

# Welcome

This walk will take you from the heights of Ousden at over 400ft above sea level, down to the River Kennett in Lidgate amidst the beautiful landscape of the rolling hills of West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire.



Following the river, (most of the year just a stream), from Lidgate at 150 feet above sea level onto Dalham through scenic wooded and arable land before the climb back to Ousden.

Each village has a community hall and pub with parking facilities, toilets, and refreshments. Why not pop in and see what is on offer; it is recommended opening times are checked prior to your visit to save any disappointment.

The Fox Inn in Ousden: 01638 500740  
[thefoxinnousden.co.uk](http://thefoxinnousden.co.uk)

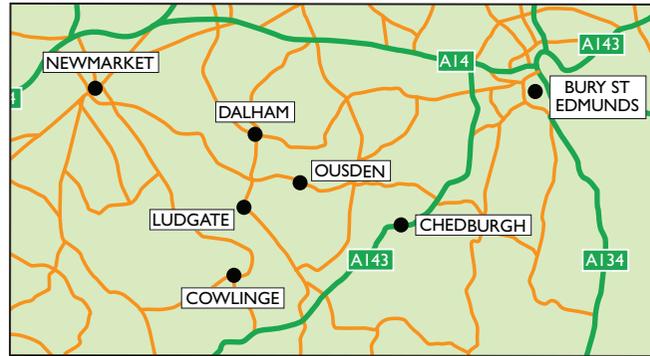
The Star Inn in Lidgate: 01638 500275  
[www.lidgatestar.com](http://www.lidgatestar.com)

The Affleck Arms in Dalham: 01638 500306  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Affleck-Arms/114514985273974>

The start point of this walk is Ousden Village Hall car park but the walk can be started from any of the 3 villages.

The routes use quiet roads and public rights of way along a terrain that is a mix of flat and hill, suitable footwear is advised.

## Location



Ousden, Lidgate, Dalham are situated halfway between Newmarket to the west and Bury St Edmunds to the east, off the B1063 Gazeley to B1085 Lidgate Road.

## Public Transport

Public transport is available to Ousden, Lidgate and Dalham. Visit [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) (0345 606 6171) or [www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk) (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

## Discover Suffolk

If you enjoyed this leaflet why not try the circular walks of Ousden. Discover more walking and cycling leaflets by visiting [www.discoversuffolk.org.uk](http://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk). Follow us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/discoversuffolk) and [t](https://www.twitter.com/discoversuffolk).

## OS Explorer Map

Use O.S. Explorer Map 210 Newmarket and Haverhill to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

Produced by Suffolk County Council and the Parishes of Ousden, Lidgate and Dalham.



Design by Rolando Ugolini. [rolando@macace.net](mailto:rolando@macace.net)

814-ESE-100512



Circular Walks

# Ousden - Lidgate - Dalham

The 3 Village Challenge



# Ousden – Lidgate – Dalham

**DISTANCE:** 10½ miles (15 km)

**DURATION:** 5 hours

**WAYMARKER:** Blue



**OUSDEN** is one of the highest villages in Suffolk with commanding views of valleys and hills clothed with woods and rich arable land. From the Norman conquest through to the early 20th Century the whole of Ousden was owned either by the Lord of the manor or a single family; (patronage). When Ousden House was demolished in 1955 the only buildings of note were St Peter's Church with its Norman Tower, much in its original state and The Fox Inn.



**From the village hall turn right and walk along Front Street until you reach Lords Lane on your right ①, take the lane and after a short distance, follow the Public Footpath through a gap in the hedge on your left ② which will lead you across the field, over a wooden bridge to reach a Byway ③, where you turn right.**

**Follow this tree lined route until you reach Back Street ④, turn right, passing aerial masts on your left and continue straight ahead at the road bend ⑤.**

As you pass the picturesque cottages, glance up to admire the wonderful thatch work.

**When you reach the Public Footpath to your left ⑥ follow this concrete path as it leads you on and gently to a hill top.**

Pause a while and enjoy the panoramic view as it stretches out in front of you.

