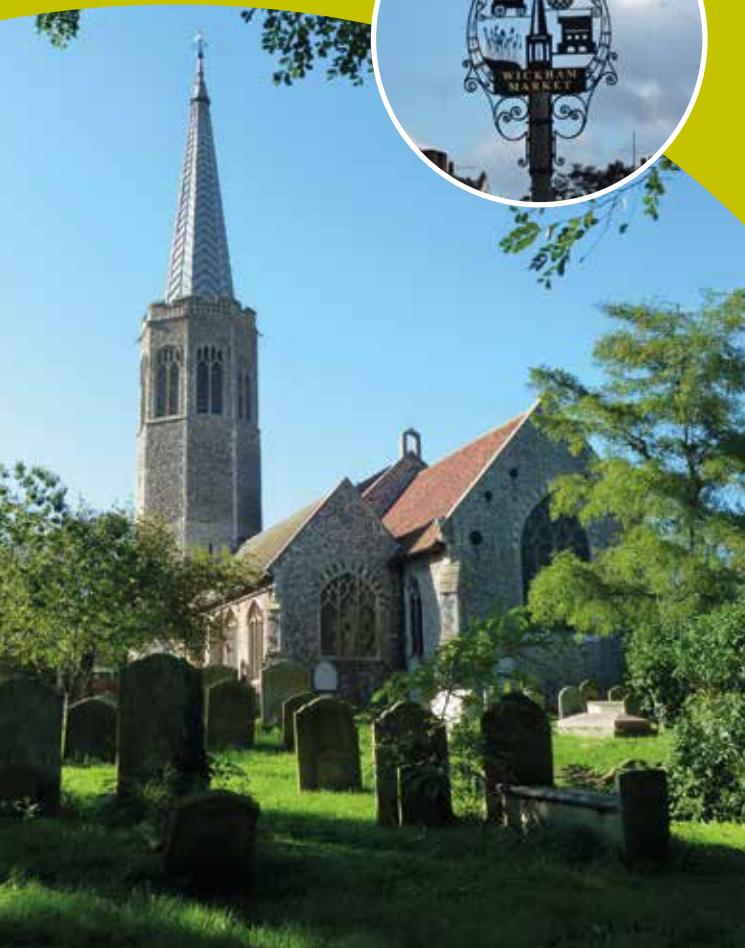




Circular Walks

# Wickham Market

Three walks around Wickham Market, the River Deben valley and Pettistree



## Welcome

When the Romans invaded southern England, they established a crossing on the River Deben which is where Rackham's Mill now stands. In 1086, the Domesday Book referred to "Wikham". "Market" was only added after a charter of 1284. The village spread and grew in prosperity and All Saints Church was built in the 14th and 15th centuries, next to the market square, which is now known as The Hill. From the 1820s to 1901 the Whitmore and Binyon Ironworks made milling machinery and employed over 200 people.

Along with markets, the shops and businesses include post office & store, pharmacy, supermarkets (Co-op & Morrison's), vintage & antique stores, St. Elizabeth hospice shop, Revett's butcher & delicatessen, the East Anglian Traditional Art Centre and Rackhams fuel & animal food store at the Mill.

The village centre is served by Teapot Cafe, Café 46, Flaming Fryer, The Bengal, The New Peach Bower and The George, the community pub to be re-opened in 2025 after extensive restoration. At Valley Farm Equestrian Centre, The Camargue Café is open Tuesday to Sunday. Orchard Campsite on Spring Lane has a seasonal shop selling refreshments. At Campsea Ashe the Station House Café and The Duck provide refreshment as does The Greyhound Inn at Pettistree.

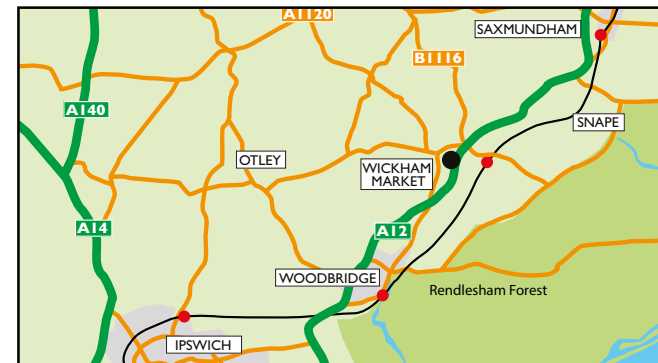
The walks start at The Hill where there is a long stay car park and public conveniences located just off the square.

