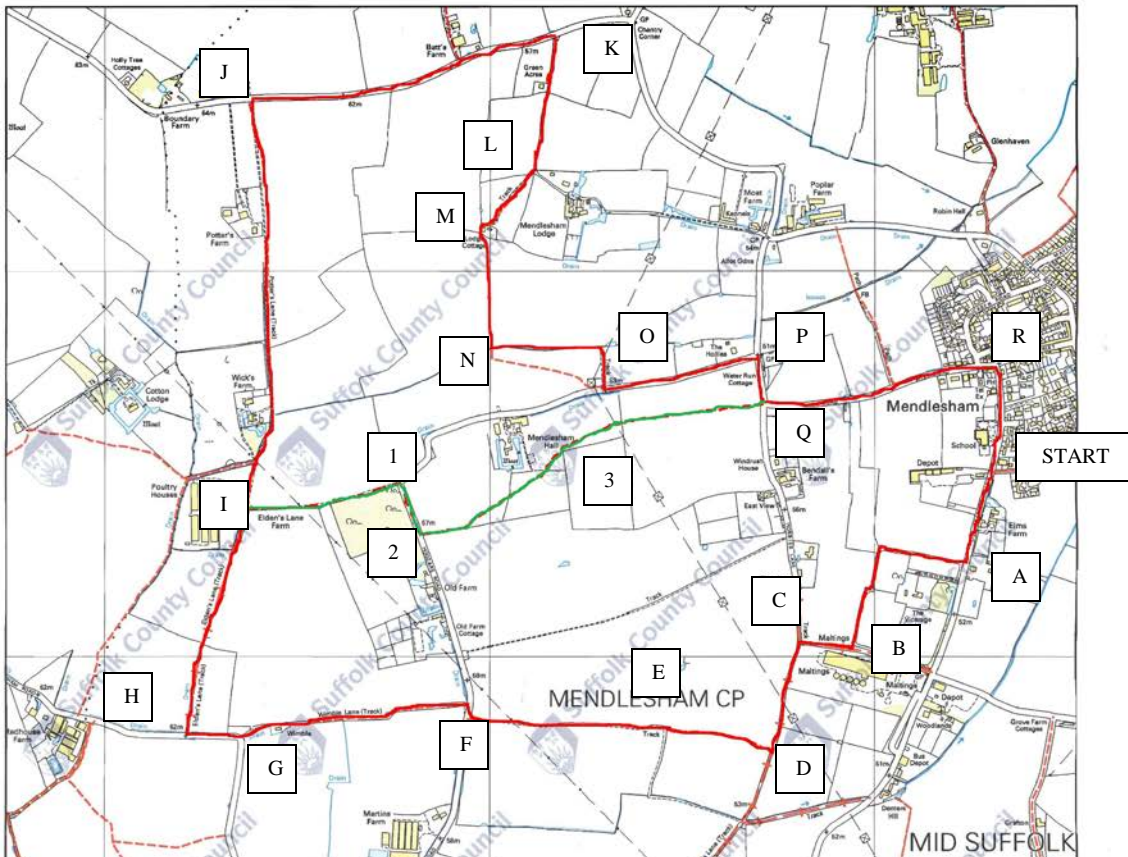


Route Map



Notes on Walk No. 3 Updated April 2015 (shortcut marked in green)

Originally Compiled in 2010 by Bernard Doughty, Kathryn Doughty, Joanne Drew and Roger Drew. Updated by Judith Howard-Rees following regular walks with villagers.

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: 5m Approximate time: 3 hours

Approximate distance shortcut: 3.5m Approximate time: 2 hours

Notes on surfaces:

- Points D to E, M to O and 2-Q cross agricultural fields and can be muddy
- Points B to D, F to G and H to J are byways or bridleways and can be muddy

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY SHOWN ON THIS MAP HAVE BEEN DIGITALLY PLOTTED.

