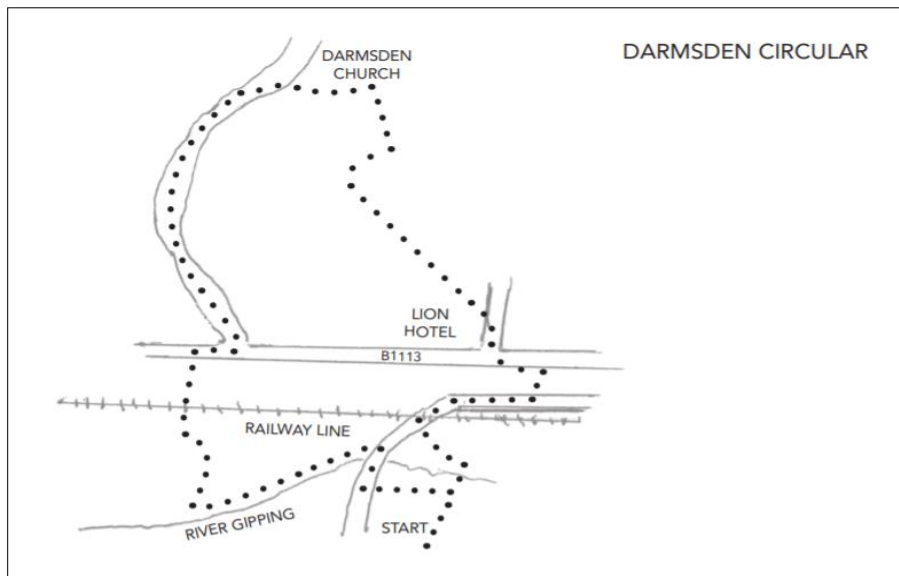


Darmsden Circular - 4 miles by Derek Magnall



At the time of publishing the footbridge before Creting Lock is closed awaiting repair, please check that the route is open before starting this walk.

From Needham Lake information Centre, cross over the footbridge towards the lake and turn left. Keep the lake on your right. At the end of the car park turn left to join the road and continue under the railway bridge. Continue on the footpath turning right and after 30 meters carefully cross road B1078. Go through passageway ahead fenced on both sides, and continue along Pinetree Way bearing to the right. Cross the road, go down Limetree Close and at the end bear right along path passing between two bungalows. Carefully cross main road B1113. The Lion pub on your left.

Head up Grinstead Hill and after 30 meters cross the road, turning left at the footpath sign up Mill Lane. Continue along footpath climbing steadily with trees and bushes both sides. After a time the path levels out. Continue along path, which becomes a wide track and continue straight ahead with fields on both sides. Track now splits, take the track on the right, bearing round to the right, hedges on the right, then bearing left. Continue along track. Turn left to join wide track dropping down passing under pylons. Pass St Andrews Church, Darmsden, on your right. In 1970 the community got together and bought the church after it was declared redundant; services are still held in there today. Darmsden is the second smallest parish in Mid Suffolk.

Turn left and continue along minor road dropping down. Continue for about a mile passing a number of houses on both sides and Darmsden Hall on your right. When you meet the main road B1113 carefully cross the road, turn right and continue 70 meters to a footpath by the bus stop sign. Turn left along footpath through trees with bushes both sides. Continue along the path meeting a wide track. Bear left along the wide track passing over railway bridge, continue along wide track bearing left. Turn right at footpath post over stile to narrow path.

Continue along the path with trees and lakes on both sides. On reaching the River Gipping turn left to cross two footbridges and through a gate. Continue along river path passing Creting Lock on your right and Anderson Fishing Lake on your left. On reaching the main road B1078, cross road very carefully and turn right on the footpath over the bridge. At the end of the bridge turn left through the gap with River Gipping and Bosmere lock on your left. This is the oldest example of a lock designed by John Rennie, the architect of the flight of 29 locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Continue along the path to the Information Centre.