### Terrain

Public footpaths, some cross field, bridleways, tracks and country roads; along which care must be taken. During periods of wet weather, the routes alongside the River Deben can be slippery and sometimes impassable due to flood.

**More information on the parish and village can be found at: [www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk](http://www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk)**

## Location



## Directions

Wickham Market is situated on the B1438 just off the A12, about 13 miles northeast of Ipswich, 5 miles northeast of Woodbridge and 6 miles south of Framlingham.

## Public Transport

Buses to The Hill in Wickham Market on Monday to Saturday. Trains from Ipswich and Lowestoft stop at the station at Campsea Ashe from where one can walk along Mill Lane to join the red route at 4 or the footpath to the green route at 5

For timetables, visit: [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) or [www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk) (0871 200 22 33).

The Katch bus booked in advance travels between Wickham Market and Campsea Ashe station, also to Framlingham and Snape. [www.katchlift.com](http://www.katchlift.com)

Use O.S. Explorer Map 212 Woodbridge and Saxmundham for more information on public rights of way.

## Discover Suffolk

Discover many more walks and great days out in the countryside by downloading the Discover Suffolk App (Apple and Android) or by visiting: [www.discoversuffolk.org.uk](http://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk)



Follow us on:   



# The River and Abbey Route



**DISTANCE:** 6 miles (9.5 km)  
📍 12,000 steps

**DURATION:** 3.5 hours

**WAYMARKER:** Green & Yellow Circular Walk

All Saints Church is a 14th century flint church with an octagonal tower; which is the only tower of this type in Suffolk.

Leave The Hill and walk through the churchyard with the church on your left, then along a tree lined path at the edge of the Pightle Green. At Church Terrace turn left and follow the path to Spring Lane (with campsite) ①, turn right. At the junction ② turn left under the A12 then ③ left along a track (remains of Water Lane) until you reach the River Deben, turn right to walk along the river path.

The River Deben flows 25 miles from its source near Debenham to the sea at Felixstowe Ferry. In summer look out for the Yellow Water Lily and Common Blue Damselfly.

**Follow the river, cross the weir, turn left over the main footbridge to ④ walk uphill through The Oaks.**

The Oaks, a small ancient wood, has a variety of soil conditions resulting in a diversity of flora. Rush and iris can be found along with native trees such as oak, ash, field maple, crab apple, wild cherry, spindle and hazel.

**Turn right at the road and continue until a kissing gate on your right ⑤, follow the footpath through the trees, across a paddock to Loudham Hall Lane ⑥. Turn right, follow the lane past Ashe Abbey.**

Ashe Abbey was founded by Theobald de Valoines in 1195 for his two sisters and 21 nuns. The abbey flourished for over 300 years until its dissolution in 1536. The remains of the priory are incorporated into the 14th century house, thatched barn, mill and mill house.

**After the decoy pond, take the footpath on your right through trees, across meadowland at the edge of the valley, turn left at the kissing gate, re-cross the two bridges ④ and cross the valley to Fowls Watering 'hamlet'. Follow the lane under the A12 to Spring Lane. At ② turn left and walk up Sandy Lane alongside young trees to Chapel Lane, cross and continue along the footpath (Rosary Lane), just prior to Loudham Lane turn right ⑦. Cross the field to B1438 and take the path opposite through paddocks to Pettistree Church ⑧.**

You can sit awhile at the C13th parish church of St Peter and St Paul or The Greyhound Inn (thought to have been a Guildhall at one time and one of the oldest pubs in Suffolk).