FOR LEGAL PURPOSES PLEASE REFER TO THE DEFINITIVE MAP



Lucy Robinson, Director of Environment & Transport
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP1 2BX.

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



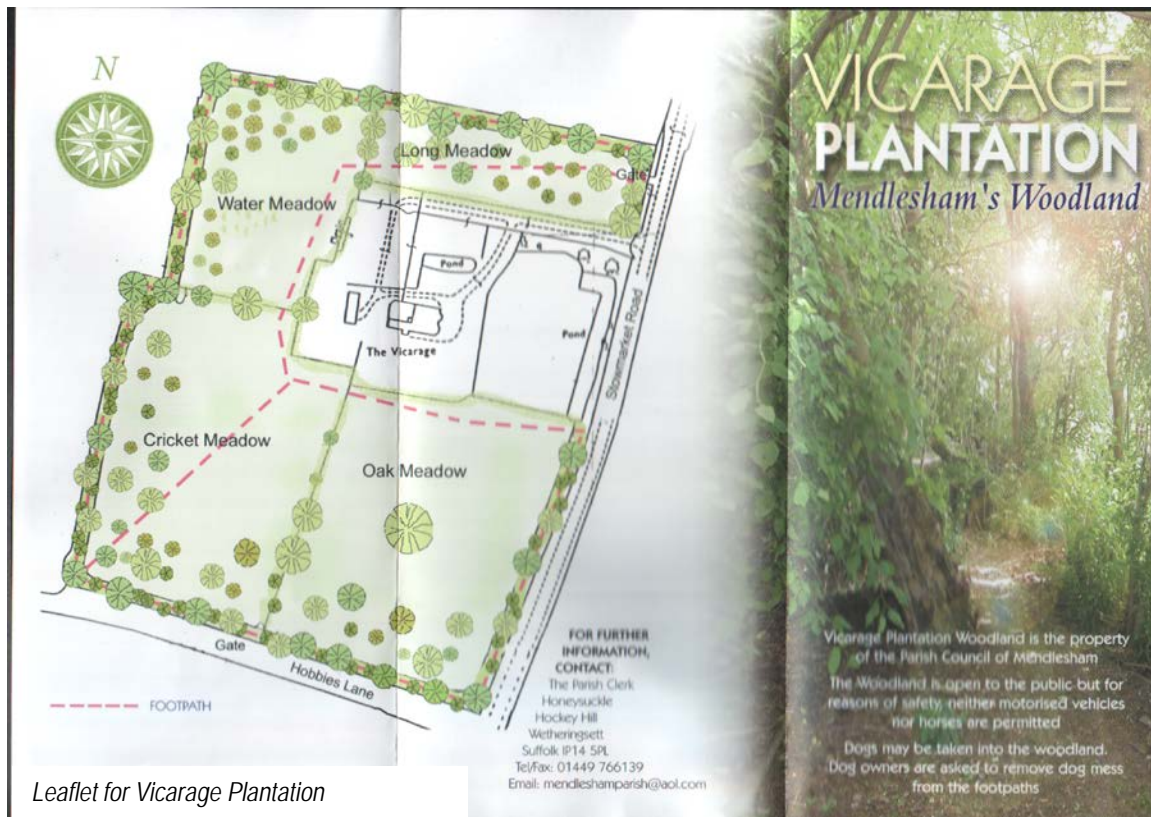
View from school towards Vicarage Plantation – St Joseph's on left

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



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 again 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

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)

View up track away from grain store and Vicarage Plantation

There is currently no sign as you exit the plantation onto right of way 61. Access across the ditch is quite steep and slippery when wet



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).



Sign at junction with Whiteup's Lane (C)



View up Whiteup's Lane from sign

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.

Just after passing under the overhead electricity wires (D) turn right across the field. There is a footpath sign behind the large oak tree. Head for the solitary oak tree at the end of the hedge. (This is right of way 47 on definitive map).



