

# DISCOVER WICKHAM MARKET

There's something deliciously off-the-beaten track and authentic about Wickham Market. Pop into its independent shops or sit and sip a while at a café on 'The Hill' and you can't help noticing a friendly spot of 'old Suffolk' about the place. Get a taste for its small-scale colourful markets - big on local produce and personal service. Graze for gifts, antiques and irresistible vintage finds. Let the kids feast on indoor and outdoor playtime fun. Or why not go for a wander and mill about down near the River Deben?

With roads and rail routes to Ipswich and Lowestoft just across the fields and East Suffolk's heritage coast only a cycle ride away, it's the perfect place to stay and explore.

At the heart of an ancient area connected to Roman settlements and Sutton Hoo stories, bookended by the mighty castles of Framlingham and Orford and with a wonderfully rich history of its own, Wickham Market is so much more than just a large village - it's a great little discovery.

## Did you know?

The village of Wickham Market has one of the largest conservation areas in Suffolk. Delve into its history at its archive centre: [wickhammarketaac.onesuffolk.net/](http://wickhammarketaac.onesuffolk.net/) [wickham-market-area-archive-centre](http://wickham-market-area-archive-centre)

## Fun & Games

There are sports and activities for everyone, plus soft play opportunities for the little ones, on Wickham Market's doorstep.

What will you choose?

Tennis: [wickhammarkettennisclub.org](http://wickhammarkettennisclub.org)

Horse Riding: [valleyfarm.co.uk](http://valleyfarm.co.uk)

Golf: [gleveringmill.co.uk](http://gleveringmill.co.uk)/[uffordpark.co.uk](http://uffordpark.co.uk)

Yoga & Dance: [threetunspettistree.co.uk](http://threetunspettistree.co.uk)

Fishing: (guests only) [orchardcampsite.co.uk](http://orchardcampsite.co.uk)

Crazy Golf: [uffordpark.co.uk/golf/congo-rapids](http://uffordpark.co.uk/golf/congo-rapids)

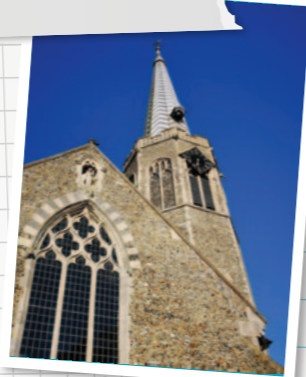
Soft Play: [oliverhaywardplaybarn.co.uk](http://oliverhaywardplaybarn.co.uk);

[eastonfarmpark.co.uk](http://eastonfarmpark.co.uk)

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## On Route for Travellers through Time...

Although tucked away today, Wickham Market ironically owes its rich history to being very much on (rather than off!) the beaten track. Before 1975 the village High Street was the A12 artery from London to Lowestoft, but the story started long before that...

Local finds confirm Roman and Iron Age activity near the river, close to the Roman road from Coddensham (Combretrium) towards the coast. To the south, a royal Anglo-Saxon settlement lies near Rendlesham. Both Campsea Ashe and Letheringham had early monastic sites whilst the granting of medieval fairs and markets saw local manors flourish or flounder and inns established for travellers.

By 1785, Wickham Market found itself on the Ipswich to Yarmouth turnpike road, soon to welcome stage coaches, increased trade and industry. The rest is village history...

## But not quite on Track

Alight at Wickham Market railway station and you're in... Campsea Ashe! Just why it's 2.5 miles away from the village is not so much a mystery as a missed opportunity. Not wanting to sacrifice rich farmland, short-sighted 1850s landowners simply refused to have the railway anywhere near the parish boundaries! In the 1920s, the village-centre livestock market was relocated near the station for convenience and is still an auction house today.

## Who Travelled This Way?

- **Cromwell's soldiers**, billeted at The Crown and George Inns (1640s)
- **John Kirby**, author of 'The Suffolk Traveller', lived here (1732-1753)
- **Lord Nelson** reputedly stopped at The White Hart (late 1700s)
- **Wounded soldiers** from the Battle of Waterloo (1815)
- **Carriers** carting 5000 bricks from Benhall to build The National School (1840s)
- **Nearly 100 Basque children** (Spanish Civil War refugees), housed at the old Plomesgate Union Workhouse (1938-39)

## Buried Treasures

Possibly wages intended for Iceni warriors, the remarkable Iron Age Wickham Market Hoard of 840 gold coins or 'staters' (buried AD 15 - discovered 2008) is now in the Ipswich Museum. Look out for a little Roman bronze dog there too, found at nearby Hacheston: [ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk](http://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk)

## Harvesting Traditions

Wickham Market hosted the forerunner of The Suffolk Show eight times between 1832 and 1849. The seeds for it were sown in the old White Hart when the village's old inns were very much community spaces.

