

Welcome

The most distinctive features of Wortham and Burgate are the large grassland commons around which most of the residential properties are situated; Great Green and Little Green, Furze Way, Stubbings Green, Long Green, The Marsh, Magpie Green and the Ling.

Most common land dates to medieval times when much of the land was managed by the Lord of the Manor who allowed his tenants to use this pasture and waste land for grazing livestock, removing wood, turf or even gathering acorns.

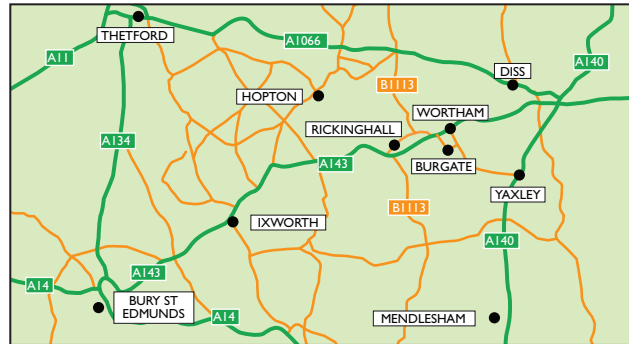
All these areas of common land are open public access and each has its own character and wildlife. These commons have remained virtually unchanged for hundreds of years and today are managed by grazing with sheep and horses. This continuity has encouraged a wealth of plants including orchids, dyer's greenwood, cowslips, oxslips and ox-eye daisies.

An extensive network of Public Rights of Way and rural lanes connect these commons. The walks described in this leaflet are characterised by wide open spaces, with plenty of variety and wildlife interest.

Parking and other facilities are available at the Wortham Post Office and Tea Rooms and The Manor House pub, both situated alongside the A143.



Location



Wortham and Burgate are divided by the A143. 18 miles from Bury St Edmunds, 25 miles from Ipswich and 3 miles from Diss.

Public Transport

There are regular buses from Bury, Diss and Stowmarket.

Visit www.suffolkonboard.com (0345 606 6171) or www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

OS Explorer Map

Use O.S. Explorer Map 230 Diss & Harleston to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

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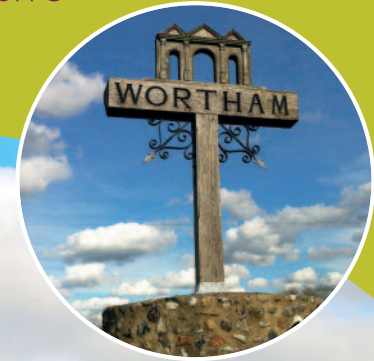
Produced by Suffolk County Council and Wortham & Burgate Parish Council.



Circular Walks

Wortham and Burgate

A common or two



The Commons Walk

DISTANCE: 6 miles (9½ km)

DURATION: 3 hours

WAYMARKER: Blue Circular Walk



With the tea room on your left, head alongside the A143 and turn left to The Marsh ① then left along the wide track, past a row of cottages and over a bridge to reach open farm land.

Long Green and The Marsh commons were used for animal grazing and for Turbary; cutting and using turf or peat for household fuel.

In front of you to the right ② follow the footpath straight ahead, which passes through several fields and hedgerows, until you reach the road ③.



Follow the footpath opposite into a meadow, angling slightly right to a gate hidden in the tree line to the left of a large oak. The path continues diagonally across the next field to a kissing gate in the left hand corner ④.

The path angles right across a field, past a large white house to Wortham Ling ⑤.

The white house is the former parish workhouse, which could accommodate up to 85 children. The boys did gardening and spade husbandry; the girls sowed and carried out domestic work.

Wortham Ling is characterised by cropped grass and heather interspersed with gorse scrub. There are numerous paths that crisscross the common which can be explored.

Turn left along the lane and take the path opposite the dog bin, across the common and then alongside Ling Road ⑥ until you pass Ling Farm ⑦, turn left at the footpath sign onto a wide green lane.

