



Circular Walks

Leavenheath

On the edge of the
Dedham Vale Area
of Outstanding
Natural Beauty



Welcome

Our village stands alongside and partly within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Suffolk Wildlife Trust has recently expanded their reserve from Arger Fen and Spouse's Grove further into the village which offers opportunities for wonderful walks.

Leavenheath (originally Leowine's Heath) became a separate civil parish in 1952, born out of parts of nearby parishes. The village is spread out - Honey Tye in the south; around the High Road, Village Hall and Village Green, west of the A134; on and close to Harrow Street to the north; around Cock Street to the east.

Our walks link in to all parts of the village. St Matthews Church built in 1835 and enlarged in 1882, is well worth a visit.

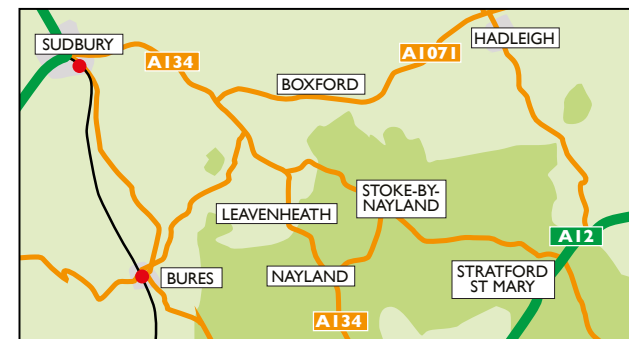
This leaflet describes 4 circular walks linked together, giving you the choice and variety of walks with plenty of character. All the walks involve footpaths, tracks and some road walking; the majority of which are quiet country lanes.

East of the A134 are the pleasant surroundings of the Stoke by Nayland Golf Course, fruit orchards and the Dedham Vale AONB with opportunities for refreshment at the Golf Club or our village pub.



To the west, walks include our historic track Kingsland Lane and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve.

Location



Leavenheath lies on the A134, 2 miles north-west of Nayland, 6 miles south-east of Sudbury, 8 miles south-west of Hadleigh, 2 miles west of Stoke-by-Nayland and 4 miles north-east of Bures St Mary.

Public Transport

Public transport is available to Leavenheath via bus services which run from Sudbury via Assington and Newton, and from Colchester via Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland.

Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables and to plan your journey.

Discover Suffolk

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



Follow us on:  



Produced by Suffolk County Council and
Leavenheath Parish Council.

Kingsland Walk

START: The Green, High Road
DISTANCE: 2 miles (3.3 km)
DURATION: 1 hour

With The Green on your left head to Edies Lane and turn right. On the bend take the footpath straight ahead ❶, left along a wooded path, over a sleeper bridge ❷ and across two open fields until you pass between two fenced areas ❸.

Skylarks are active in the fields in spring and young polecats have been seen here.

Enter a narrow path and at the end cross the track and turn right into Kingsland Lane ❹.

Kingsland Lane is an ancient lane linking Wissington and Leavenheath, used by horse-drawn carts and wagons. On your right is Breach Grove – an ancient woodland.

The lane is bordered by ditches and mature hedges; a total of 21 species has been recorded including holly, aspen and the scarce small-leaved lime. Of particular conservation value are 3 scarce Suffolk species, namely betony, common cow-wheat and wood spurge. Just before the bridge look left in Kingsland Field for the local Barn Owl, Buzzards and Skylarks.

Follow the lane until you reach a meeting of paths ❺, take the public footpath to your right which will take you back to Edies Lane ❶ and The Green.

Wildlife Walk

START: The Green, High Road
DISTANCE: 2.2 miles (3.6 km)
DURATION: 1¼ hours

With The Green to your right head along High Road, into Locks Lane on your left, continuing to the Suffolk Wildlife Nature Reserve ❶. Enter and bear right along the hedge line, passing a small raised reservoir to your left.

The reservoir was originally formed to supply local fruit farming and will be managed for wildlife and accessible to visitors.

As the path moves to the left, take the right turn over a bridge into Hullbacks Grove ❷.

Hullbacks Grove is a recent woodland grown naturally from seeds blown from surrounding trees, including ash, dog-rose, birch, hawthorn, field maple and oak and hosts trials researching resistance to Ash die-back, and supports its most elusive residents – dormice.

Keep right alongside the hedge, at the bottom, turn right into Spouse's Grove, part of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ❸.

With Arger Fen, and adjacent Spouse's Vale, Spouse's Grove is an SSI, well known for its magnificent bluebell displays, diverse tree species and wildlife.

