

1 NEWMARKET TO STETCHWORTH

5 miles (8km)



POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG YOUR WALK

Walk Highlights

The headwaters of the River Stour are in isolated country near Newmarket, so the home of British horseracing is a convenient place to start or finish the Path. The town has regular train and bus services as well as providing a choice of accommodation and refreshment places.

Awesome Devil's Dyke is nearby, a massive earthwork of early Anglo Saxon origin, now home to chalk-loving wild flowers including the distinctive pasque flower and many butterflies. In clear weather the outline of Ely cathedral can be seen on the horizon 14 miles to the north west.



Devil's Dyke

1. Newmarket – the centre of the racehorse industry since 1309 and home to the Jockey Club and famous horse races. Visit the National Horseracing Museum and the National Stud and watch the racehorses exercise on the gallops in the morning. The Stour Valley Path starts at the Clock Tower at the top of Newmarket High Street.



2. Chalkhill blue – look out for this rare butterfly as you walk the Devil's Dyke. Only found in chalk or limestone areas where the larval foodplant, Horseshoe Vetch, is found in abundance. It is a warmth-loving butterfly, typically found on sheltered, south-facing hillsides.



Image courtesy of Mark Colvin

3. Devil's Dyke – this 7.5 mile defensive structure stretching from the fens to Woodditton, was built in the 6th century to guard East Anglia from the south west when skirmishes between Britons and Saxons were common. The dyke is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



4. Wildflowers – the dyke has one of the few surviving remnants of chalk grassland in the region and supports a rich flora, including rockrose, milkwort, restharrow, pasque flower, bee orchid, bellflowers, pyramidal orchid, sanfoin, harebells, centaury, scabious and wild geranium.



Image courtesy of Stuart Read.

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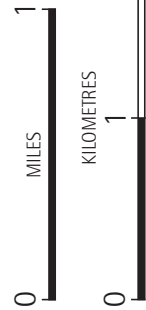


HELP TO KEEP THE STOUR VALLEY SPECIAL

- 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

ROUTE KEY

- STOUR VALLEY PATH
- ① POINTS OF INTEREST
- ROAD TRAFFIC
- ↔ ROUTE START
- ↔ ROUTE FINISH



1 MILE = 1.6093 KILOMETRES

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