Oak tree obscuring footpath sign (D)

The sign here is often obscured by a large oak tree.

In the winter, it may be preferable to walk around the edge of the field, turning left, then right and joining a track on your left which, by turning right on to the track and right again, will take you to the oak tree.

NOTE: this is not a public right of way – only a suggestion for coping with very poor conditions



Footpath sign

At this oak tree, the sign has often fallen over and may be propped up with rocks or resting against the tree!



Oak tree to aim for from footpath sign



Oak tree to aim for from midway on path



Sign propped up with rocks

You will see a way marker for the old Middle Suffolk Railway if you choose to walk around the field edge as described on page 5 OR turn left at this point and walk along the grass track.

NOTE: is not a formal public right of way.

At the oak tree (E), continue along the side of the field to the road (Hoggars Road) (F).



Footpath along field edge



Footpath is churned in places



Footpath sign from Hoggars Road (F)

The footpath along the side of this field is badly churned in places and can be muddy in wet weather. The current route of the footpath (47) does not exit onto Hoggars Road at the place of the sign, but slightly to the right.

Turn right along Hoggars Road and then turn immediately left at the footpath sign into Wimble Lane. (This is right of way 1 on definitive map).



Sign marking entrance to Wimble Lane from Hoggars Road



Wimble Lane - summer



Wimble Lane - winter



View along Lamberts Lane



Junction of Wimble Lane and Lamberts Lane (G)

Proceed to where Wimble Lane meets the road (Lamberts Lane) (G) You pass an isolated cottage on your left. Wimble Lane becomes metalled just before reaching Lamberts Lane.

Turn right. Proceed to Elden's Lane (H) Turn right onto Elden's Lane which appears like a grass track. (This is right of way 59 on definitive map).



View along Lamberts Lane to junction with Elden's Lane

Signpost at corner of Elden's Lane (H)



View along Elden's Lane



Point of Interest:

All the rights of way are well-marked in this area. However, by Redhouse Farm, there is a footpath sign pointing North North East but no visible path. This is marked on the definitive map but has no footpath number. This is footpath 38 on the Cotton map. It had not been restored when last visited in 2010. There is a link with the path noted on page 10

Sign by Redhouse Farm pointing to footpath heading NNE

Proceed along Elden's Lane until you reach the road at Elden's Lane Farm (I).

FOR MAIN ROUTE FROM POINT I TO POINT Q FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS For the short cut - go to page 18

Proceed straight ahead along Potter's Lane.



View down Elden's Lane



Byway sign at Elden's Lane Farm (I) pointing back down Elden's Lane



View along Potter's Lane from Elden's Lane Farm

Continue along Potter's Lane until it ends at the road (J). Just at a farm on your left (Wicke's Farm), it becomes a bridleway (this is right of way 60).



Point of Interest:

Before reaching Wicke's Farm, there is a footpath to the left (right of way 2). This is a lovely wooded walk that goes to the Cotton boundary where it meets with two footpaths in Cotton. One of these runs along the parish boundary across fields to Redhouse farm. See notation on page 8

Entrance to wooded path running to Cotton boundary



Bridleway sign next to Wicke's Farm



Point of Interest:

According to the O/S map, there are two footpaths running east from Potter's Lane. These are not rights of ways and have no signs. However, they appear pretty well-demarkated on the ground (see picture).

View along one of the footpaths branching off from Potter's Lane

After Wick's Farm, the Bridleway starts



Views along Potter's Lane bridleway

The bridleway is badly-churned in places and is muddy in wet weather



Junction of Potter's Lane with Cotton Road (J)

At the road, turn right and proceed along the road past Bett's Farm on your left. Just before the end of the road, turn right at the footpath sign (K) (this is right of way 55).



From Cotton Road, the footpath follows a private road which is labelled 'Lodge Farm – Private'.



