **2**.

This 'green lane' was the original medieval highway from Ixworth to Great Livermere and Troston. On both sides are ditches, remnants of fishponds used by the Augustinian Canons of Ixworth Abbey **3** which you can see across the meadow on your left. Founded in 1172, the Abbey and its lands were 'acquired' in 1537 by Henry VIII and the house later passed into private hands. The façade you see today dates from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries but the medieval core and crypt still remain.

Pause awhile at Hempyard Bridge **4**, a former packhorse bridge, under the shade of a fine Black Poplar and play 'Pooh sticks' as you look at the pleasant views of the River Blackbourne. Continue between open fields towards a small plantation and swing right up a slope towards an uncluttered skyline. Turning round you can enjoy a panoramic view of the village.

Turn left on to a grassy track **5**.

Western Loop (1 mile, 1.5km)

Instead of turning left at **5** continue past a private track on the right to the end of the copse on the left where you turn left along a bridleway. The bridleway veers left across a shallow ditch past a small copse and then follows a deep ditch until it meets Heath Lane. Turn left and walk past Gameclose Covert to rejoin the main route **6**.

The grassy track takes you to two Copper Beech trees, and all that remains of Brewster's Farm. Brewster's Farm was once owned by Reginald Appleyard. During the 1930's he developed the famous all white 'Ixworth Chickens'.

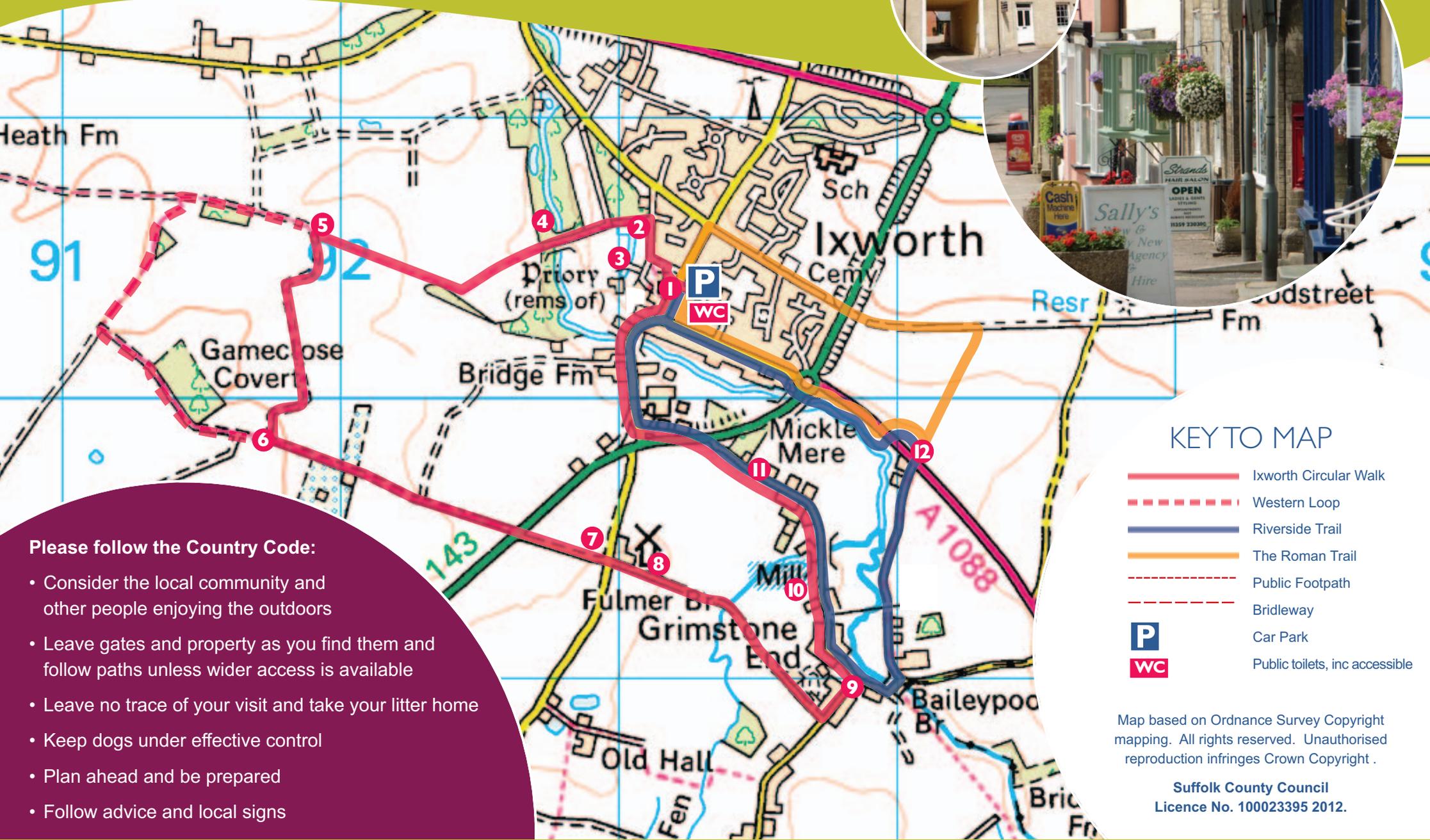
The track leads to a firm gravelled path before reaching Heath Lane **6**. As you follow the track admire the view of Pakenham Windmill ahead. Take extreme care crossing the main road, and then head uphill along Cutters Lane. As you reach the rise you cross the line of a Roman Road **7** which ran from Chelmsford to The Wash (now the Peddars Way). On the left was the Roman Fort that stood on the outskirts of Ixworth.

