

FALKENHAM ROUTE

Distance 5 km/3.4 miles

Start: Capel Hall Lane picnic site. *Directions by car:* From the A14 at junction 59, take the Kirton exit and very shortly on your right you will come to Capel Hall Lane and you will see picnic tables there. There is plenty of parking. *

This is a circular route, mainly on the level. You will walk on roads, bridleways, pass through fields and wooded areas. We would recommend that you do this walk with another person as there is a tricky short steep slope to scramble up. Avoid this walk after rain.

① Cross over Capel Hall Lane and take the bridleway south, formally called Sandy Lane. You will eventually come to an open metal gate with the A14 slip road running parallel on your right. Ignore the first footpath to your left. The bridleway goes down a slope and look out for another footpath to your left. It is marked by two vertical grey poles and there is also a public footpath sign, but is set back from Sandy Lane. (If you come to where the land slopes steeply to your left you have gone too far and just retrace your steps.)

② Take this footpath straight across the field. The path continues past a paddock with horses in it and a wire fence running alongside on your left. You then come across a post with yellow paint on it, with a 'circular' walk marker on it. Continue straight to the next field. The path emerges on to a tarmac road.

③ Turn left here. **Capel Hall** is on your right. Immediately past the drive to Capel Hall, you will see a public footpath sign on your right. Take this and walk along the farm track. About 100 metres along you will see a sign on your right which says 'Footpath Only' and a yellow post.

④ Take this path and walk through the avenue of oak trees. At the end of the row of trees go straight over a small wooden bridge, then down a slope and over another bridge which crosses a large pond. Follow the yellow posts and the footpath south. Go through the gate ahead of you and walk across the meadow. (In spring and summer this may well have animals in it.) You will

come to another short bridge, cross this and the next meadow heading for another gate in front of you. Go through this and the path leads to a wood.

⑤ Just before you reach the tall trees you should see a footpath to your left. There is an obscured sign for this. Turn sharp left along the path. Go through the gate at the end of the path and into a meadow. At this point head to the right towards another gate. Go through the gate and across a field. Continue following the yellow posts and walk across the next field, heading towards posts with yellow tops. Cross a farm track and head down a slope towards a grove of trees known as 'The Wilderness'. Go through the grove and over Falkenham Brook.

⑥ Once out of the trees, ignore the farm track to your left and continue straight ahead across a field. After crossing the field, you will come to two more yellow posts. You will have lovely views across the fields at this point.

⑦ The track emerges on to Back Lane. This is called **Everetts Corner** and the house dates from 1920. Turn left here, walk a short distance up the hill.

⑧ Take the footpath to your left which goes diagonally across a field towards a wood. At the end of the field you will see a yellow post. Follow the path and this will take you through a narrow wood.

⑨ After emerging from the wood, continue straight across the field with a hedgerow on your right. The path eventually reaches Brook Lane.

⑩ Go down 3 steps & turn left on to the road & go over Falkenham Brook.

⑪ Half way up the hill you will see a footpath to your right. This is a short steep tricky slope and could be slippery and challenging if wet. Walk diagonally across the field to woods. The path goes through woods and is marked by wires either side.

⑫ Once through the woods, follow the diagonal path across the field to the road. Go through the gap in the hedgerow and you are now back on Capel Hall Lane.

⑬ Turn right and make your way back to the picnic site.

FALKENHAM CHURCH LOOP (1.75km/1.1 miles)

If you would like to go a little further on your walk. You could include this loop. It includes a visit to Falkenham Church. There is a bowl of water for dogs and a bench to rest with lovely views over the river Deben outside the church. In January and February the graveyard is carpeted with snowdrops. There are also lovely views over to the river Deben on this part of the walk. However you will be walking along narrow roads with no pavements.

At ⑦ where the footpath emerges on to Back Lane at **Everetts Corner** cross over the road and walk along the road directly ahead of you which is still part of Back Lane. You get good views over the fields here to your right. Continue into Falkenham past the properties, up the hill and past Russells Farm on your left.

Ⓐ Ignore Sheepgate Lane to your right and take the footpath opposite on your left across a field. At this point it is worthwhile taking a moment to look over to the river Deben on your right, as you can see as far as Felixstowe Ferry and Bawdsey. Walk across the field towards the church. Once across the field go down a slight slope to Falkenham Road.

Ⓑ Turn left on to the road. Go past **The Old Dog** on your left which used to be a pub. Before taking the bridleway on your left a short distance from this, it is worth going a little further along the road to visit **Falkenham Church**. Then retrace your steps to the aforementioned bridleway.

Ⓒ If coming from the church the bridleway is on your right opposite a post box and telephone kiosk. This bridleway is called Dog Lane. You go along an avenue of trees and then this goes alongside a field on your left. Then you should come to a telegraph pole on your left and at this point the bridleway goes across a field. It will emerge on to Back Lane.

Ⓓ Cross over Back Lane and walk down Brook Lane which is directly opposite. Continue going down the road until you reach a footpath on your left, with steps descending to the road, which is point ⑩.

* If you would prefer to walk from Trimley this will add another 1.4 km/ 0.9 miles. The quickest way is to walk south along the High Road from the village sign on St Martins Green, crossing over the Howlett Way roundabout and continue walking south until you reach Thurmans Lane, the second road on your left. Turn left here and walk to the end of the road where it becomes an underpass.

At the underpass turn left and walk along the bridleway past a sandy area to your right. You then come to a part where the land drops away to your right. Just after this look out for the footpath to your right and follow the directions from point ②.

At the end of the walk, the quickest way back is to cross over Capel Hall Lane from the picnic site. Follow the bridleway all the way to the underpass where you turn right into Thurmans Lane. Retrace your steps back to the village sign.

Alternatively you could walk back along Capel Hall Lane until you reach a farm track on your left. Take this and then take the first bridleway track on your left. This will bring you to Kirton Road near Trimley St Martin School. Cross the road, turn left and continue until you get to the footbridge over the A14, which you cross. This joins Old Kirton Road where you turn left and follow this until it reaches the High Road and the village sign.