Wickham's Annual Horticultural Show - in the village calendar for over seven decades! - remains a long-standing tradition, just like meeting up for a 'yarn' at the weekly 'sale', the local auction and former livestock market.

## Markets & Milestones

Market Village: since 1440  
Market Days: Wednesday & Saturday  
Traditional Weekly 'Sale' Day: Monday  
(Weekly auction with market stalls 2.5 miles away at Campsea Ashe)

Ipswich: 13 miles/21 kms  
Lowestoft: 32 miles/52 kms  
Norwich: 42 miles/68 kms  
Woodbridge: 5 miles/8 kms  
Coast (Orford): 10 miles/16 kms

## Truly Wickham Market's Best-kept Secret

The legacies of Wickham Market's family of unsung Victorian engineering pioneers and philanthropists live on in more than just the village's bricks and mortar...

After Garrett & Sons of Leiston and Ransome (Sims) of Ipswich, Whitmore & Binyon of Wickham Market ranked amongst Suffolk's top three 1800s giants of agricultural engineering. Founded in 1780 by Wickham Market millwright, Nathaniel Whitmore, come 1864, its Deben-side iron foundry and

engineering works employed 200 men. It exported its products across the globe, putting Wickham Market on the map.

Nathaniel's grandson, John (1801-1872), and great grandson, William (1833-1909), forged ahead with the business as 'Millwrights, Engineers, Founders & Boiler Makers'. Their 1868 partnership with George Binyon (related to the Sims engineering family) lasted until the firm's demise in 1901, but George lived only briefly in the village. The Whitmores however were great movers and shakers around the place. Take a walk and find out more...

## Inspiring Stuff

Amazing feats of engineering go back - and reach up - a long way in Wickham Market. Octagonal from bottom to top, All Saints' highly unusual church tower 'grew' from c. 1384. Together with its steeple (re-clad 1960s/70s), it stands 42 metres (137.5ft) tall - that's a stack of 10 double decker busses! It is considered the only one of its kind in Suffolk and that there is no other steeple quite like it in England.

- Key**
- ➔ Railway Station
  - 🚌 Bus Stop
  - P Parking
  - WC Public Toilets
  - L Library
  - C Chemist
  - PO Post Office
  - ⛺ Campsite
  - A Recreation/Play Area
  - B Tennis Courts
  - C Equestrian Centre
  - D Golf (Pay & Play)
  - E Children's Indoor Soft Play (up to age 7)
  - ..... Footpath



## ENGINEERS & ENTREPRENEURS HERITAGE WALK



OS MAP: 212

FROM/TO: The Hill, Wickham Market IP13 0QS

Explore Wickham Market's industrious past and how the pioneering Whitmore family of millwrights and engineers moved up in the world - literally and otherwise!

Start on The Hill 1. Go left down High Street (aka Snowdon Hill) (B1438). Right into George Lane where a mill stood until late 1800s. At 'Glebe Allotments', right along footpath to Crown Lane. Straight ahead into churchyard; left into green space, 'The Pigtle' (former village animal pound). Cross diagonally to end of Church Terrace. Right along Church Lane. Left into Mill Lane. Views (right) of Plomesgate Union Workhouse 2 where John Whitmore did building jobs, then Sampson's Mill 3 (remains of 12-sided smock mill) - both now dwellings.

Left into Spring Lane to junction with High Street (possibly settlement around former green, 'Middisford'). Turn right to Wickham Bridge. Cross road. Deben Mills 4 was owned by Reuben Rackham in William Whitmore's day. Grade II\* listed complex includes 1868 brick steam mill (right), now without chimney - home to Whitmore & Binyon's first revolutionary roller mill in 1893.

