

## MAGNALL ROUND

The Magnall Round is a circular walk of 21 miles that starts and finishes at Needham Market Railway Station. It uses public rights of way, paths, tracks and riverside paths. Passing through the Parishes of Barking, Darmsden, Baylham and Great Blakenham, the walk then joins the riverside path of the River Gipping. The walk passes through the rolling countryside of Mid Suffolk, a place which is rarely visited by outsiders, a hidden gem. The walk can be done in two sections, each section starting and returning to Needham Market, or in four sections using public transport.

Construction of the Stowmarket Navigation in 1793 enabled the transport of goods between Ipswich and Stowmarket of loads up to 40 tons on lighters (shallow draft barges) pulled by horses. The 18-mile journey took 8 hour to complete. The Navigation closed at the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1970 The Gipping Trust was formed with a mission to restore the Navigation to its former glory, with work continuing today. Passing Needham Lake, popular for picnics and watching birdlife, the walk carries on to Creeting St Mary and Creeting St Peter before reaching Badley and Battsford with a number of churches on route. The small church at Darmsden, a little hamlet with no more than 17 houses, is held in trust for the villagers and still holds one service every month. The route then finishes back at Needham Market.

The route's creator, Derek Magnall, has previously written and published eight walks in Lancashire, where he originated, and Yorkshire. The Two Crosses Circuit and Spanners Round are two challenge walks in Lancashire written by Derek which continue to give pleasure to many walkers today, and that is just to mention two. It is hoped that the Magnall Round will be as popular and give much pleasure to future walkers.

Although the route is listed as an Anytime Challenge, at the present time it is not proposed to issue badges or certificates for completion. Please just enjoy the walk.

### First Section

Start GR091548 Needham Market Station (IP6 8AS). Leave Station Yard, then heading towards High Street, cross the road to the Swan. Go through the entrance to the car park, following footpath sign. Head to far left hand corner through narrow passage walled both sides. Straight across minor road. Up School Street, buildings on your left. Continue up School Street until you meet road, cross road. Continue straight up passing Needham Market Football Ground on your right.

Continue along wide track until you meet hedges on your right, pass through hedge and over footbridge. Turn left, along enclosed path. Continue along path crossing wide track, (ignore

any

paths leading off to the right). Path eventually swings round to the left, continue ~ 200m along path then turn right over stile, through hedge/fence.

Follow path across field keeping hedge on your left, over a stile. Continue along the path crossing to the far-right corner of the field. Over another stile. Path now continues through a coppice, pond on your left. Follow the hedge around to the left and then continue straight across the field on footpath. At field edge turn left and continue to the road.

Turn right along footpath. Continue ~180m to footpath sign on opposite side of the road, GR075532 Carefully cross road (B1078). Footpath passes between hedges into field. Climb steadily with ditch and hedges on your left walking under pylons. Continue past the wood on your left, over footbridge through the hedge. Turn right, hedges on your right. On reaching the wood turn left along path just inside the trees. Crossing two footbridges, continue straight along path around field edge with trees on your left.

At T junction turn left. Follow path, with hedges on your right, winding round to the right, Continue straight ahead through wooden gate. Pass Priestley on your left. Continue along path through kissing gate onto enclosed path and then into field with hedge on right. Pass through hedge and continue with hedge on left. Continue through gap in hedges, hedge now on right. Meet wide track and continue. Wood on your right. Follow wide track round to the right, passing under pylons.

Pass Darmsden Church on your right. At T junction turn left onto minor road. As the road bears left after ~ 50m, turn right on to wide track to Roebuck Farm, following footpath sign. GR096529 Continue along track passing telephone mast and three Bungalows on your left and farm buildings on your right. After passing farm buildings turn right along path keeping trees on your left. Path drops down to the left through trees. Continue to field edge then continue straight ahead to woods opposite.

