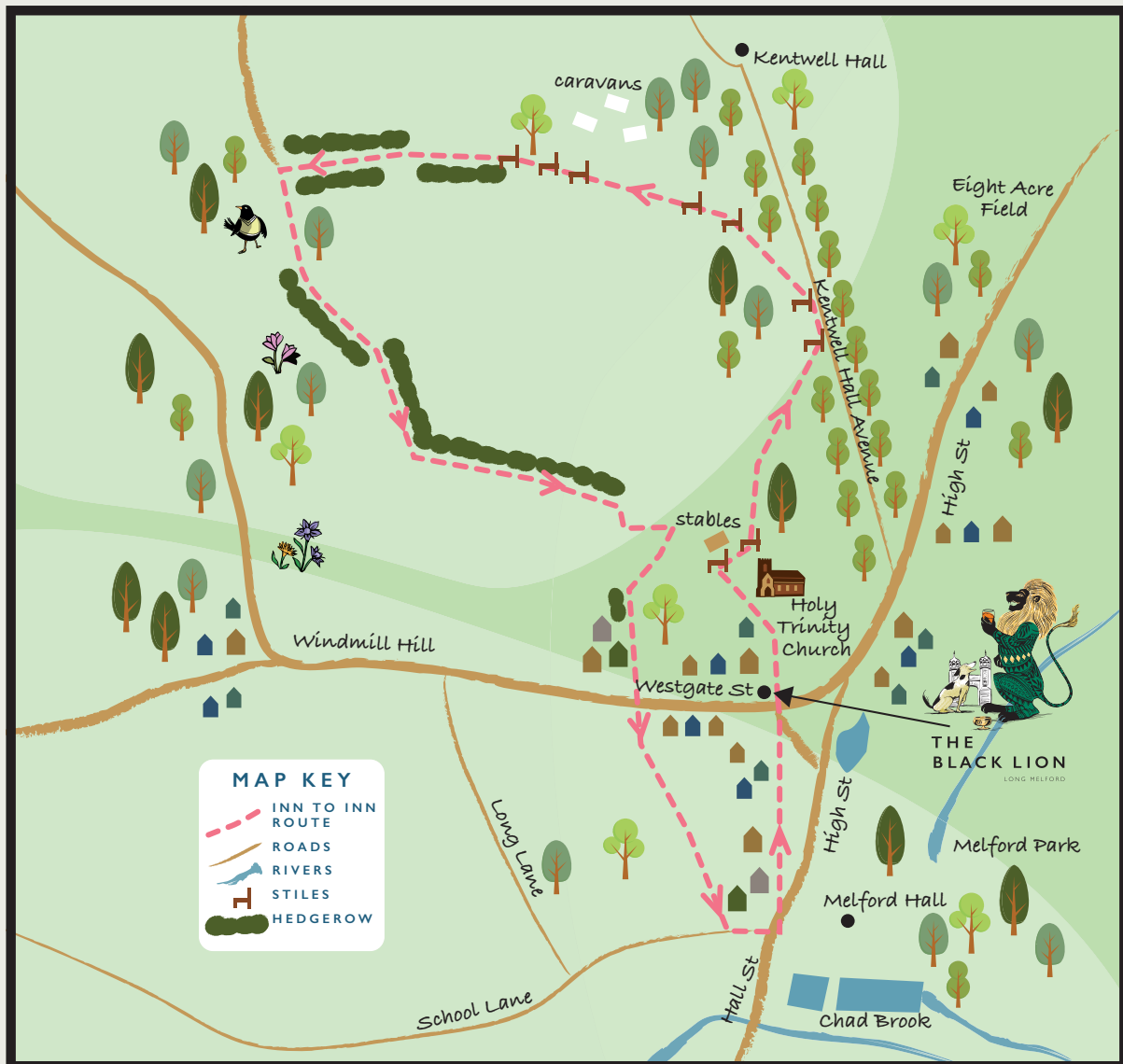


NINE STILE STRIDE

Circular scenic walk from The Black Lion Long Melford



2.5 MILES | HOUR WALK FROM THE BLACK LION

Welly Boots Recommended

Heading out of The Black Lion, turn left up Church Walk then continue along passing the Hospital of the Holy and Blessed Trinity on your right and the Old Rectory on your left. Entering the churchyard, bear left passing the war memorial, follow the path to a wooden gate and into the Rectory Gardens.

Continue a short distance before reaching another small wooden gate that takes you between two paddocks. Go through the gate and before reaching the stables, take the metal stile on the right, crossing a field diagonally towards the tree line. Take another metal stile and a kissing gate into an open field. Follow the trodden path ahead, slightly left across the middle of the field towards the driveway of Kentwell Hall. Exit the field over a wooden stile, turning left to walk between the fence

and the avenue of tall lime trees.

Take the next wooden stile on the left and head diagonally towards the tree line passing a metal stile, follow the fence to the left and pass through a second metal stile, heading straight across the adjacent field with views across the Stour Valley on your left and glimpses of Kentwell Hall on your right. In a field ahead you might spot a few caravans used by Tudor re-enactors from Kentwell Hall when performing! Pass through a further two metal stiles, across a small sleeper bridge and over a final metal stile situated to the left of an oak. Walk down the farmer's track straight ahead until it bends to the right; instead of following the track, take an immediate left across the centre of a field towards a large oak tree. On reaching the oak, follow the footpath signs, keeping the hedge on your right. Round the field corner and take an almost immediate right across a small sleeper bridge

in the hedgerow. Continue straight with the hedgerow now on your left. When you come to a T junction turn left following the field edge. At the far end, bear right and then cross another sleeper bridge on your left into the grounds of Westgate Park.

Take the left-hand footpath, with horse paddocks on your right. Continue until you reach the Permissive Footpath gate on the left. Head through both sets of gates, exiting on to a small footpath next to a high yew hedge. This narrow route will lead you around a building and under a yew archway on to a busy road. Cross the road (Westgate Street) and take the footpath to the right of the end cottage. Follow the footpath to the bottom of the field and turn right passing the car park and hedgerow on your left. Turn left on to Church Walk and head up the pavement back to The Black Lion for a warm welcome and hearty seasonal dishes.

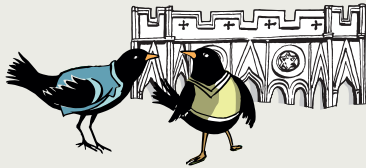
AROUND AND ABOUT

Points of interest along the route



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - JUST A 3 MINUTE WALK FROM THE BLACK LION

Holy Trinity Church, one of the great medieval churches of East Anglia is steeped in history. The church was constructed between 1467 and 1497 and is testament to Suffolk's wealth as a trading centre during the late 15th century. The real gem of the church is that much of the stain glass survived the reformation and civil wars of the 16th Century, preserving an array of stained glass widely acknowledged by art historians as unique in England.



KENTWELL HALL

Kentwell Hall is a stately home in Long Melford. It includes the Hall, outbuildings, a rare-breeds farm and gardens. Most of the current building exterior dates from the mid-sixteenth century, but the origins of Kentwell are much earlier, with references to it in the Domesday Book of 1086.



MELFORD HALL

Melford Hall is an imposing red-brick Tudor mansion. The history of the house dates back to the 16th century when it was a monastic hunting lodge. Originally the home of the Hyde Parker family, Lords of the Manor of Melford, the house is now owned by the National Trust. The Manor once belonged to the Abbots of Bury St Edmunds, but after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, it passed to Sir William Cordell, a lawyer who later rose to become speaker of the House of Commons.

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