Keep to the path ahead, ignoring other paths ❹. Crossing a wooden bridge, the path climbs until you reach a high point (and a bench!). Continue downhill on the path, at the bottom turn right onto a public footpath ❺. Walk out of the grove and across a boardwalk ❻.

Ahead is a further area of reserve called Ford's Heath, where there is a programme of conversion of arable land back to heathland.

Turn left and almost immediately left again and go through the woods. At the other side ❷ turn right and follow the path, passing a small quarrying area on your left, to join a track ❸. Follow the track to Gedding Hall Farm, turn right along High Road returning to The Green.



The Lanes and Lakes



START: Harrow Street (Hare & Hounds)

DISTANCE: 2.9 miles (4.7 km)

DURATION: 1½ hours

With the pub to your right walk along Harrow Street until you reach Vincents Farm, take the public footpath to your left ❶ across a field. Beyond the hedge turn right and continue to steps ❷ at Harrow Street Farm. Follow the footpath opposite which will lead up a slope, through a gap in a hedge and on to Keeper's Lane ❸. Turn right.

Ahead is the entrance to Stoke by Nayland Hotel. This family owned '4 star' hotel welcomes all visitors and offers a restaurant, country lodges, two championship golf courses, spa, fitness club and gift shop. Parking is available.

Look out for traffic as you continue down the road between lakes up to a T-junction. Turn right to the junction with Cock Street with a post box ❹.

You will pass Dalton's Farm on the left; the country lodges on your right are sited where the Land Army Girls were billeted during WW2. The original water tower has been restored.



Bear right onto a permissive path. Follow signs to the left side of a golf green, then right down to a bridge on the left ❺. Cross the bridge and take a second permissive path on your right along the north side of the lakes.

The lakes, called the Carrs, are four large ponds that feed the River Stour.

After a few minutes turn sharp left ❻ to join a track back to Harrow Street where you turn left and walk back to the Hare and Hounds Pub.

If you wish additionally to visit St Matthews Church, this sits some 40 metres south on the east side of the A134.

Orchard Walk



START: The Green, High Road

DISTANCE: 3.3 miles (5.3 km)

DURATION: 1½ hours

With the Green on your left head along High Road, then turn left into Maple Way.

At ❶ turn right to Royston Wood.

You are welcome to explore the Royston Community Woodland.

With care, cross the A134 and follow Plough Lane, a long straight, quiet lane bounded by orchards and the Golf Course.

Just before Dalton's Farm turn right ❷ into the Dedham Vale AONB, alongside the orchard and Golf Course. At Thomsons Farm, continue ahead along Cock Street to Spring Farm ❸.



Enjoy the lovely view to the left and see the magnificent 15th Century tower of St.Mary's church, Stoke by Nayland - a favourite of John Constable which featured in many of his paintings

