3. THE BLACK LION WALK

INDEX TO POINTS OF INTEREST (POI)

POI 1 This former rail bridge led to the goods yard south of Long Melford station. Its width indicates single-line operations.

POI 2 The Maltings was built in 1878 and originally owned by The Lion Brewery Company. Branwhites purchased it towards the end of the nineteenth century before it passed into the control of Truman's. It closed in the 1980s.

POI 3 Long Melford Railway Station opened in August 1865 on the Stour Valley line and closed in March 1967.

POI 4 A crinkle-crankle wall, also known as a crinkum-crankum, serpentine, ribbon or wavy wall, is an unusual type of garden wall. The crinkle-crankle wall economises on bricks, despite its sinuous configuration, because it can be made just one brick thin. If a wall this thin were to be made in a straight line, without buttresses, it would easily topple over. The alternate convex and concave curves in the wall provide stability and help it to resist lateral forces. Suffolk has more of these type of walls than anywhere else in England

POI 5 Long Melford Cricket Club was originally founded in 1855 and reformed in 1954.

POI 6 Long Melford Football Club was first recorded in 1868 when they won a match against Ipswich Rangers 5–1 on the Church Green. Their most famous player, William Cobbold, played for the club in their early years, and was later capped for England.

POI 7 Platelayers' hut. Once commonplace, these huts were used by platelayers/track men tasked with maintaining the railway line. Contents would have included tools for the job and staff catering. This is the only known 'survivor' of its type locally.

POI 8 Lyston Mill is a Grade II listed building. The current building dates from around 1794, but there has been a mill on this site for centuries, originally owned by the Abbot of St Edmundsbury.

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.

SPONSORED BY

THE BLACK LION
LONG MELFORD

Sat on the edge of Long Melford's village green, our dog-friendly pub has 10 bedrooms and is open for breakfast through to dinner. Enjoy a drink or light bite, tucked away in our walled garden.

The Green
Long Melford
Suffolk, CO10 9DN
theblacklionlongmelford.com
01787 312356

LONG MELFORD
www.visitlongmelford.co.uk

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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3. THE BLACK LION WALK

LONG MELFORD WALKS

DISTANCE 3.5 MILES
APPROX TIME 1.5 HOURS
DIFFICULTY MODERATE
START POINT LONG MELFORD COUNTRY PARK (TL 857 437)