Then climb steadily through the trees gradually bearing left until you reach the top. Continue straight ahead on path crossing the field. Continue straight ahead along path with hedge on your left to the end of the field. Down 4 steps passing through gateway on your the left. Bear right, follow path across field to second gateway, leading on to minor road. Continue along road (Church Lane) with houses both sides passing Baylam Church on your right.

At T junction turn left. GR103515 After ~10m turn right down enclosed footpath. Continue through field with hedges now on your left and after a short distance start to climb through trees to minor road. Turn left with Walnut Tree Farm and pond on your right. Turn right after the pond, passing through gate. Continue along path trees on your right passing through second gate. Follow path across the field to join wide track between the hedges/trees.

Turn right continuing along wide track trees on your right. At track junction turn left and continue

until track turns to minor road, Chalk Hill Lane. Continue down to main road B1113, Great Blakenham. The Chequers on your left. GR118507.

End of first section - 6.0 miles.

### Second Section

Cross the road with care in front of The Chequers, opposite the church. Go down the footpath with the church and houses on your left. Turn left at footpath sign down passageway between Mill Cottage and Herb Cottage reaching the River Gipping. Continue with the River on your right for the next four miles. Passing through three gates and under Railway Bridge crossing minor road. Ignore gate on your left, passing Sharmford Lock, through kissing gate after passing bridge. Ignore bridge on your right. Through kissing gate, over stile and footbridge. Through kissing gate, over footbridge continue along path through gate (Rare Breeds Farm on your right) GR113556.

Turn left continue along minor road to Railway crossing, before crossing turn right along narrow path railway line on your left. Continue along path for 500m, leaving railway line bearing right to River Gipping. Turn left along path passing Pipp's Ford Lock. Crossing two footbridges, through gate, continue along path passing Creetings Lock to pass through another gate. Continue along path at side of the river eventually passing through another gate, passing Anderson Fishing Lake on your left and the River Gipping on your right.

Through two more gates leading on to main road B1078. Cross road very carefully and turn right on the footpath over the bridge. At the end of the bridge turn left through the gap with River Gipping and Bosmere Lock on your left. Continue along path through play area (Ignore footbridge unless you need the toilets). GR095546.

End of second section – 4.0 miles.

### Third Section

Continue along path with River Gipping on your left. Path keeps close to the river (ignore any paths going off to the right) with bridge and path joining from the left, continue straight ahead, River Gipping on left. Forking left take dirt path passing under road bridge. Continue along path, River Gipping on your left, over footbridge, passing Hawks Mill Lock, continue straight ahead over second footbridge.

On reaching Footpath post (GR088558) turn right crossing field. Pass through trees, over footbridge and along path with houses on both sides. Path leads on to minor road. Turn left and at T junction cross road and turn right onto footpath. Continue along footpath and bear left into

All Saints Road, climbing steadily over road bridge over A14. Turn right down minor road, signed to Creeting Hills with two houses on your left. Turn left on footpath passing through a gate.

Continue across field straight down and over footbridge, then winding round. On reaching track and footpath sign turn left. Continue with hedges on your left, then passing houses both sides. On reaching the road cross carefully and turn right. (GR095567, Creeting St Mary).

Take the first turning on your left. At T junction at the bottom turn right, continue along minor road until footpath sign on left. Turn left down enclosed path, over footbridge (River Jordon) and along boardwalk. Continue along path to minor road. Turn right, and after ~ 60m turn left at footpath sign with hedges on your right. At the top follow footpath through the hedges, turn left over ditch and continue with hedges and ditch on your left. Path then continues on same line of travel across the field towards the village of Creeting St Peter.

Keep hedge on right, then pass through gap. Continue up track with hedge now on the left to the road (The Lane). Houses on both sides to T Junction (GR078583). Turn left and continue along road across A14 road bridge. Continue along road passing Hill House on your right. At T Junction turn right, then continue along road taking the first turning on the left, leading to Creeting Hall Farm.