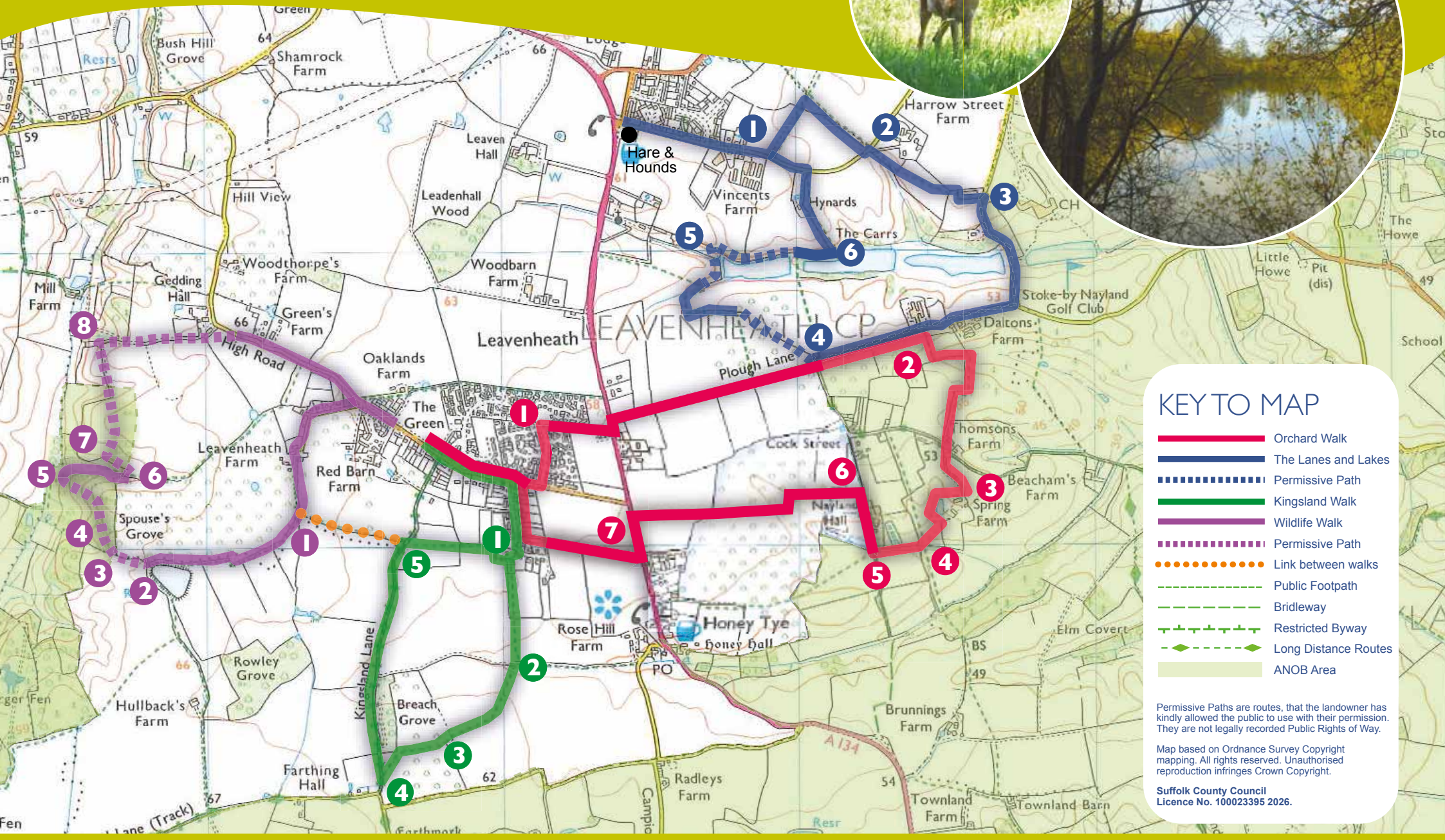
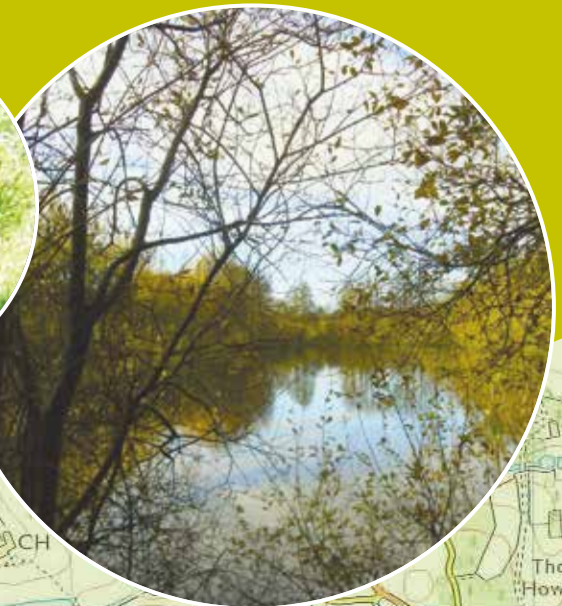
At the barn, turn right. Follow the path keeping the farm on your left and continue through the woods ❹.

This takes you past a lovely pond and a new scrape pond can be seen alongside the stream.

Pass through the gate on the right, then through two more gates to a lane ❺. Turn right up the lane and take the next footpath to the left ❻ continuing to the A134. Cross the road with care and turn left on the pavement. After a short distance take the footpath right ❼. At Edies Lane turn right back to High Road and return to the Green.

Leavenheath Walks

Four circular walks around Leavenheath village



KEY TO MAP

- Orchard Walk
- The Lanes and Lakes
- Permissive Path
- Kingsland Walk
- Wildlife Walk
- Permissive Path
- Link between walks
- Public Footpath
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- Long Distance Routes
- ANOB Area

Permissive Paths are routes, that the landowner has kindly allowed the public to use with their permission. They are not legally recorded Public Rights of Way.

Map based on Ordnance Survey Copyright mapping. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright.

Suffolk County Council
Licence No. 100023395 2026.