## GETTING AROUND

By Road: A12 (Ipswich/London/Lowestoft)  
By Bus: [thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk](http://thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk)  
By Rail: East Suffolk Line (Wickham Market at Campsea Ashe) [eastsuffolklines.co.uk](http://eastsuffolklines.co.uk); [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)  
By Bike: Close to National Cycle Network route 1 & Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route (Regional route 41).  
Walking/Cycling/Horse-riding: [discoversuffolk.org.uk](http://discoversuffolk.org.uk)  
Car Parks/Cashless & Ticketless Parking: [myringgo.co.uk](http://myringgo.co.uk)  
OS Maps: OS Explorer 212

## The Pocket Guide to WICKHAM MARKET

Historic Market Village & Transport Hub  
Independent Shops • Farming & Industrial Heritage  
Lost Villages, Lords, Kings & Castles • Cycle Rides  
Abbeys & Ancient History • Discovery Walks



The Pocket Guide to WICKHAM MARKET

THESUFFOLKCOAST.CO.UK

## EXPLORE & ENJOY WICKHAM MARKET & BEYOND

Go north or south in search of mighty castles and royal Anglo-Saxon settlements. Head west to the farming communities immortalised in Ronald Blythe's 'Akenfield' or east to the Blaxhall landscapes where George Ewart Evans 'Ask(ed) the Fellows Who Cut The Hay' and their songs still grace the air in local pubs. Follow the meandering River Deben. Wander the woods and heaths of the enigmatic Suffolk Sandlings.

Criss-crossed by miles of ancient bridleways and footpaths linking settlements past and present, wander and wonder how this amazing patch of Suffolk has gone undiscovered for so long.

### Wickham Market » Pettistree » Byng LOST MANORS, MARKETS & MORE

4 miles  
6.5 kms  
CIRCULAR  
WALK

OS MAP: 212

**FROM/TO:** The Hill, Wickham Market IP13 0QS  
**TERRAIN:** Flat with gentle inclines. Cross-meadow/field margin footpaths. Tracks, tarmac lanes, pavements. Footbridges

*The mighty medieval church, guildhall and moated green of a small village and a remote hilltop site by a brook reveal the ups and downs of ancient manorial lands whose markets, wealth and power possibly predated, rivalled or outstripped those of Wickham Market. A delightful countryside walk (with refreshment stops) full of great little discoveries.*

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow B1438 south (past church/post office). Right onto footpath (immediately after supermarket) to **Walnuts Lane**. Left along lane to **Pettistree** (market granted 1253), passing village hall (right), views (right) of Pettistree Lodge's Georgian façade; thatched cottages, parish rooms (Art Deco features), Church of St Peter & St Paul and former guildhall (now The Greyhound pub).

*Optional detour:* Left to old 3 Tuns inn at B1438 junction (now café plus), passing White House - once home/farm

### GRISLY GALLOWS & GHOST VILLAGES

Do you dare go the extra mile past the creepy gibbet-post near the shady lost settlement of Harpole? Traces of a medieval moated site lurk near Potsford Wood. 'Miller-murderer', Jonas Snell, haunts the gallows site.

Follow the walk, but turn left at **Thong Hall Lane**, then left again at crossroads (**Dallinghoo Road**) to join the Gallows Route.  
**Total distance:** 5 miles/8kms.  
**Directions:** [discoversuffolk.org.uk](http://discoversuffolk.org.uk)



### What's this? A Field of 'Naked Ladies'?

Here's a rare sight to behold. September sees Martin's Meadow (6 miles north-west of Wickham Market) filled with pink and white meadow saffron/autumn crocus aka 'naked ladies'. An original remnant of 17th century Suffolk, the Monewden meadow also boasts cowslips, fritillaries and a range of orchids. [suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

### Calling All Culture Vultures!

Wickham Market is well-placed for awesome local festivals and events

- **Maverick Festival** (Americana Music) – Easton Farm Park
- **Aldeburgh Festival of Music & the Arts** – Snape Maltings
- **FolkEast** (Folk & World Music Festival) – Glemham Hall
- **Aldeburgh Food & Drink Festival** – Snape Maltings
- **'Blaxhall Sessions'** (folk music concerts) – Blaxhall Village Hall [thesuffolkcoast.co.uk](http://thesuffolkcoast.co.uk)

### Nature Watch

By the River Deben, in its water-meadows or ancient woods, what will you spot today?

- |                                |                                    |   |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swan  | <input type="checkbox"/> Buzzard   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bluebells        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otter | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowdrops | <input type="checkbox"/> Muntjac Deer     |
|                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Egret     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramidal Orchid |

### Countryside Code

- Plan ahead. Be prepared.
- Follow paths, advice and local signs.
- Consider the local community/others enjoying the outdoors.
- Be careful with naked flames/cigarettes at any time of the year.
- Leave gates/property as you find them.
- Take litter home. Clean up after your dog.
- Always keep dogs under close control, especially amongst livestock/during bird nesting season. Release your dog if chased by cattle.

**TO ASHES** Campsea Ashe? Campsea Ash? Or Campsey Ashe? On-road signs, timetables and maps, the jury's still out on the 'correct' spelling of the village home of Wickham Market station. How many versions can you find on your Suffolk travels?

