

## The Horse Walk

**An easy circular walk that offers lovely views, plenty of wildlife and glimpses of thoroughbred horses on the many stud farms that surround Dullingham. The route takes about an hour and a half and has been submitted by Tony Cope. Tony has lived in the village for 13 years and walks the area regularly with his dog, *Oliver*.**

Start the walk outside St Mary's Church.. (There is a small car park). Set off down Church Close and walk diagonally across the village green and head for the crossroads by 'The King's Head'. Turn left down Station Road and continue through the village, passing many attractive cottages on the way until you reach Balsham Lane.

Turn left into Balsham Lane and follow the road as it takes you steadily upwards to higher ground. Take time to admire the lovely view to your right across rolling countryside; this is where you are likely to see Roe deer, especially if you are out early in the morning. Pass Deer Field Farm Stud on your left and before you reach Underwood Hall, turn left onto the public footpath, which is clearly signposted.

The footpath is well maintained and easy to walk. It passes close to a small private golf course on your right. Look out for green woodpeckers searching for worms and grubs on the short grass in this area. Continue on, past a stud on the right and a wide belt of trees on the left. This area is excellent for seeing foxes, muntjac, rabbits and hares, again if you go early. I have also spotted Sparrowhawks, Kestrels and a Buzzard here too.

Continue towards the water tower and once you reach Brinkley Road, cross over and head for the marked footpath that will lead you through the Brinkley Stud where more horses can be seen. (Dogs need to be kept on a lead at this point). Proceed along the footpath and look to your right towards the reservoir, usually surrounded by Canada Geese. The path skirts an arable field before finishing on the Dullingham Ley Road. Walk about 50 yards downhill and then turn left along a footpath taking you back up to higher ground. The footpath will bring you to a small 'moated' copse. At this point, cross over the little bridge and turn right, following the hedgerow until you find yourself back at St Mary's Church. Walk through the churchyard - but before returning to your starting point, take time to stop and feed some bread to the ducks on the village pond.