Pakenham Windmill **8** is one of two working mills in Pakenham and is a five storey, tarred brick tower mill built in 1831. It was fully restored in 2000 and is in full working order.



Ixworth Walks

Three circular walks around historic Ixworth



Please follow the Country Code:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you 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

KEY TO MAP

	Ixworth Circular Walk
	Western Loop
	Riverside Trail
	The Roman Trail
	Public Footpath
	Bridleway
	Car Park
	Public toilets, inc accessible

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Carry on down Thieves Lane and over Fulmer Bridge to the junction with Fen Road. Turn left and continue to another T-junction where you turn left onto Mill Road 9. In a short distance you will reach Pakenham Watermill 10.

Pakenham Watermill dates from the 18th century and is the last working watermill in Suffolk. For over 1000 years millers have been using waterpower to produce stone ground wholemeal flour from locally grown wheat. Today, the mill is maintained and operated by a team of dedicated volunteers who continue this tradition. It is open to visitors and has a tearoom and a programme of events throughout the year (contact 01379 783 554, pakenhamwatermill.org.uk)

Past the watermill enjoy beautiful views over the 17 hectares of the Mickle Mere 11, a low lying seasonal wetland owned by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. On your right is the entrance to a bird hide, full of fascinating information including the Suffolk Barn Owl project. Do read the wildlife records book. The mere dries out during the summer but at other times regularly floods providing excellent opportunities to see many species of migrating waterfowl. The mere is also home to a variety of mammals including otters and water voles.

Returning to Mill Road, continue to the A143 and take great care crossing the road. Walk to the left and then right to enter the southern end of High Street. Many of the houses along High Street date from 14th-16th century. Notice Tollgate Cottage on your right and the half timbered

Bridge Farm just before you cross the River Blackbourne. Continue along High Street to return to the Village Hall.



Riverside Trail

Start: Village Hall/Library
Distance: 3 miles (5km)
Duration: approx 1-2 hours



From the Village Hall car park turn left down the High Street to the village sign. This is the site of the original market granted by Richard II in 1384. There are 4 medieval houses; Ridgetile House on your left (late 14th century); Dover Farm (15th century) named after a Mary Dover who occupied in the mid 1800s; Holmlea (16th century) and Cyder House (15th century).

Turn left along Stow Road and before the roundabout, cross to follow the path down some steps between trees. This takes you under the A143 flyover to the riverside.

Through the kissing gate follow the path beside the roadside fence until the river bend after which you continue beside the river. Turn left at the next fence to leave the riverside via another gate. Carefully cross the road to the field opposite where you turn right and walk along the edge of a field to safely re-cross the road at the old pumping station 12. Follow Baileypool Lane, over Baileypool Bridge to the junction with Mill Road where you join the Ixworth Circular Walk 9.



The Roman Trail

Start: Village Hall/Library
Distance: 2 miles (3km)
Duration: approx 1 hour

From the Village Hall car park turn right along the High Street past The Pykkerell Hotel and then right down Crown Lane. At the end of Crown Lane take the steps down to the A143. **Take great care crossing the road.**

Continue straight ahead along Crown Lane where, to the right, on the sloping field with sweeping views to Mickle Mere, once stood a substantial Roman Villa. This was first discovered in 1834 and excavated in 1849 and then again in 1948 by Basil Brown, famous for his work at Sutton Hoo.

At the end of this field, turn right and at the A1088, right again to walk along the edge of the field, before crossing the road to join the Riverside Trail via a gate. The trail goes under the A143 and on to Stow Road, leading back to High Street. Alternatively, carefully cross the A1088 12 to join the Riverside Trail along Baileypool Lane.

What's in a name?

Ixworth is probably a corruption of the Saxon Gycsa or Gisca, meaning soil or place.