

CIRCULAR WALK FROM THURSTON

which passes three pubs conveniently situated near the start and middle section of the walk.

At time of writing (Jan 2018) all three pubs serve real ale.

Note: If you intend to stop at any of the pubs for drink or food or both it is best to check the current opening times.



Pub web sites and phone numbers.

Thurston.

The Victoria. Web: No web site. Phone: 01359 230951

The Fox and Hounds. Web: www.thurstonfoxandhounds.co.uk/ Phone 01359 232228

Note as well as the pubs mentioned in this walk you can also eat and drink at the New Green Community Center. Check their web site for more details of opening times etc. <http://www.newgreencentre.org.uk/thurst.html>

Pakenham

The Fox. Web: <http://pakenhamfox.co.uk/> Phone: 01359 230194

Transport:

Train: If arriving at Thurston Rail Station exit across the car park and turn right onto Station Hill. After about 100 yards take the footpath on the right signposted Community Center, Parish Council Office and Cycleway 51.

Car: If arriving by car you can leave your car in the car park at Thurston New Green Community Center Post Code for Sat. Nav. is IP31 3TG. Grid reference: TL928651

Bus: Thurston is also served by Galloway Coaches running between Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds calling at villages in between. For more information and timetable visit their web site http://www.travel-galloway.com/Local-Bus-Search_Thurston.

There are bus stops outside The Fox and Hounds in Barton Road and near The Victoria in Norton Road.

The Walk.

Leaving New Green Community Center on your left take the foot/cycle path with open green on your left and playground and housing on your right until it reaches a road turn left. Follow this pavement until you reach a cross roads.

At this point if you look to your right you will see the first pub,

The Victoria known locally as The Fly.



Cross over Norton Road into Meadow Lane opposite which is signposted as a dead end. At the end of this tarmac lane the footpath continues downhill between field hedges with a ditch on the right. After a while the path takes a right turn across a wooden bridge onto a field. The footpath bears slight left across the field.

The path then goes between a small wood on the right and a hedge on the left. Follow this path which, after going over another wooden bridge structure, continues to weave its way through a plantation of Scots Pines. As the path emerges from the pines near a horribly disfigured Oak Tree at you come to a small meadow surrounded by a fence.

Note: Sometimes there are cattle in this meadow and if you don't want to go through meadow you can take the permissive path which goes to the left of the fence until you reach Sheep Lane.

Otherwise go through the metal “Kissing Gate” and bear left heading diagonally across the meadow. When the path reaches the other side of the meadow continue along the right side of the field until you reach another kissing gate. Go through this gate emerging onto Sheep Lane. Turn right onto Sheep Lane and continue a short distance passing a brick “back” entrance gate to Nether Hall and some further farm buildings and cattle pens on your left until you reach another footpath signed off to the left. Go through another metal Kissing Gate onto the meadow Head across the meadow with large mature trees dotted around it at right angle from the Sheep Lane. A large house, Nether Hall, can just be seen on your left through trees. Continue across the meadow until you reach another fence line with another Kissing Gate. Go through the gate onto a track, Following this track, ignoring the track on the left that goes towards Nether Hall. After a short while comes out on a small lane opposite Pakenham St Mary's Church. Cross over onto the pavement and go left down the hill. When the road reaches the T-junction at bottom of the hill keep left along Pakenham village High Street. After a short while you will reach The Fox pub on your left.



Having been empty for around five years the pub was completely refurbished and reopened in 2016 and is now a very pleasant “freehouse” pub.

From the pub continue along the High Street going up hill until you pass a brick gateway to Nether Hall. A few yards further on take a track off to the left past some converted barns and a farmhouse. After passing a hard tennis court on the left the track bears right. Keep following this track between two hedges until you meet a small road. Cross the road onto the field edge opposite and then go left down the hill along the side of the field. Where the path meets a concrete track heading off to the right you have to continue along the road going first down hill then up hill. After a short distance take another small lane (this time single track with weight limit sign) that goes off to the right. This is Mill Lane. Follow this lane for about half a mile until you reach a T-junction with Barton Road. Turn left along the pavement. After a short distance the pavement crosses to the other side. Follow this path/road for about half a mile. Just before a small roundabout and railway bridge on the other side of the road you will come to The Fox and Hounds .



From the pub take the pavement on the same side as the pub and go left past the pub and after a short distance you will arrive back at Thurston Rail Station on right or continuing a little further at a path on the right to New Green Community Center Car Park.

Thurston Circular Pub Walk 4 Miles - 3.93 miles

