

1. THE MILL WALK

INDEX TO POINTS OF INTEREST (POI)

1 **POI 1** Melford Hall. The Hall was mostly constructed in the sixteenth century. In 1786, it was sold to the Hyde Parker family who still occupy it to this day. Beatrix Potter was a cousin of the family and a frequent visitor to the hall from the 1890s. In 1960, the Hall passed into the care of the National Trust.

2 **POI 2** The Hospital of the Holy Blessed Trinity was founded by Sir William Cordell in 1573. Cordell was the then lord of the manor of Melford and he lived in nearby Melford Hall, an impressive Elizabethan mansion house. Cordell was a man of national prominence, holding such high office as Master of the Rolls, High Steward of Ipswich and, in 1558, Speaker of the House of Commons. He had been born and raised in Melford and it was to the poor residents of the town that he gave these almshouses.

3 **POI 3** Holy Trinity Church. The church was constructed between 1467 and 1497 and is an impressive example of a Suffolk medieval wool church, founded and financed by wealthy wool merchants as an impressive visual statement of their prosperity. The medieval stained glass windows in the north aisle date from the fifteenth century. They are unique and have been described as the best collection of medieval glass in Suffolk.

4 **POI 4** Kentwell Hall is a stately home in Long Melford. It includes the Hall, outbuildings, a rare-breeds farm and gardens. Most of the current building façade dates from the mid-sixteenth century, but the origins of Kentwell are much earlier, with references to it in the Domesday Book of 1086.

COUNTRY CODE

- Take a map, follow the signs be safe and take water.
- Leave no trace. Take your litter home.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Respect livestock, keep dogs on leads.
- Always keep dogs under close control and clean up after them.
- Be considerate to other people (smiles are free).
- Be visible. When walking on a road, single file.

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These circular routes have been designed and created by village residents for your enjoyment. Produced by the Long Melford Parish Council/ Neighbourhood Plan Committee, with the aid of a Locality Budget donation from Suffolk County Council, local sponsorship and fundraising.

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DISTANCE **2.5 MILES**
APPROX TIME **1 HOUR**
DIFFICULTY **EASY**
START POINT **CAR PARK**, adjacent to the Old School (TL 865 462)

1. THE MILL WALK

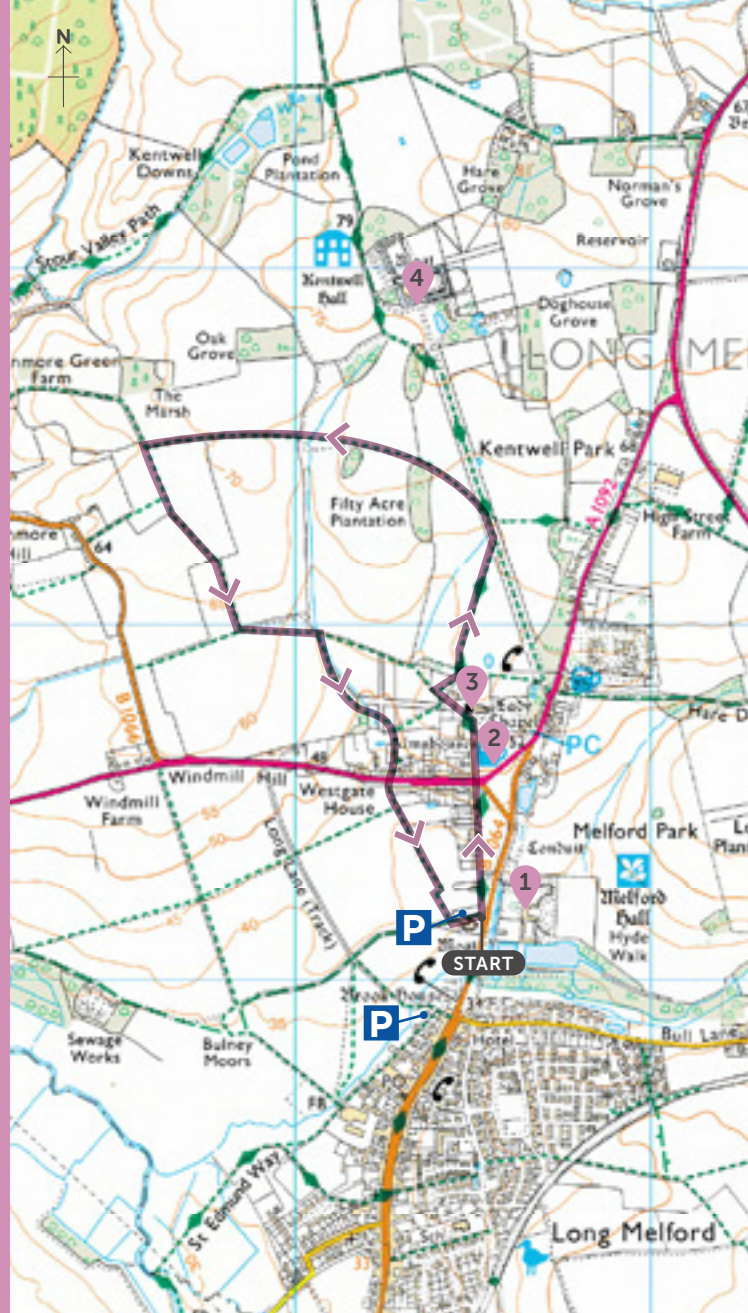
Leave the car park with the Old School on your right and Melford Hall straight ahead (POI 1). [Note: to the far right on the opposite side of the road lies The Mill, mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was the home of WW1 poet and author, Edmund Blunden who died in Long Melford in 1974.]

