

3

GREAT BRADLEY TO KEDINGTON

5.7 miles (9.2km)



POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG YOUR WALK

Walk Highlights

Little Bradley church has a round tower, a rarity in this corner of Suffolk. The Path leads through the Thurlows, two very attractive villages in this quiet and unspoiled corner of the county where scenes of village life in times past can be easily imagined.

The meadows beyond Great Thurlow Hall are often grazed by cattle, so it's important to keep dogs under very close control. Cross the busy A143 with great caution to reach Kedington, a large village with shops and pubs. The interior of the parish church is of outstanding charm and interest; an extraordinary array of monuments and fittings of every age.



Little Thurlow

1. Little Bradley Church – humps and hollows in the surrounding field mark the site of the deserted village. The church has a round tower, a rarity in these parts. It is Pre-Conquest in origin, and may have stood alone as a defensive structure, the church being built onto it later. The tower was built of flints, the only local building material at the time.



2. Collis Mill – this restored Grade II listed Smock Mill can be seen on the other side of the valley. Different to post mills, where the whole body of the mill rotated on a post, smock mills housed the grinding machinery in a fixed body so only the cap rotated. The wooden cladding was thought to resemble the countryfolk's smock garment.



Image courtesy of Mike Brophy.

3. Thurlow Landscape – as you look back at views of the village, the tops of Great Thurlow Hall, a Georgian style estate house, and the church can be seen across old parkland containing limes and chestnuts.



4. Red Lion Public House – take a detour to see Great Wrattling's 17th century hostelry, which looks like it's fronted by an archway of 'whale-bones' but is actually a fossilised 'crux', a piece of wood which formed the main support in the first wooden houses in England.



5. Kedington Church – known as the 'Westminster Abbey of Suffolk', it has uneven floors, higgledy-piggledy box pews, a three decker pulpit, a musician's gallery and various monuments to local families. The Barnardistons, lords of the manor from the 13th century to 1745, have a vault beneath the centre isle containing 54 coffins. Several of the funeral hatchments were restored in 2013. Look out for an amusing newspaper article found in the porch titled 'Bats in the Belfry'.



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ROUTE KEY

STOUR VALLEY PATH

① POINTS OF INTEREST

▲ ROAD TRAFFIC

↔ ROUTE START

↔ ROUTE FINISH

0 1
MILES

0 1 2
KILOMETRES

1 MILE = 1.6093 KILOMETRES

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HELP TO KEEP THE STOUR VALLEY SPECIAL

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow Stour Valley Path signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home with you
- Keep dogs under close control
- Buy local and support local businesses
- Use public transport whenever possible

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