**FROM ASHES...** Pettistree Lodge was home to Walter Bligh, the English cricket team captain sent to Australia to resuscitate English interest in the game in 1882. His wife reputedly introduced the idea of 'The Ashes'.



## A Trilogy of Castles & Kings

Wickham Market » Ashe Abbey » Rendlesham Church  
**ABBEY ROADS & ROYAL ANGLO-SAXON LANDS**

7.5 miles  
12 kms  
CIRCULAR  
WALK



OS MAP: 212

**FROM/TO:** The Hill, Wickham Market. IP13 0QS  
**TERRAIN:** Flat with gentle inclines. Woodland/cross-field/field and water-meadow margin footpaths. Tracks, tarmac lanes. Stiles, gates. Railway crossings.

*The site of a royal Anglo-Saxon 'palace'; remains of a 12th century priory, famed for illuminated manuscripts; the mighty 14th century church of Gregory the Great; a stately redbrick hall with 16th century origins... Trace a host of amazing treasures right on Wickham Market's doorstep.*

**DIRECTIONS:** Go through All Saints' churchyard, keeping church on left. Straight ahead along tree-lined footpath to **Church Terrace**. Turn left. Follow footpath to **Spring Lane**. Turn right. At junction, go left under A12, then right following road (becomes track) past houses. Left along wide footpath. Over footbridge. Up through ancient woods (The Oaks) to road. Turn right. At gate (right) take footpath through trees (decoy pond right) to road. Turn right, past **Ashe Abbey** (left). After 0.5 miles/0.8 kms take steps (left) to field.

### Walk This Way

10.5 miles  
17 kms  
LINEAR  
WALK

Check out Blaxhall's treasures on a **Wickham Market-Saxmundham station to station walk**. Include Snape/ Snape Maltings too if you wish (+2.75 miles/ 4.5kms). Or why not follow the walk to **Snape Maltings** (8 miles/13kms) and book a taxi back? [eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks](http://eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks)

*Both routes edge the 'lost' garden of Campsea Ashe Park, where tall Cedars betray its Grade II\* listed, Gertrude Jekyll-inspired arboretum.*

Keep right along field-edge path to footpath crossroads. Turn right briefly to gates (right) for views of **Loudham Hall**. Retrace steps to footpath junction. Turn right. Over stile, railway crossing and another stile, then straight ahead downhill (hedge right). Views here towards royal Anglo-Saxon settlement (on field to right of white house beyond treeline). Follow path left, then right, through trees beside stream to cross bridge over **River Deben**. Head diagonally across field to go through gate. Right, through another gate, then straight ahead. This, the southern tip of the royal settlement, had a large timber hall (palace?) to the left. At cottage (right), go through two gates. Left, up track to **Ashe Road** and **St Gregory's Church, Rendlesham**. Its dedication suggests that there was a very early church here.

Left along road. After High House Farm (right) turn left up lane. Continue over railway crossing to footpath (left) where you originally emerged from The Oaks. Retrace your earlier steps back to Wickham Market.



### Framlingham's Famous 'Castle on the Hill'

Immortalised by local lad and global 'king of pop', Ed Sheeran, Baron Bigod's 12th century curtain wall castle in Framlingham is just a few miles from Wickham Market and an absolute must-see.

From Wickham Market station, a waymarked walk to the market town follows the old Framlingham railway branch line. [eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks](http://eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks)

**Prefer to walk directly from Wickham Market village?** Follow the directions below to join the waymarked railway walk at **Hacheston** (+ 0.5 miles/0.8 kms - OS Map 212). Whichever start point you chose, enjoy wartime heritage and an historic moated manor with royal connections along the way.

From **The Hill** head north, down **High Street** over river to bridgeway (left - also signed for Caravan Club site). Turn left. Follow track straight ahead, past **Gallow's Hill** (right) to road. Turn left along road, past **remains of WWII tank parks** (right). At livery yard (left), take bridgeway/track (right) uphill past house and **Gleaving Hall** (left). At rough ground, bear right towards tree at corner of wood. Follow path straight ahead to paddocks. Path leads left around perimeter, past house, down to road (B1116). Cross with care. Turn left. Take path up and over through churchyard to regain road. Continue along pavement into village. Just before **Easton Lane** (left), turn right down track between houses to cross footbridge. Straight ahead uphill to junction of paths. Turn left towards brick gateway of **Moat Hall, Parham** to join the railway walk.

The information in this guide is provided in good faith and is correct to the best of the publishers' knowledge at the time of going to press, but is subject to alteration.

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