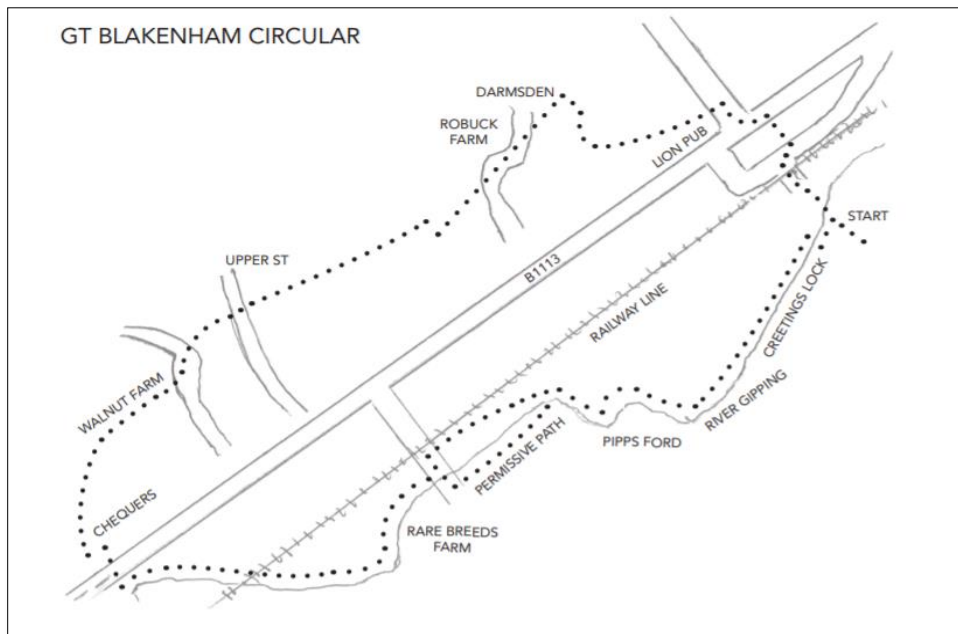


Great Blakenham Circular - 8 miles by Derek Magnall



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

From the 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.



St Andrew's Church, Darmsden

At T junction turn left onto minor road. As the road bears left after ~ 50m, turn right on to the wide track to Roebuck Farm following footpath sign. Continue along track passing telephone mast and three bungalows on your left and farm buildings on your right. After passing farm buildings turn right along path keeping trees on your left. Path drops down to the left through trees. Continue to field edge then continue straight ahead to woods opposite. Climb steadily through the trees gradually bearing to the left until you reach the top. Continue straight ahead on path crossing the field. Continue straight ahead along path with hedge on your left to the end of the field.

Down 4 steps passing through gateway on your the left. Bear right, follow path across field to second gateway, leading on to minor road. Continue along road, Church Lane, with houses both sides passing Baylham Church on your right. At T junction turn left. After ~10m turn right down enclosed footpath. Continue through field with hedges now on your left and after a short distance start to climb through trees to minor road. Turn left with Walnut Tree Farm and pond on your right. Turn right after the pond, passing through gate. Continue along path, trees on your right passing through second gate. Follow path across the field to join wide track between the hedges/trees. Turn right continuing along wide track, trees on your right. At track junction turn left and continue until track turns to minor road, Chalk Hill Lane. Continue down to main road B1113, Great Blakenham. **The Chequers** pub (01473 830455) is on your left.

Cross the road with care in front of The Chequers, opposite the church. Go down the footpath with the church and houses on your left. Turn left at footpath sign down passageway between Mill Cottage and Herb Cottage reaching the River Gipping. Continue with the River on your right for the next four miles. Passing through three gates and under railway bridge crossing minor road. Ignore gate on your left, passing Sharmford Lock, through kissing gate after passing bridge. Ignore bridge on your right. Through kissing gate, over stile and footbridge. Through kissing gate, over footbridge continue along path through gate, Rare Breeds Farm on your right.

* see alternative route below. Turn left continue along minor road to railway crossing. Before crossing turn right along narrow path, railway line on your left. Continue along path for 500m, leaving railway line bearing right to River Gipping.

*Recommended alternative route, subject to permissive permission is to continue down Mill Lane to the Rare Breeds Farm and Cafe.

Cross the bridge over the River Gipping. Take permissive path to the left. New path gives a better view of the Mill at Baylham. Continue along the path, River Gipping on your left. When you meet the new footbridge cross the bridge and turn right, River Gipping now on your right.

Turn left along path passing Pipp's Ford Lock. Crossing two footbridges, through gate, continue along path passing Creetings Lock to pass through another gate. Continue along path at side of the river eventually passing through another gate, passing Anderson Fishing Lake on your left and the River Gipping on your right. Through two more gates leading on to 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. Continue along path through play area to return to the Information Centre.