Turn left along the path towards the village greens where you will see the church tower in the distance at the top of the hill. On your right, you will see the entrance to Melford Hall with its ornate towers and octagonal banqueting house.

On reaching the A1092, cross the road into Church Walk, passing the Black Lion on your left. Continue along Church Walk towards Holy Trinity Church. You will pass the Hospital of the Holy and Blessed Trinity on your right (POI 2) and the Old Rectory on your left.

Enter the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church (POI 3) and bear left past the war memorial. Follow the path to a wooden five-bar gate and go through into the Rectory Gardens. Continue a short way ahead to another small five-bar gate. Pass through the gate onto a footpath between two paddocks. Turn right before the stables through a metal stile and head diagonally right towards the tree line. Pass through another metal stile and a kissing gate and bear half left along a well-marked path which curves right towards the driveway of Kentwell Hall (POI 4). Note the avenue of lime trees and mistletoe.

Leave the field over a wooden stile and turn left along the line of the fence until you reach another wooden stile on your left. Climb over the stile and head diagonally right towards the tree line and a metal stile. Pass through the stile and follow the fence line to the left. Pass through another metal stile and then continue straight ahead. On your left you will see splendid views across the Stour Valley. To your right you will catch a glimpse of Kentwell Hall nestling in the trees. Further along the path to your right, you will see a number of caravans where Tudor re-enactors from Kentwell Hall may be in residence. Pass through two more metal stiles, cross a sleeper bridge and a further metal stile to the left of an oak tree.



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Follow the farm track straight ahead, keeping the hedgerow on your left. Further along the hedgerow it changes to the right of the track. Keep straight ahead until the track bears to the right. Don't follow the track but instead turn immediately left here through the middle of a field towards a large oak tree. You will see the tower of the Holy Trinity Church to the left of the tree. At the oak tree follow the waymarker along the edge of the field with the hedge on your right. The path bears left and then crosses a sleeper bridge on the right, passing between the hedgerows. Continue along the path with the hedge on your left until you come to a T-junction. Turn left along the field edge with the hedge on your left. The path bears right. Continue along the path keeping the hedgerow on your left until you reach a gap in the hedgerow. Cross the bridge over a small stream which takes you into the grounds of Westgate Park. Turn immediately right along the path. [Note: For dog walkers, or if you do not want to cross fields with grazing horses, take the left-hand path and use the permissive path on the right between the horse paddocks.]

Pass a stable block on your left and then head diagonally across two paddocks through five more metal stiles. Don't pass through the sixth metal stile. [Note: the permissive path re-joins the walk here.] Turn right; the path follows a high yew hedge on your right and leads you round a large building before passing through a narrow yew archway onto the A1092. Cross the road and take the footpath to the right of the last cottage. Continue straight ahead along the field edge to the bottom of the field where the car park will be on your left.

