

Welcome

Wickhambrook has a rich history and has always been a busy, interesting place to live. In Saxon times it was called Wickham and was clustered around the church, today a conservation area. The Domesday Book records the village as "Wicham". It is the largest parish in Suffolk and has over 25km of rights of way.

Sitting about 10 miles from Bury, Newmarket and Haverhill, it inspired local author John Bean to write "10 Miles from Anywhere". It contains three 16th century timber-framed manor houses, ten village greens and a post box unique to Britain. It once had a resident mole catcher and until 1980 even had a vineyard at Genesis Green!

Wickhambrook hosts an annual carnival and flower show, and each year presents the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel award to a resident recognising their outstanding service to the community. The village has an excellent website, well worth visiting, packed full of information at www.wickhambrook.org.

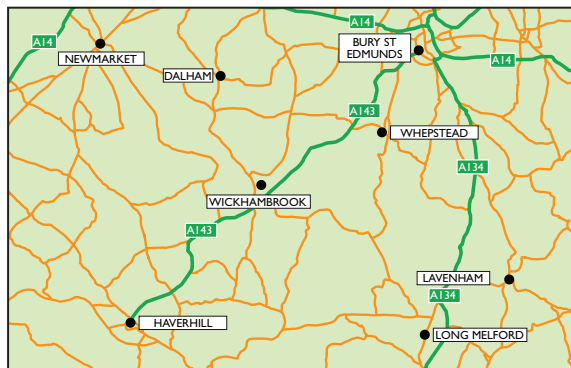
The village stores and Greyhound pub (greyhoundwickhambrook.co.uk) are open every day.

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



Wickhambrook is located where the A143 meets the B1063, almost equidistant from Newmarket, Haverhill, Long Melford and Bury St Edmunds.

All walks start at the Memorial Social Centre car park on Cemetery Road (CB8 8XP).

Public Transport




Wickhambrook is served by bus service 14 between Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill.

Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables or www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk (08712 002 233) 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

Discover more walking and cycling leaflets by visiting www.discoversuffolk.org.uk. Follow us on   

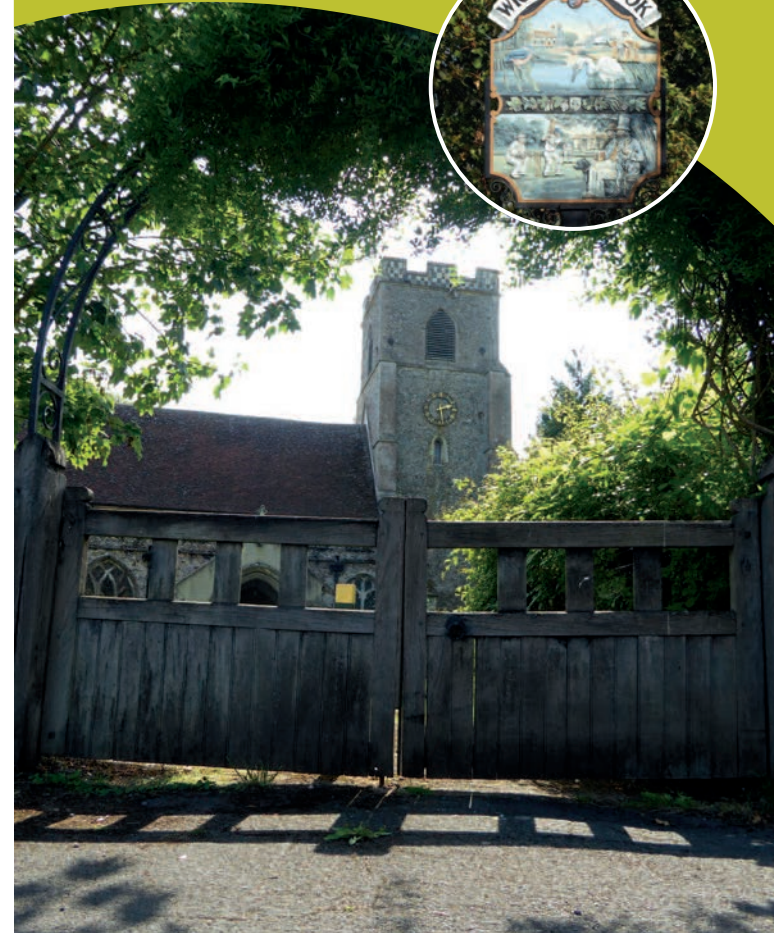
Produced by Wickhambrook Parish Council and Suffolk County Council.



