4. THE NETHERGATE WALK

INDEX TO POINTS OF INTEREST (POI)

POI 1 This former railway 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 was 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 The Nethergate Brewery was established in Clare in 1986 and moved to Long Melford in 2017.

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

NETHERGATE
STOUR VALLEY BREWERY

We brew high quality distinctive beers and are very proud to have won 70+ significant regional, national and international awards including twice winning Champion Winter Beer of Britain. Either collect from our shop or have delivery to your home!

Rodbridge Corner
Long Melford
Sudbury
Suffolk CO10 9HJ
nethergate.co.uk

LONG MELFORD
www.visitlongmelford.co.uk

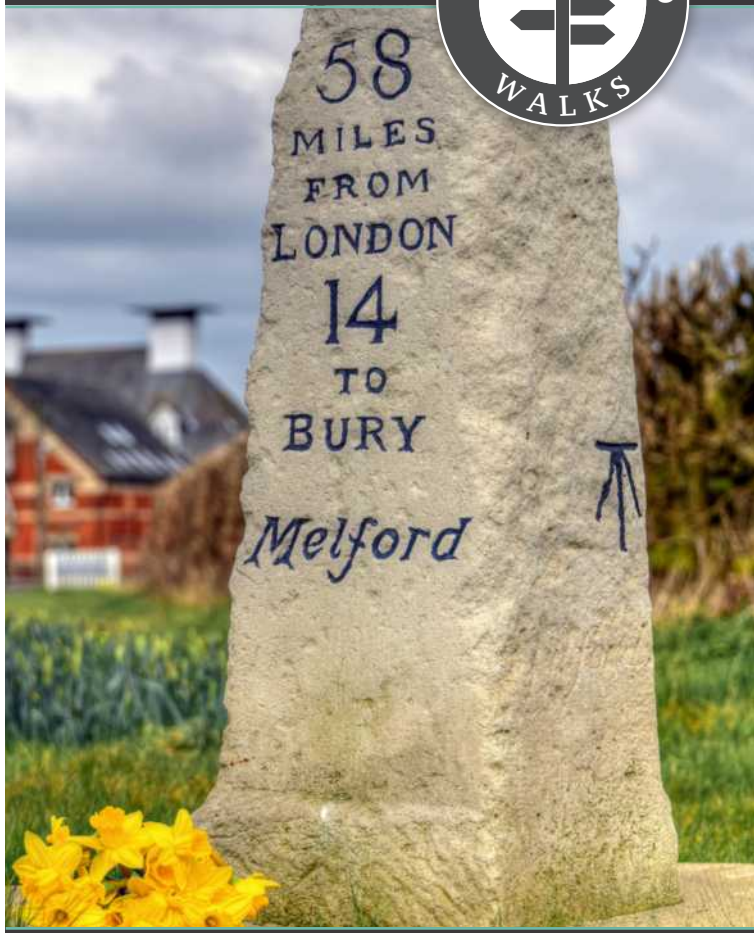
These circular routes have been designed and created by village residents for your enjoyment. Produced by the Long Melford Parish Council/ Neighbourhood Plan Committee, with the aid of a Locality Budget donation from Suffolk County Council, local sponsorship and fundraising.

Leaflet designed and printed by Indigo Ross
Front cover photography credit: Steve Thomson
Wildlife illustrations credit: Freepik.com

Originally printed 2020, revised 2024.

4. THE NETHERGATE WALK

LONG MELFORD WALKS



DISTANCE 5 MILES
APPROX TIME 2.5 HOURS
DIFFICULTY MODERATE (Not suitable in wet weather due to flooding)
START POINT LONG MELFORD COUNTRY PARK (TL 857 437)