**Proceed past the copse ⑦ and through the wide gap in the hedgerow to head downhill, with the hedgerow on your left. Follow the hedgerow as it curves left to join a wide grassy bridleway, turn right ⑧.**

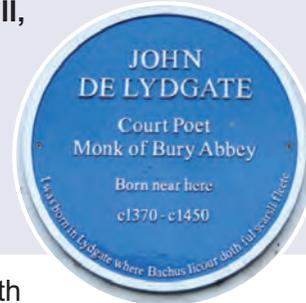
This bridleway, called Bury Lane, an old thoroughfare to Bury St Edmunds.

**The grass route will come out on a tarmac lane, passing several thatched cottages to reach the main road in Lidgate, where you turn right ⑨.**



**LIDGATE** is an attractive village located on an original Roman road with a fine selection of medieval properties and a pretty pond.

**Proceed through the village, passing the village hall, The Star Inn and The Old Stores; birth place of John Lydgate, symbolised by a blue plaque.**



John Lydgate, a 13th century monk and poet left his signature and a coded message in graffiti on a church wall in St Mary's Church.

**Turn right at the village sign ⑩ and continue along the lane past the village pond. As the lane bears right, take the Public Footpath on the left ⑪ past St Mary's Church**

St Mary's Church is Grade II listed and dates from the 13th century. It's position on a knoll is within one of the baileys of the adjacent motte and bailey castle.

**After a short distance take the footpath on your right. At the bridge, the footpath curves right alongside the River Kennett and onwards to the Ousden Road ⑫.**

*Continued on inside*

Continued from overleaf

Turn left over the bridge and continue along the Public Footpath on your right to wind alongside the Kennett to the B1085 **13**. Turn right, proceed along the verge until reaching the permissive footpath on your left between two fields **14**. Follow this path to a tree line, where it passes through a gap onto an ancient Byway, the Old Suffolk Road **15**.



As you head towards Dalham enjoy the scenic views of Lower Windmill and Dalham Hall.

Walk along this track until you reach the Dalham Road **16** turn right and follow the road into the village.

**DALHAM** offers a mix of lime-washed thatched cottages, many of which are listed and still bear the name of their original occupation, a Queen Anne Hall, and a church full of fine wall paintings.

Heading downhill you pass Lower Windmill complete with beehive 'cap'. Built in the 1790s, it is also known as 'Opposition Mill', perhaps for originally stealing trade away from Ashley's Upper Mill or having sails which turned in the opposite direction.

At the 16th century Affleck Arms, allegedly haunted by a grey lady, cross the River Kennett and turn left **17** to walk through the designated conservation village.



Pass Church Lane on your right, the rare conical Malt Kiln on your left and on through the kissing gate on your right **18** to head up the Beech Avenue towards Dalham Hall nestling next to St Mary's Church.

There has been a Hall on this site from at least 1702. The current Hall was originally 3 storeys but was damaged by fire in 1954.

Turn right at the Church **19** and follow the lane straight ahead, pass Garden House, cross the road **20** to continue along the footpath opposite towards Leipsic Wood.



As you pass along the tree lined footpath, glimpses of Lower Windmill can be enjoyed to your right.

The footpath will lead you into Leipsic Wood turning right. When you reach the footpath junction **21**, turn left to continue up through the wood to eventually exit out **22** to follow the route ahead.

Passing alongside fields, the footpath continues towards Jillings Farm; cross the private track **23** and follow the path as it angles across a field past a pair of cottages on your right. At the Denham Road **24**, turn right.

Walk along the road, passing the cottages again, take the wide Permissive Path on your left **25**.

At the "T" junction **26** bear right, following the path as it turns left along a tree line and left again to bring you out between two fields **27**.

Look back to enjoy the patchwork of fields and wonderful view.

Follow the path straight ahead until you reach the waymarker post **28**, turn right into the field, after a short distance take the footpath left and head up towards Snape's Farm **29**.

Continue through the gate passing alongside Snape's Farm, through a 2nd gate out onto Dunstall Green Road **30**.