Circular Walks

Wickhambrook Walks

Three circular walks around Wickhambrook



North to Genesis Green

DISTANCE: 5 miles (8km)

DURATION: 2 1/2 hours

WAYMARKER: Red Circular Walk



From the car park ①, turn right down Cemetery Road and take the footpath on the right between the W.I Hall and cemetery.

The WI was founded in 1926 but had no village hall, so members started raising funds. The Institute was given land in the village centre and later bought an ex-World War 1 single storey army barrack room; a wooden building with a felt roof and wooden floor. This became a focal point used for meetings, socials, dances, and for

jam-making and canning during World War 2. The building is still in constant use with activities such as Swing Dance, Pilates and Yoga.

Cross the small footbridge and continue with the ditch and bank on your right. Turn left at the field corner and follow the field edge. At the road turn right ②.

After crossing a bridge climb the stile on your left opposite the road junction to Denston. Veer left, across a culvert then veer right to a stile. You may have the company of sheep.

Cross a stile and continue with a stream on your right through a hedge until you reach a concrete bridge. Turn left and immediately right to soon skirt a small wood on your right. On seeing the stream again follow the path into the wood.

After entering the shade, cross two bridges to meet a wide byway ③. Turn right. You now follow a long ribbon of trees with the stream still on your right. On emerging from the trees at a slight incline (a pond can be seen on your right), veer left to follow a byway to Genesis Green.

At the road continue ahead towards the green, one of 10 greens in the village, and a bench, the half way point ④. Continue on the Ousden road, taking the left fork at the next junction, passing Genesis Green Stud. The

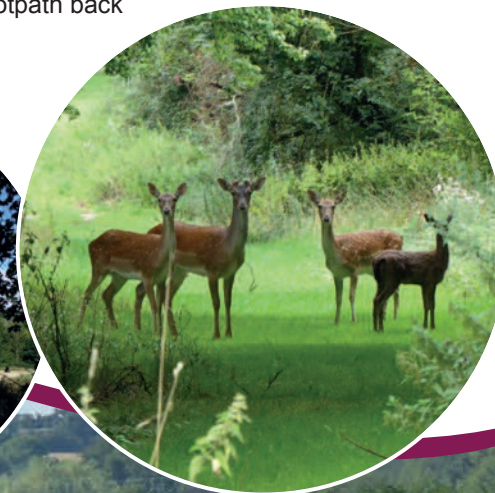
lane stops at a BT compound. Take the footpath on the left before reaching the BT compound. Follow the footpath into Spring Wood ⑤.

Spring Wood is a nature reserve, look out for deer (keep dogs on leads). In 1942, a German plane came down in this wood. The crew gave themselves up to a local gamekeeper, whose only weapon was a pitchfork. They were taken to RAF Stradishall and given a meal. Their plane was exhibited in Norwich.

At the far end of the woods, the track becomes a grassy path. At a path junction follow the footpath left into a field (straight on is a private drive).

Follow the field edge onto a narrow zig-zag path behind the garden of a large house to the road. You are now just south of Genesis Green.

Turn right. The road soon bends right but continue straight ahead onto a footpath passing a metal gate. Stay with the tree line on your left until it turns sharply left uphill. Continue ahead across a field to return to the byway ③ you followed earlier. Turn right and follow the byway until you reach Coltsfoot Green. At the road turn right, pass Coltsfoot Close, and then left, to retrace your steps on the footpath back to the car park.