**Turn left then right through the village then right onto Thong Hall Road. Note the listed C18th dovecote of flint and rendered brick at Home Farm. Continue along the road and take the footpath on your right. ⑨ Follow the path alongside trees which frame the historic landscape, the Great Mount and Canal, originally part of Pettistree Lodge. Turn left onto Walnuts Lane and admire the mature trees framing the parish cemetery to the east.**

**After a short distance take the path on your right by an ancient oak ⑩ walk past (or across) the playing field, play space & bowling green to the High Street and the Co-op.**





# Byng Brook and Potsford Route



**DISTANCE:** 5.5 miles (9 km)  
⌚ 11,000 steps  
4 mile shorter option at 4

**DURATION:** 3 hours

**WAYMARKER:** Blue Circular Walk

Leave The Hill with the church on your left, pass the post office and take the path on your right after the Co-op ①. Walk along the field edge to Walnuts Lane, turn left and continue to Pettistree village.

Parts of Pettistree are mentioned in the Domesday Book. The name Pettistree comes from Peter's Tree; the 13th century church of St Peter and St Paul was built near an old sacred tree.

Explore the church if time allows. Turn right at the Greyhound Pub ②, after a short walk take the path over the bridge to your left, through a small paddock. Continue behind the houses to the road, keeping the large pond on your right, turn into Byng Lane; follow this until you reach Byng Brook ③.

Nearby Byng Hall is thought to be the location of the earliest settlement in the area.

Just before the bridge turn right and follow the footpath through the meadows to Grove Road ④. At this point you can take the opposite footpath, along a track, to Thong Hall Road, link up with the green route ⑨ and back to the village. This a shorter 4 mile option.

Alternatively turn left, walk along the lane parallel to Byng Brook, then right onto

Dallinghoo Road. Walk up the gentle valley side past various cottages collectively known as California. At Whitegates continue ahead along the footpath between fields. Pass the Long Belt woodland and hints of the ancient settlement of Harpole ⑥ then onto Potsford Wood.

The name 'California' for a remote settlement on the edge of villages in Suffolk came into use after the 1848 Gold Rush and the founding of California State in the remote west of America.

The remains of the Potsford Gibbet ⑦ are located in the woodland edge approx 150 metres before the busy B1078 is reached.

Gibbet: Last known use 1699 when Jonas Snell was hanged for the murder of his Master and his Master's son, at Letheringham Mill. Reputedly hanged on Wickham Hill, his body was dragged to the Potsford Gibbet where his body hung in an iron cage for 40 years.

Wickham Market Area Archive Centre provided the new plaque in 2025

At the gibbet turn back, re-trace your steps, then turn left onto a cross-field footpath to Mountains Cottage ⑧. Turn left onto Dallinghoo Road, lined with oaks, and walk back to the village. If the cross-field footpath is too muddy to walk continue from ⑥ back along the track to Dallinghoo Road, then left back to the village, approx. 1 mile along the lane.



# The Mill Route

**DISTANCE:** 3.5 miles (5¾ km)  
⌚ 7,000 steps

**DURATION:** 2 hours

**WAYMARKER:** Red Circular Walk



There are 39 listed buildings lining the High Street between the War Memorial and Deben Mills.

Leave The Hill and walk north along the High Street, The George will be on your right. Continue along the road passing historic houses. Note the access to the former Whitmore and Binyon iron works (W&B Engineers and Millwrights) between the gault brick houses 202a and 202. Continue to Wickham Bridge, cross the River Deben and admire The Mill buildings ①. Then take the first road to the right, at Bridge Farm turn right again onto a green lane.

Deben Mills was founded in 1885, by Reuben Rackham as flour millers, operating both water and steam driven mills manufactured by W&B. The mill buildings saw the change over from traditional mill stones to iron roller mills in 1893. Flour milling finally ceased in 1970 but the business has diversified since then.

Follow the lane passing horse paddocks, under the A12 and through a gate to walk across a meadow. Continue through a small gate diagonally left to cross a field & a line of alder trees to reach a track ②. Turn left and walk under a canopy of trees, spot the scarce native black poplar. Turn right, onto a narrow path, ③ follow the valley edge to Quill Farm ④. Cross the drive to a path opposite, alongside woodland, down steep steps, through hazel coppice to join the green route ④. Turn right, cross the bridges and valley, turn right at the two cottages 'Fowls Watering' ⑤ to (③ then ②). Continue uphill along Mill Lane, right to Church Terrace, across the Pigtle Green where you can rest, then through the churchyard back to The Hill.

# Wickham Market Circular Walks

Three walks around Wickham Market, the River Deben valley and Pettistree