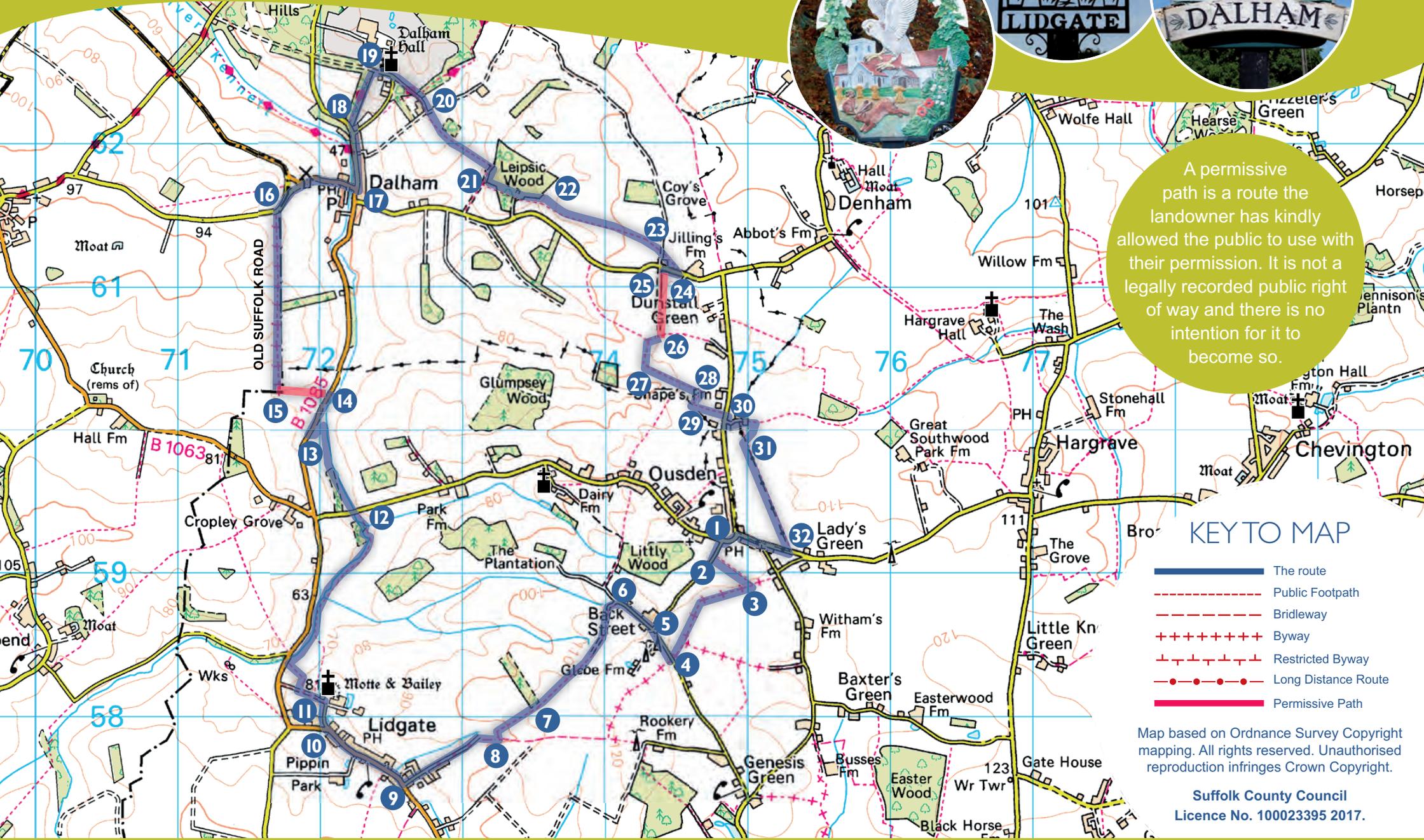
Turn right, past a Post Box and take the Public Footpath on your left passing an impressive thatched Barn continue to the end of the farm buildings. Bear right, follow the path past a second barn bearing right until reaching a wide green footpath alongside a hedge **31**. Turn left and walk on to the Ousden Road **32**.

Turn right, passing the Old Chapel to your left, follow the road ahead. Pass the village sign and green on your right, The Fox Inn and to the start of your walk.



# Ousden - Lidgate - Dalham

## The 3 Village Challenge



A permissive path is a route the landowner has kindly allowed the public to use with their permission. It is not a legally recorded public right of way and there is no intention for it to become so.

### KEY TO MAP

-  The route
-  Public Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  Byway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Long Distance Route
-  Permissive Path

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