Continue to the top of the hill and turn right ⑧ along a field edge footpath and through a small wood. Turn left, follow path to a bend ⑨, continuing straight ahead across open field. At the road turn left towards the church ⑩.

The round tower of the church dates from c.1160AD. In the mid-1900s the Rector Richard Cobbald, wrote and illustrated parish life. Books on this subject are available from the Post Office.

Follow the road to Mellis ⑪ and after an s-bend take the footpath on your right ⑫. The footpath curves left with the hedge to your right.

At the crossing of footpaths ⑬, continue ahead. Cross the bridge ⑭, the hedge is now on your left. At the large bridge ⑮ turn left and follow the path to Long Green ⑯ turn left.

Horses and sheep graze Long Green; at certain times of the year you may have to duck under or avoid temporary electric fencing.

Follow along the edge of Long Green, past White House Farm and along a sports field to Church Road ⑰. The track opposite leads you to the start.

A Taste of the Angles Way

DISTANCE: 2½ miles (4 km)

DURATION: 1¼ hours

WAYMARKER: Green Circular Walk



Start your walk from Wortham Ling car park ❶.

The Ling is open heath characterised by undulating, rabbit cropped grass and heather from which it gets its name. (Ling is another word for heather) It is peppered with low hawthorns and gorse bushes.

Turn right out of the car park then left at the T-junction. Take the road on the right following it, **taking care on the bend**, until the footpath on your right next to a post box in the wall ❷.

Continue along the narrow path, passing a thatched cottage on your right, through a kissing gate and up a lovely secluded valley. Meadow land grazed by cattle and guarded by giant pollard oaks.

Pass through 3 gates then angle right ❸ to head for the wooden gates with the church visible beyond. Through a gate in the corner of the field bringing you into the delightful churchyard.

There are several interesting grave stones, a war Memorial and a fine lych-gate here.

The church is also worthy of exploration. The round tower is an excellent example of early flint work and is the largest tower in England. There was a major overhaul of the rest of the church between 1890 and 1912.

Exit through the lych-gate, turn right and head along Magpie Hill and take the footpath on the right ❹, continue across field until you meet a broad farm track ❺.

Pause and enjoy the fine view of the church and Hall Farm.

Keep ahead with hedge on your right; the track will become a field edge path. The path leads right ❻ through a small wood, and becomes another field edge path.

Turn left onto a wide track ❼ which soon becomes a green lane heading downhill to the road.

The hedges on either side of this lane proved to be the most species rich in the parish when surveyed in 2006.

Turn right past Ling Farm on your left ❽. Continue along Low Road until the Ling opens out on either side. The car park is on your left ❶.

The Burgate Walk

DISTANCE: 4 miles (6½ km)

DURATION: 1¾ hours

WAYMARKER: Red Circular Walk



With the tea room to your left, head alongside the A143 until you reach the Byway on your right, cross the road with care ❶.

Continue along the green lane, with fine views over farmland on both sides, until you reach the T-junction ❷, turn right onto a farm track and continue to the road ❸.

At Hill Farm in 1513, land owner John Waller murdered the Rector of Burgate in a dispute over a tithe payment. Sentenced to death, Mr Waller was said to have been hanged from a large tree in Sycamore Road.

Cross the road to follow Sycamore Road opposite. At the junction ❹ turn left, follow the lane past Burgate Church, to Hall Farm; take the cross field footpath right ❺. The path leads you on past Burgate Wood onto Great Green ❻.

Great Green is a fine example of a grazed common, marshy land with acid soils, unchanged for hundreds of years. 20/30 species of grass and over 300 species of moths and butterflies have been recorded.

Turn right onto the track and around the Green to reach Green Farm ❼. Turn left onto the grass track and after Charlie Flatman's bench turn right by Chapel House ❽. After The Old Chapel, follow the footpath right ❾.

Howard's Nursery's reservoir on the right is a haven for wildlife; the surrounding fields are awash with colour in early summer with their irises.

After the Nursery turn left ❿, follow the field edge path ahead, through a gap in the hedge to the pub car park ❶. Turn right back to the start.