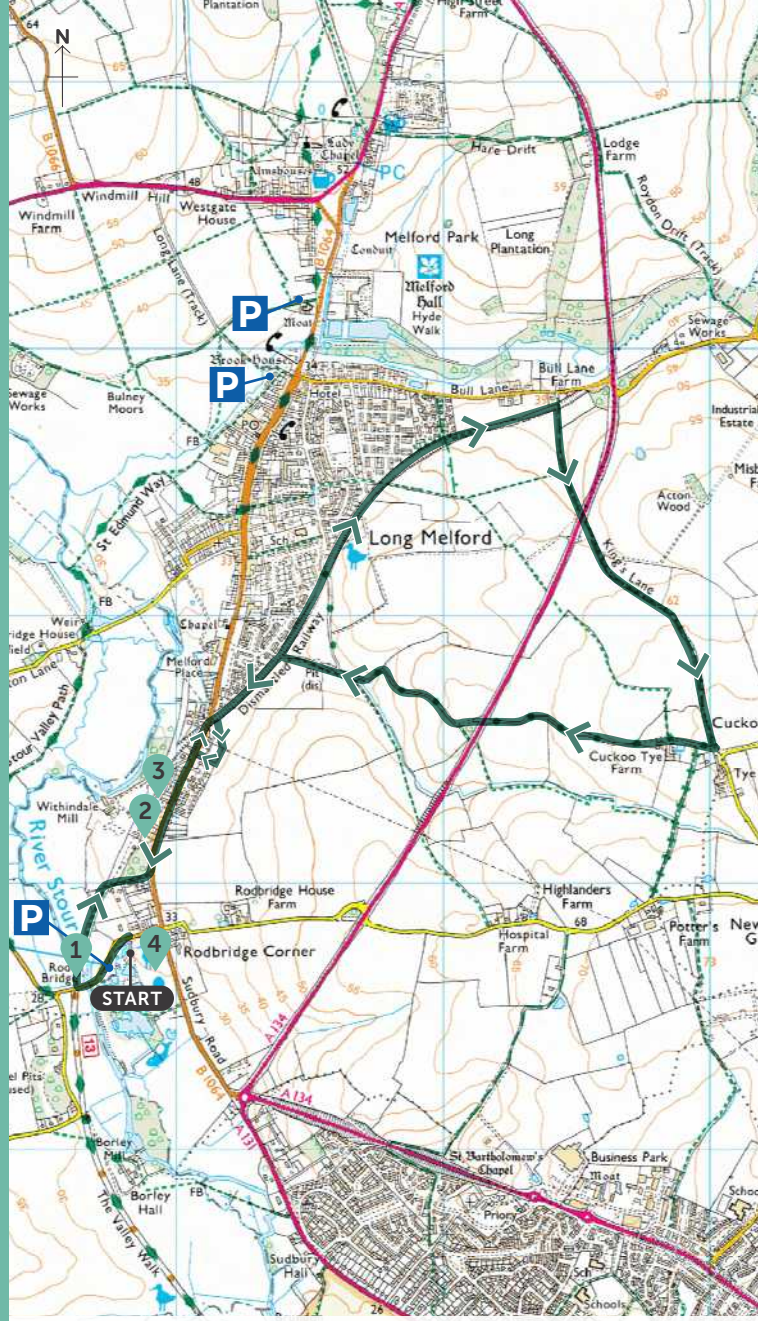
4. THE NETHERGATE WALK

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 the 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 until you reach Ropers Lane (an unmade track). 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 onto the pavement beside the B1064. You will soon pass the Maltings (POI 2) and the Old Railway Station (POI 3) on your left (they're 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. Here the ground slopes up to the old railway embankment. Follow the path along the route of the railway line. Follow the railway walk for just over 1 mile. As you descend over a low stile, turn right onto Kings Lane track with metal gate ahead, with access to the right for walkers. Follow this track to the end where it turns right across a concrete standing area and then turns left towards the A134. Carefully cross the A134 and enter another field through a gap on the right-hand side of the farm gate. Follow the track round to the right and as it climbs steadily enjoy the views across the open farmland. Can you spot the towers of Long Melford, Lavenham and Acton churches along the left of the track? You may be lucky and see brown hares in the field.

At the end of the track, turn right past the metal farm gate and pass in front of Cuckoo Tye farm house. As you pass the farm buildings a recorded message may tell you that you are being monitored by CCTV. You will have a good view of Long Melford church on the right of the track. Continue straight to the end of the track and cross the A134 again. Head towards the right-hand side of the next metal farm gate and follow the track as it bears right along the field edge.



Map provided by Long Melford Parish Council under Ordnance Survey OpenData Agreement No. 100058742.
Contains OS data © Crown copyright (2020). Produced with the aid of a Locality Budget donation from Suffolk County Council.

For further exploration of the local area, please use © Ordnance Survey map Explorer 196.

The track bears left and descends onto a stony dry river bed. [Note: in particularly wet weather the track may be covered in shallow water.] The path splits here. Don't turn right, but as you move to the left take the steep slope on the left, pass through a gap in the hedgerow and turn right along the field edge.

Continue along the field edge until you reach a concrete area. Don't go down the concrete slope but turn left here with a culvert on your right and the high bank of the old railway walk further on. Head along the field edge before turning left across the field towards the back gardens of the houses and electricity power lines. Follow the boundary fences of the gardens until you reach a wide grass track on your right. Turn right down the track until you reach the B1064.

Turn left on the footpath past Martyns Rise and Westropps before crossing the road opposite the old railway station and the Maltings. Continue straight ahead until you reach a red post box. If you are in need of refreshment, continue straight ahead to Nethergate Brewery (POI 4), otherwise turn right here onto Ropers Lane. After the last house on the right, turn left along the waymarked path, over the redundant railway bridge to the main road. With care, cross the road and turn immediately left, taking the path adjacent to the road bridge, and return to the Long Melford Country Park. Both Long Melford Country Park and Melford Walk (old railway line) are Local Nature Reserves.