

Notes on Walk 1: Updated April 2015
(Shortcut marked in green; cut to Mendlesham Green in orange)

Route Map

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Narrative route description in **blue**

Narrative for access and signage issues in **orange**

Issues to address in **red**

References to definitive map and points on route map in black

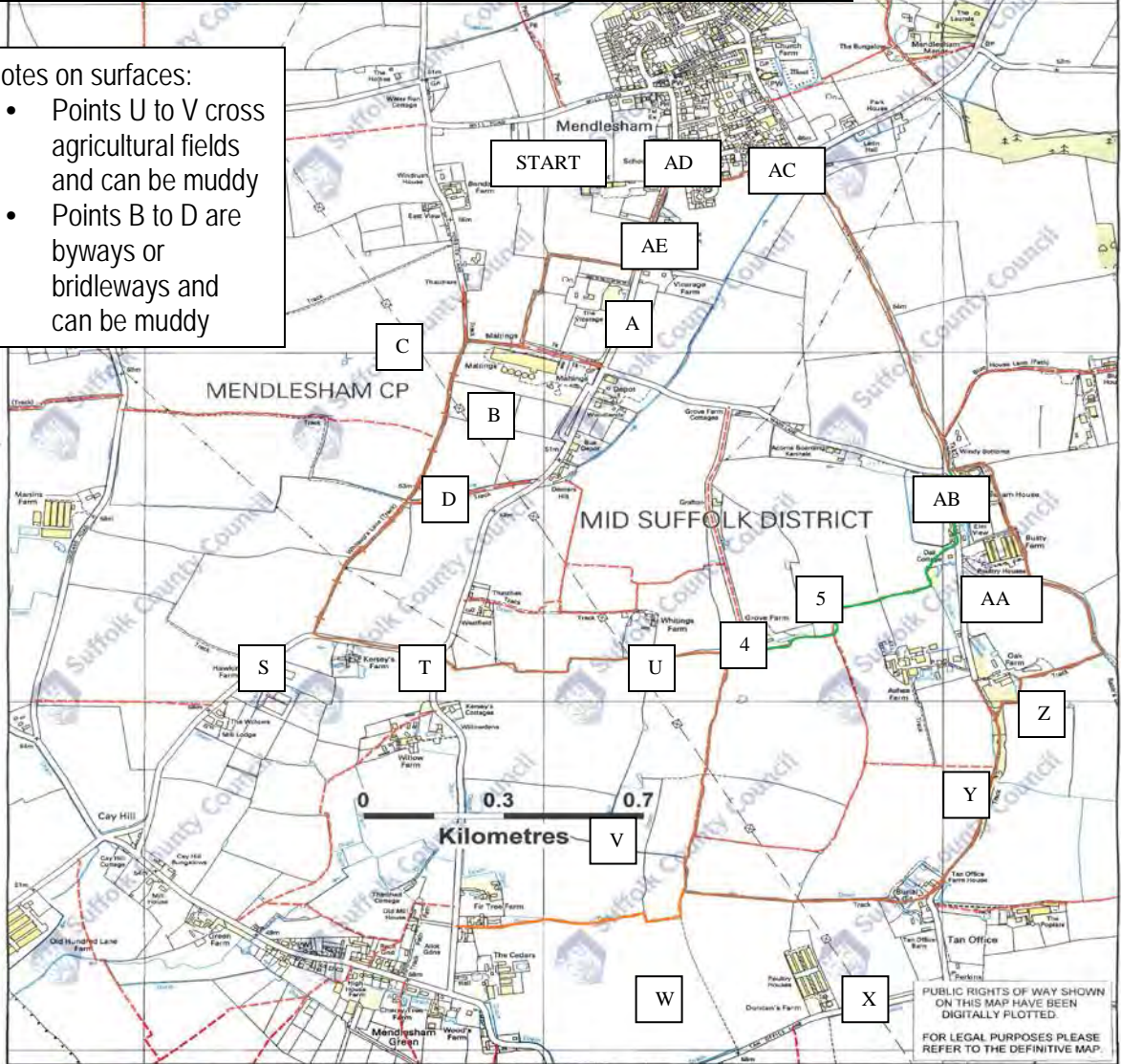
Approximate distance main route: 5 miles Approximate time: 3 hours