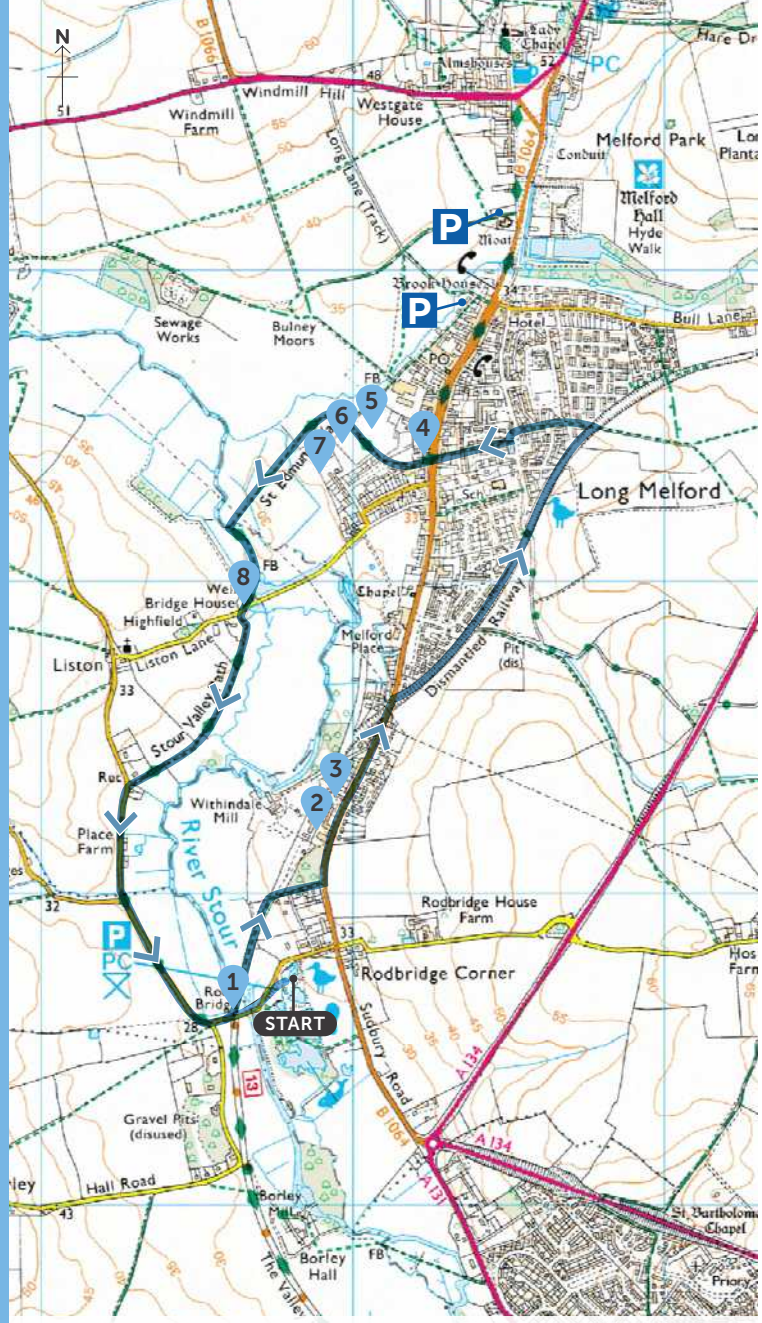
3. THE BLACK LION WALK

From the entrance to Long Melford Country Park car park, walk to the opposite end through the pedestrian gate (signposted 'Welcome to the Valley Trail') and cross the road bridge over the River Stour. On your right you will have a good view of an old railway bridge over the Stour (POI 1).

Cross the road to the footpath sign on the right and head along the path over the old railway bridge (caution: boards on bridge can be slippery). Continue to an unmade track (Ropers Lane). Turn right up Ropers Lane, heading uphill towards a post box. As you reach the top of the lane you will see, on the opposite side of the road, a restored 200-year-old milestone. Turn left here onto the pavement beside the B1064. You will soon pass the Maltings (POI 2) and the Old Railway Station (POI 3) on your left (both now residential). The building on the corner of Station Road, now a house, was once the Perseverance pub, quenching the thirst of railway travellers.

On reaching Cameron Close, cross the B1064 and enter the Melford Walk which rises upward to the old railway embankment. Follow the footpath of the old railway line and you will come to an opening with houses to the left and a metal gate to the right. Continue straight ahead up a slight incline to re-join the old railway line. Pass under a brick bridge and continue straight on, ignoring two cross-paths. Continue straight on to a cutting where wooden steps climb up on both sides. Take the left-hand steps and at the top turn left along the path, passing between the hedgerow and the side of a bungalow (no.3). Go down the slope and at the metal barrier turn left, then right, and enter onto Oliver's Close. Continue straight ahead past a bus shelter and at the T-junction cross the road, turn left past The Limes, and then turn right at the nearby footpath sign. Follow the footpath until it emerges once again on to the B1064 with the George and Dragon public house on your right. Should you wish to stop for refreshments, there are plenty of welcoming pubs and cafés in the village.

Cross the road using the traffic island ahead and take the footpath to the left of the old United Reformed Church. Note the crinkle-crankle wall on your right (POI 4). At the end of the alleyway bear right onto the Long Melford Cricket Ground (POI 5). Keep left along the boundary of the pitch with a white wooden fence of the Long Melford Football Ground.



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As you leave the Cricket Ground bear left on the footpath (Stour Valley Path/St Edmund Way waymarker) with the Long Melford Football Club (POI 6) on your left. Before passing through the old iron kissing gate, turn back to view the Holy Trinity Church Tower.

Here, if undergrowth allows, 50 yards off to your right you may see the old railway bridge crossing the River Stour where the line made its way to Glemsford.

Return and pass through the kissing gate, and look to your left to see the concrete remains of an old plate layer's hut (POI 7) from the time when the railway line was here. *Be aware there is a sign on the fence, 'Bull in Field'. Cattle once grazed on this meadow.*

Continue straight ahead along the footpath across two fields towards the power lines in the distance above the tree line. You pass under the power lines with a wooden pylon to your left. The path bears right and you arrive at a waymarker beside the river. Here you can admire the views. Turn left and cross a low concrete barrier, taking care, and follow the path beside the river leading to Liston Mill Two Weirs. Cross both bridges above the weirs. [Note: Take care between the two bridges as the path is very narrow and comes close to the river bank.] After the second weir you arrive briefly in Essex and pass through a kissing gate onto Liston Lane, designated a Quiet Lane. On your right you will see Lyston Mill (now a private residence) (POI 8).

Turn right past the Mill and after about 60 metres turn left just before the first house on the left. Follow the footpath sign down the left-hand side of a large house. Continue along the field edge with the hedge on your left to a kissing gate at the bottom left corner of the field. Liston Church Tower is on your right. Follow the path to the right along the field edge, pass through another gate, and leave the field onto a road at the side of a house. Turning left you will pass a pair of cottages, then Liston Place and a large barn, before reaching a T-junction. Turn left and cross the road so you are walking towards the oncoming traffic. [Note: this is a busy road and is part of the Stour Valley Path.] Follow the road which eventually bears left, and ahead of you will be the road bridge over the River Stour and the entrance gate back into Long Melford Country Park. Both Long Melford Country Park and Melford Walk (old railway line) are Local Nature Reserves.