

## Dullingham/Stetchworth and Wood Ditton Walk

This is a two and a half hour circular walk, depending on how long you stay at *The Three Blackbirds* pub in Wood Ditton. The route has been submitted by Sue Park from Dullingham and her black Labrador, *Louis*.

A good starting point is at the Stetchworth Road/Cross Green junction in Dullingham. Walk uphill towards Stetchworth along Tea Kettle Lane and at the *Marquis of Granby* pub cross over the road behind the barrier to Lovers Lane - a cut through to Strollers Way.

Walk diagonally across the road from the exit of Lovers Lane and you will see a wooden signpost which directs you through fields to the Devils Ditch. Walk straight ahead and up and over the Ditch, which is part of the Icknield Way. On the other side of the Ditch, the Icknield Way continues between two large fields. At this spot, on a clear day, Ely Cathedral and the Rowley Mile racecourse can be seen.

At the end of the path, there are steps made out of old railway sleepers leading up to a gravel path. Turn right along the track that will lead round to the left and uphill towards Wood Ditton Church. At the top of the hill leave the Icknield Way, turning right, with the hedge on your right hand side. Follow the footpath keeping Wood Ditton water tower on your right. The path takes you through the middle of a field, exiting by a large oak tree; you then follow the hedge on your left.

At the end of the path is a small bridge over a ditch that leads into the far end of the *The Three Blackbirds* pub in Wood Ditton. When open the pub will happily provide water for dogs and sustenance for humans.

Leave the pub and turn right and head towards the 'West End' of the village – turning left here and then shortly right, passing 'The Green Room' on your left. Look for the gate that takes you into a field. Go through and keep to the left hand side of the field.

Exit the field via a wooden bolted gate and turn left, keeping the hedge on your left. Follow the hedge around to the right, past a wood on your left and near to a pretty little round house, where you will come out into Stetchworth Ley. Turn right, passing cottages on your right (just a short walk on the lane) and then pick up the public footpath, signed to the left. The path takes you by tennis courts and an old shepherd's hut. Stay on this path, with the woods on your left. At the end of the path, minding your head on the

fence as you turn right onto the Stour Valley Way. This path takes you over a bridge into 'The Moats' (probably the site of an ancient moated settlement) and follows a ditch on your right that runs downhill to a pretty green track, known locally as Watery Lane.

Turn left on to Watery Lane, with the stream on your right, follow the track to its end to the end. This will bring you out at Cross Green. Turn right and you are on Stetchworth Road, which is where this lovely walk began.