Approximate distance short cut: 3.5 miles Approximate time: 2 hours



Notes on surfaces:

- Points U to V cross agricultural fields and can be muddy
- Points B to D are byways or bridleways and can be muddy



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Scale 1:10,000 approximately. (6" = 1 Mile)
 Ordnance Survey Landline 29 March 2001
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Mendlesham - Brown & Green Walks

- Public Footpath
- Bridleway
- Byway

Filed at: Access Suffolk/Projects/Project Info.

Route Description

Start at Mendlesham Community Centre car park (START). Turn right out of the car park along the road away from the village, passing St Joseph's centre on your left. Initially walk along the grass verge and then join the footpath to the vicarage plantation.



This route runs along a busy road and is potentially hazardous. In 2013 it was improved by the addition of the footpath leading to the vicarage plantation. It begins just after the grass verge

View from school towards Vicarage Plantation – St Joseph's on left



The vicarage plantation is on your right. The Nursery is on your left. Turn right into the plantation having followed the new pathways created in 2014.

Turn right just before the entrance into the plantation and follow the 'woodland' walk around the edge of the plantation crossing two wooden footbridges and taking a sharp left hand corner. There is an alternative 'meadow' walk which can be accessed at various points on the 'woodland walk'. There are picnic benches in the plantation. A leaflet about the plantation, complete with map, is available from Mendlesham's Post Office and the Stackyard Nursery.



Woodland walk around Vicarage Plantation – showing one of the wooden bridges (winter)

Exit the plantation (B) through the parallel fencing and across a ditch opposite the grain store. Turn right. (This is right of way 61 on definitive map).



Exit from Vicarage Plantation through parallel fencing (B) in the winter

View up track away from grain store and Vicarage Plantation

There is no footpath sign as you exit the plantation and cross the ditch on to the byway - right of way 61. Access across the ditch is quite steep and slippery when wet or icy



At the end of the track (C) turn left onto Whiteup's Lane. There is a wooden footpath sign at this point (This is right of way 62 on definitive map)

View up Whiteup's Lane from sign



Sign at junction with Whiteup's Lane (C)

There is an excellent sign here. However, if you approach from the north, there is no way marker pointing down right of way 61 towards the grain store.



Continue along this track until you meet the road (S). Turn left and walk along the road.



View along road from Whiteups Lane (D)

This is quite a busy road. You may be able to walk along the field edge. However, there is no official right of way here. If on the road, be sure to walk towards the oncoming traffic in a single file.

At the corner where the road turns to Mendlesham and there is a junction to Mendlesham Green (T), there is a footpath sign on the other side of the road. Take this path towards the white house (Kersey's Cottage), then follow the field edge on your left. Proceed under telephone and electricity wires. Just after the electricity wires, cross into the next field over a wooden bridge.



Footpath sign (E)



View towards field edge from footpaths sign



You can just see the Mendlesham Mast in the distance – keep this in view for a while

Continue along the field edge to a way marker (U) passing over two bridges



First Bridge



Second Bridge

There is a grey barn and a farmhouse (Grove Farm) just beyond the way marker . (This route comprises rights of way 21 and 29 on definitive map).



You can see the Mendlesham mast



At this point (U), go straight ahead for the SHORT CUT (see Page 14) or turn right for the main route



FOR MAIN ROUTE FROM POINT U TO POINT AB FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Turn right and head directly across the field, under the electricity cables, Aim just to the left of a prominent tree. (This is right of way 20 on the definitive map). At the hedge line, there is a bridge (V) leading to the next field.



Cross the field, aiming to the left of prominent tree



Bridge (V)

Cross the bridge and continue straight across field aiming for the sign at the hedge corner. At the sign, proceed along the field edge with the hedge on the left. Follow the field edge round, turning 90 degrees to your right in the corner until you reach the next sign. Turn sharp left.



