

# 8

## WORMINGFORD TO STOKE-BY-NAYLAND

6.5 miles (10.5km)



## POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG YOUR WALK

### Walk Highlights

Wonderful valley views abound before crossing the main river near Wissington ('Wiston') where it is worth making a short detour to see the idyllically located church with its medieval wall paintings including a fearsome dragon and St Francis feeding the birds.

A winding riverside path leads to Nayland, once a thriving township, its wealth deriving from the cloth trade of the 15th and 16th century. Embanked Court Knoll is a relic of earlier settlement. The village has a wealth of timber-framed buildings and the church has an altarpiece by Constable. The route on to Stoke-by-Nayland threads through bluebell country, the landscape for miles around dominated by the mighty 15th century church tower which rises above splendid half-timbered houses and their warm-coloured roof tiles.



Cricket Bat Willows and Cow Parsley

**1. Ronald Blythe** – local author and editor of Penguin Classics for over 20 years. He is best known for his classic depiction of life in the Suffolk countryside – 'Akenfield - Portrait of an English Village'. A collection of his regular column in The Church Times telling the tale of local life and lore is published as 'Word from Wormingford'.



**2. Bottengoms** – once the home of John Nash, an official war artist also famed for his beautiful depictions of the Stour valley landscape. An esteemed painter, illustrator and engraver, some of whose work can be seen at the Tate Gallery and Victoria Art Gallery. Nash is buried at Wormingford churchyard.

**3. Adrian Bell** – journalist, Suffolk farmer and author who went on to compile the Times crossword. He wrote books on the countryside (notably Corduroy in 1930) and lived across the Stour Valley from John Nash, who illustrated his book 'Men and the Fields'.



**4. Wissington or 'Wiston' church** – has medieval wall paintings including St Francis of Assisi preaching to the birds (thought to be the earliest picture of him in English art!) and spanning the north doorway a magnificent dragon.

**5. Court Knoll** – found near the Anchor Inn is a raised earthwork surrounded by a wide ditch, it is thought to have been an illustrious manorial complex.



**6. Nayland** – meaning 'island', has a wealth of medieval buildings in the vernacular style of the Essex – Suffolk border. The prosperity of the cloth industry is evident here particularly in St Mary's Church. Go inside to see one of the three rare ecclesiastical paintings completed by John Constable.



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**ROUTE KEY**

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

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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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