Footpath sign marking turn off Cotton Road (K)

Follow the drive way and when it forks (L), take the right hand fork towards a white cottage. There is a sign post in the hedge.



It is important that walkers do not take the left hand fork which is a private farm road.



Just before Lodge Cottage (M), head diagonally to the right towards a way marker and a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap in the hedge and turn left along the hedge to a way marker at the hedge corner.



View towards way marker and gap in hedge



Gap in hedge



Route along the hedge

You have to get quite close to Lodge Cottage and the way marker is probably only visible if you are looking for it



Way marker at the hedge corner – winter and summer

The way marker is fairly embedded in the hedge. When well-cut, this is visible but not when the hedge is overgrown. The marker points along the field edge which is not the route of the path, according to the definitive map, it is across the field. Follow the space between crops if a pathway is not clear.

Point of interest: Deer and Hare are often seen in this area

Follow the line of the hedge across the field aiming for two prominent trees at the field edge (N) where you will see a bridge across the ditch.



Views across field

When last walked, the footpath had not been restored across the field. It was possible to walk the central part of the field, in the approximate line of the path by following tractor tracks.



The two prominent trees (N)

Cross the bridge into the next field. From here, the footpath goes directly towards the closest electricity pylon (O) (this is right of way 54)



Route of footpath towards pylon

NOTE: There is no visible footpath and no signs here. We followed the field edge. In the corner, there is a track leading to the road by the pylon (O). The footpath sign points down this track and not along the route of the footpath on the map. It is possible to follow the track across the field to the hedge around Lodge Farm but there are no signs there. The track to the pylon has in the past been very badly-churned



Our route along field edge



Track showing signs of repair

Join the road at the pylon and turn left.



Footpath sign at junction with road (O)

View along road from pylon



At the end of the road (P) turn right.



View towards road junction

View at road junction towards Hobbies Lane



On reaching the corner of Mill Road and Hobbies Lane (Q) turn left. It is at this point that we join up with the Shorter route on page 22 (the Shorter route starting at point I on page 9)

FOR SHORT CUT FROM POINT I (page 9) TO POINT Q FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Turn right along the road instead of going up on to the track by Wick's Farm



View along road from Elden's Lane Farm

Proceed along the road until you reach the junction with Hoggars Road (1). There is a sign pointing in the direction from which you have come which says 'Wicks's Farm. No Through Road'. Turn right.



Turn from road onto Hoggars Road (1)



Junction with Hoggars Road

Proceed along the road until you a footpath sign on your left (2). (This is right of way 53 on definitive map).



Footpath sign leaving Hoggars Road (2)



Bridge giving access to footpath

Turn left and take the footpath. From the road, the footpath proceeds for a short distance along the field edge before heading diagonally across the field towards Mendlesham Hall. Access is gained to the next field by a small footbridge.



The Way Markers indicate a diagonal line across the fields which is in practical to walk. However, by following the field edge and ensuring that you pass by the way markers, access is fairly clear. The second marker is by the little bush





Pass the marker by the bush and continue on around the edge with the ditch on your right to the next marker



This path way is often cultivated and sometimes makes walking difficult. Firm shoes and a walking stick is helpful



Approximately mid-way across the field (3), you need to head in a more easterly direction aiming towards Mendlesham church tower and passing under the overhead electricity cables

You then reach the road (corner of Mill Road and Hobbies Lane) (Q).



Sign marking junction of footpath with Mill Road (Q)



FOR BOTH MAIN ROUTE AND SHORT CUT

Proceed down Mill Road towards the church tower and into the village leaving Hobbies Lane on our right

View down Mill Road into village



On reaching the corner by old public house (previously The Fleece) (R) turn right and return to the car park. Alternatively you may wish to turn left and then right to find your way to the Kings Head Pub for a rewarding refreshment



The Fleece

Point of Interest:

This pub closed in 2014 but the Kings Head in the centre of the village is open for business!