Continue along hard surfaced road till you meet footpath post. Turn right, along path towards trees, keeping trees on your right to Badley Mill Farm. At the bottom bear right hedges on your left (immediately) turn left over footbridge and stile through the hedges. Follow the path bearing left over the field towards a gate. Continue across the field to another gate. Cross the bridge over the River Gipping.

Turn left (immediately) through gate. Follow path bearing right round edge of the field, stream on your left, over grass bridge. Turn right through small gate, continue along path. Turn left along track under railway bridge, continue up along track to main road B1113. Turn left, Garden Centre Roots & Shoots on your left. Continue along main road. GR 073564.

End of third section – 5.0 miles

#### Fourth Section

After ~250m cross main road to bus stop sign/post box. Walk up wide track (Badley Walk) with bungalows on both sides. Track winds round to the right and continues through Royal's woods. Continue on path through field towards Badley Hall, passing under pylons. Continue through gap in hedge with Badley Church on your left.

Continue with Badley Hall Farm on your left. Follow footpath, crossing the field, hedges now on

your left. Path now goes through the hedge, turn right along the wide track with hedge on your right. After gateway, at footpath sign, turn left with hedges on your left, eventually passing a house on your left. Continue on through gateway (ignoring path off to the left). Pass through gateway to reach enclosed footpath leading to houses (GR047552).

Turn Immediately left at footpath sign, along wide track with hedges now on your right. continue down track, reservoir on your left to T junction. Turn left, hedge on your right. After a short time. turn right, through the hedge, over a footbridge. Turn left, over another footbridge. Continue along path around field edge, hedges and trees on your left for about a mile. Turn left through opening, then turn right along grass track through woods, hedges and trees now on your right, after a time, hedges and trees both sides. When the track becomes firmer continue dropping down.

Turn left along track (GR062541). When meeting minor road turn left. After 25m turn right along grass track, climbing steadily, hedges on the right. Continue along path crossing field, then with hedges on your right and then bearing left. Taking footpath on the right, through the hedge, over stile, across field, over next stile. Continue crossing the field and over the next stile. Paddington Hall on your left (GR069540).

Continue along enclosed narrow path bearing right, then through the hedge. Turn left along grass track, then immediately right. Continue along grass track, Bungeon's Farm on your right, hedges on your right. Continue along the path, straight ahead, hedges on your left, go through gap in the hedge. At the bottom of the field turn left, hedges on your left, continue round the field, passing College Grove Farm on your left. Join cinder track to the Caravan Site. On reaching caravan site, follow footpath sign (behind bush) directing you through the passage fenced both sides into Caravan Park.

Continue through Caravan Site on the minor road, continue down minor road to the bottom of the hill. As the minor road starts climbing, turn right at the footpath sign. Continue crossing field to hedges over stile. Turn left and continue along enclosed path to meet road. Cross road and continue down The Causeway. Continue to main road, B1113. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn right. Continue to Station Yard. Needham Market Station.

End of fourth section 6.0 miles.

Please remember the countryside code: close all gates, keep dogs under control, respect the countryside and take all litter home – take only photos and leave only footprints.

O/S Map Explorer 211 Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket

The walk can be split into two circular sections by taking a link path at Needham Lake GR095546. To finish after the first loop, cross the footbridge at the play area, follow the lake

around with the railway line on your left. Turn left into the Cattle Tunnel and left again to return to Station Yard. To start the second loop exit Station Yard Right exit via the Cattle Tunnel under the railway, turn right and pass the lake on your left. Cross the footbridge and turn left to re-join the walk.

The Walk can also be split into four sections using Public Transport and Bus No 88 with a 1/2-hourly service Monday to Saturday and 4 buses a day on a Sunday. Check online for up-to-date bus times. There are bus stops on the first section near The Chequers pub GR118507 and near Root & Shoots on the second section GR073564.

Needham Market Accommodation, Pubs and Cafes:

Travelodge Beacon Hill: Junction A14 - A140 (08719 846041)

Great Blakenham - The Chequers Public House

Badley Walk Garden Centre - Roots and Shoots Cafe