Cross the field, aiming for the hedge corner



Sign at hedge corner



Proceed to next sign

**Continue along the field edge to the way marker in the gap in the hedge (W).
(The final part of this is right of way 31.)**



Proceed along field edge to gap in hedge



Waymarker

At this point, it is possible to continue straight on for a short cut to Mendlesham Green that emerges close to the Scout Hut.

Turn left through the gap in the hedge. Proceed along the field edge with a ditch to your right. (This is right of way 30.) Proceed along the footpath until you meet way marker pointing away from the track through a garden.



At the junction of the 4 fields, some people believe that this is the source of the River Gippingothers disagree and is often a disputed question at inter-village quiz nights!



There is a way marker pointing to the right which is not very clear in this picture

Follow the way markers through this garden, taking the second path on your left by the way marker. You pass through a very pretty wooded area and the path runs along the side of the house before emerging in Tan Office (X).



Walking around the garden



Through wooded area

On emerging at Tan Office, turn left along the road before passing through a gate to join the bridleway. (This is right of way 14).



Road through Tan Office



View along bridleway

Proceed along the bridleway until you see a track to the right. Take this. There is a footpath sign on your left (Y) (this is right of way 14A). Follow this path until you emerge on Babb's Lane (Z). It starts in a wooded area, then turns left along a track which passes a farm on your left. Follow the track away from the farm with Mendlesham masts visible in the distance.



Turn right on this track to find footpath



Entrance to footpath (marked by walker)



Footpath sign

It is not easy to see this footpath sign. It is not visible from the bridleway. You need to take this track and look for the footpath sign on your left.

Follow track



Follow track with farm on your left



Mendlesham masts visible in distanc

Turn left and follow Babb's Lane (this is right of way 15) until you reach the private part of Babb's Lane (AA). The continuation of the footpath is blue to your right.



View along Babb's Lane



Private part of Babb's Lane



This is a beautiful walk and very clearly signed. When last walked, it was a bit overgrown once off Babb's Lane.

Sign showing footpath from Babb's Lane

Follow the footpath. This involves passing through a kissing gate onto an open field with farm buildings on your left. Follow the field edge until you come to a made-up driveway. Follow this. This involves crossing a farm road. Then take a sharp left turn (AB) and pass through a gate to emerge at the junction of Wash Lane and Oak Farm Lane. Turn right.



Go through kissing gate onto open field



Follow field edge



Follow this drive crossing farm road



Sign showing left turn



Gate to Wash/Oak Farm Lanes

Although there is a footpath sign from Wash/Oak Farm Lanes, it is not very clear that you have to go through the gate.

FOR SHORT CUT FROM POINT U (on page 7) TO POINT AB FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS

To take the shortcut, proceed straight on at point U. On reaching the field edge (4) cross into the next field by means of a wooden bridge. Turn left and follow two of the field edges on your left to the opposite corner (This is right of way 16 on the definitive map).

There is excellent signage here. Originally, this footpath ran across the field but it was diverted in 2006 to follow the field edges.



Follow the foot path with the hedge on your right around the field edge bearing left and then right towards a metal gate and the exit onto the road (Oak Farm Lane) (5).



This sign is set back quite a long way from Oak Farm Lane and not easy to see if coming the other way.

Turn left into Oak Farm Lane. Follow this road to where it joins Wash Lane (AB) just after Mendlesham House.

FOR BOTH MAIN ROUTE AND SHORT CUT

Continue to proceed along Oak Farm Lane until this road enters Mendlesham village (AC).



Views along Oak Farm Lane

Turn left at the footpath sign. (This is right of way 58 on the definitive map). Follow the footpath with the hedge and gardens on your right. Cross Glebe Way (AD) and then follow tarmac path to reach the main road at the St Joseph's Centre (AE). Turn right and return to the Community Centre



Footpath to Glebe Way

Tarmac path from Glebe Way to St Joseph's centre

There are no footpath signs where this path crosses Glebe Way or joins the main road at St Joseph's centre; just cross over and carry on up to the road

At road, turn right towards Mendlesham, walking along the pavement then cross over opposite the school to get back to the community centre and car park.