Wickhambrook Circular Walks

Three circular walks around Wickhambrook



KEY TO MAP

- North to Genesis Green
- South to Malting End
- Church Circuit
- - - - - Public Footpath
- - - - - Bridleway
- +++++ Byway

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South to Malting End

DISTANCE: 4 miles (6.5km)

DURATION: 2 hours

WAYMARKER: Green Circular Walk



Follow the red walk to 2

Turn right into Coltsfoot Close and immediately left onto a footpath. This grassy path runs behind houses before swapping sides of a hedge, skirting the Waste Water Treatment Works, and then reaching Cloak Lane. Turn right 3.

Cloak House on the left used to be the Cloak Public House until it closed in 1989. It is supposedly haunted by 'a little old lady in white.' At the junction, on your right is the large pink coloured Commerce House. This is the tallest thatched house in Suffolk and used to be a coffee house and grocery shop.

Cross the main road and climb the stile to follow the footpath. After the second stile continue beside the brook until you reach the road. Continue ahead to a bench on Attleton Green 4, one of ten greens in Wickhambrook.

Opposite the bench, take the footpath over a metal footbridge, and follow the path through a wooded ribbon, past a field, to paddocks on your left. Turn left at the end of the wooden fencing. This short stretch uphill brings you to a road. Turn left, then right at the T-junction. Follow the road to the main road. Cross over. There are good views over the valley to the left. The road leads to a hamlet where you follow a footpath around the perimeter to reach a vehicle track on the far side and turn left. Look behind you along the track 5.

The first building on the left, at the top of the hill, was the village bake house until 1996 when Ron Penhaligan, the baker, and his wife Edna, the deliverer, retired.

Shortly after joining the track take the footpath on the left downhill and round the edge of the field to Wash Lane just above the ford 6. Turn left, up to the main road.

The building opposite, Bank House, was once the village bank run by Lloyds.

Turn right and follow the pavement, crossing Cloak Lane, until you reach the school. Turn right onto the footpath 7.

Wickhambrook was late acquiring a school as no-one was prepared to give land. One was eventually opened in 1878. Along the footpath is the thatched School Cottage. This was originally on the donated site and with no foundations was dragged by horses to its present location. In 1890 there were 150 pupils, much the same as today. The frontage is original.

At the recreation ground, after passing the tennis courts, head diagonally left to return to the car park.

Church Circuit

DISTANCE: 4 miles (6.5km)

DURATION: 2 hours

WAYMARKER: Blue Circular Walk



The Memorial Social Centre 1, built in 1951, commemorates the dead of two world wars. At each Annual General Meeting the names of the fallen from the village are read out.

Follow Cemetery Road downhill past the cemetery. At the crossroads, on the left, is the United Reform Church Meeting House (beyond is the Greyhound Pub) 2.

'Dissenting worship' began in Wickhambrook in 1670 when the Rev. Samuel Cradock came to live at Gesyns, slightly north of here. He began unauthorised preaching on Sundays and it became a Dissenting Academy. Dissenters were barred from studying at Oxford or Cambridge so many influential preachers studied in this village. In 1726, the aptly named Thomas Priest came as Pastor to the dissenters and was instrumental in raising money to build the Meeting House we see today. The building opened in 1734.

Continue ahead and at the top of the hill take the bridleway on the right 3. At the end negotiate a dog leg to continue downhill between fields. Cross the concrete bridge and follow the field edge to the right. At the field corner, turn left and head uphill towards trees. You will enter a shady corridor which leads to a road. Turn left 4.

Soon after Coopers Croft take the footpath on the right. This leads across a small meadow, then a stile and onto a narrow path beside a fence. The Church of All Saints can be seen in the distance. This path opens up to a field headland which continues downhill. Go through a kissing gate and enter a grassy path between hawthorn hedges.

On reaching a gravel track veer left to find another kissing gate and the road. Turn right. The Church of All Saints 5 is on the left.

The White House on the right was once an inn and between 1940 and 1980 housed the doctor's surgery. One local used a donkey to travel and the animal was regularly seen outside while he attended his appointment.

The church of All Saints is 11th Century with the last addition 15th Century. Visit the interactive website <https://bansfieldbenefice.org.uk/wickhambrook/> for more information.

Take the next road on the left and cross the ford. Then follow the green walk from 6 to return to the car park.