

# Welcome

Ousden, the name thought to derive from Owl Valley, lies within the scenic beauty of this lovely corner of West Suffolk, with hills and valleys clothed with woods and rich arable land.

These walks give memorable views from some of the highest points in Suffolk. Situated over 400 feet above sea level, Ousden is one of the highest villages in East Anglia.

The village has evolved since the Bronze Age. After the Norman invasion, Ousden, (mentioned in the Domesday book as Uuesdana), was an established agricultural community mainly owned by the Lord of the Manor.

Today, the village boasts beautiful cottages, a Norman Church, an 18th century Coach House, Stable and Clock Tower being the remains of the original Ousden Hall. During WWII the Hall was requisitioned by the Army for initially billeting troops, then became a POW camp for Italians and later Germans.

Not forgetting the village's, dog friendly,

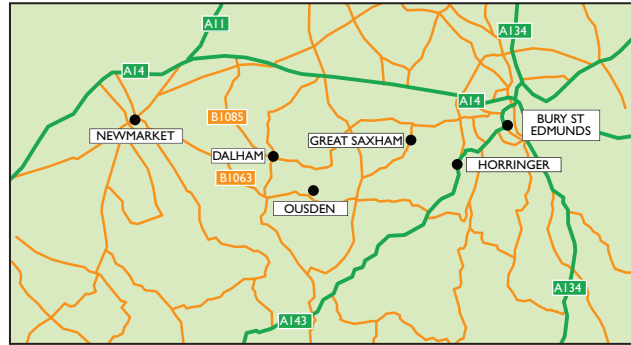
The Fox Inn ([www.thefoxinnousden.co.uk](http://www.thefoxinnousden.co.uk)) which dates to the 15th century when it was thought to be the original brew house.

Why not pop in and sample what they have to offer.

The routes follow public rights of way and some quiet roads, along a terrain that is a mix of flat and hilly.



## Location



Ousden lies between the A1304 and A143, 7 miles south-east of Newmarket and 8 miles south-west of Bury St Edmunds.

## Public Transport

Public transport is available to Ousden. Visit [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) (0345 606 6171) or [www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk) (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

## OS Explorer Map

Use O.S. Explorer Map 210 Newmarket & Haverhill to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

## Discover Suffolk

Discover more walking and cycling leaflets by visiting [www.discoveruffolk.org.uk](http://www.discoveruffolk.org.uk). Follow us on [f](#) and [t](#).

Produced by Suffolk County Council and Ousden Parish Council



Circular Walks

# Ousden

Views of pure delight



# A Patchwork of Arable & Woodland Views

**DISTANCE:** 3 ¾ miles (6 km)

**DURATION:** 2 hours

**WAYMARKER:** Red Circular Walk



Turn right from the village hall car park **1** and proceed along Front Street passing The Fox Inn and the green with the village sign on your left. Follow the road ahead, passing the Old Chapel to your right, until you reach the footpath on your left at the end of the hedgerow **1**.

The chapel was built in 1862, in response to the local landowner who had bought the barn in which the Methodists met,



to oust them from the village. The event was recorded in a pamphlet called “Nailing Up the Old Barn Door”. The chapel is now a private residence.

**Follow the wide green footpath leading you to the farm buildings ahead.**

Turn right at the first barn, continue around it to a second barn, turn left. The footpath takes you past a thatched barn and to the road **2**.

Turn right and after a short distance take the footpath on your left through the gate. Continue alongside a picturesque house and through a second gate ahead. Follow the path straight ahead across the field to a T-junction **3** turn left.

Enjoy the views of Cambridgeshire to your right as you cross these fields.

Head downhill and over a small bridge to cross the next field. Turn left **4** to follow the footpath through a wooded area and down to a narrow lane, turn right and continue up to Front Street. Take the footpath left of the thatched cottage opposite **5**, which will take you to Littly Wood.

Either continue straight with Littly Wood on your left or take a pleasant detour turning right at the pond and walk to the Norman church, which lies adjacent to where Ousden Hall stood.

The church, dedicated to St Peter, is Grade 1 listed. Inside is a wall monument to Laeititia Moseley (d. 1619) featuring a grinning skeleton wearing a shroud!

Return back to the pond and turn right.



Continuing with the wood to your left passing Littly Wood Cottage to reach Back Street Lane. At the T-junction **6** proceed ahead until you reach the tree lined byway **7** on your left. Follow the byway until you reach a foot bridge on your left **8**, cross and continue along the cross field path to a gap in the hedge at Lords Lane **9**.

The glimpsed views either side of the byway, over open fields, are a delight.

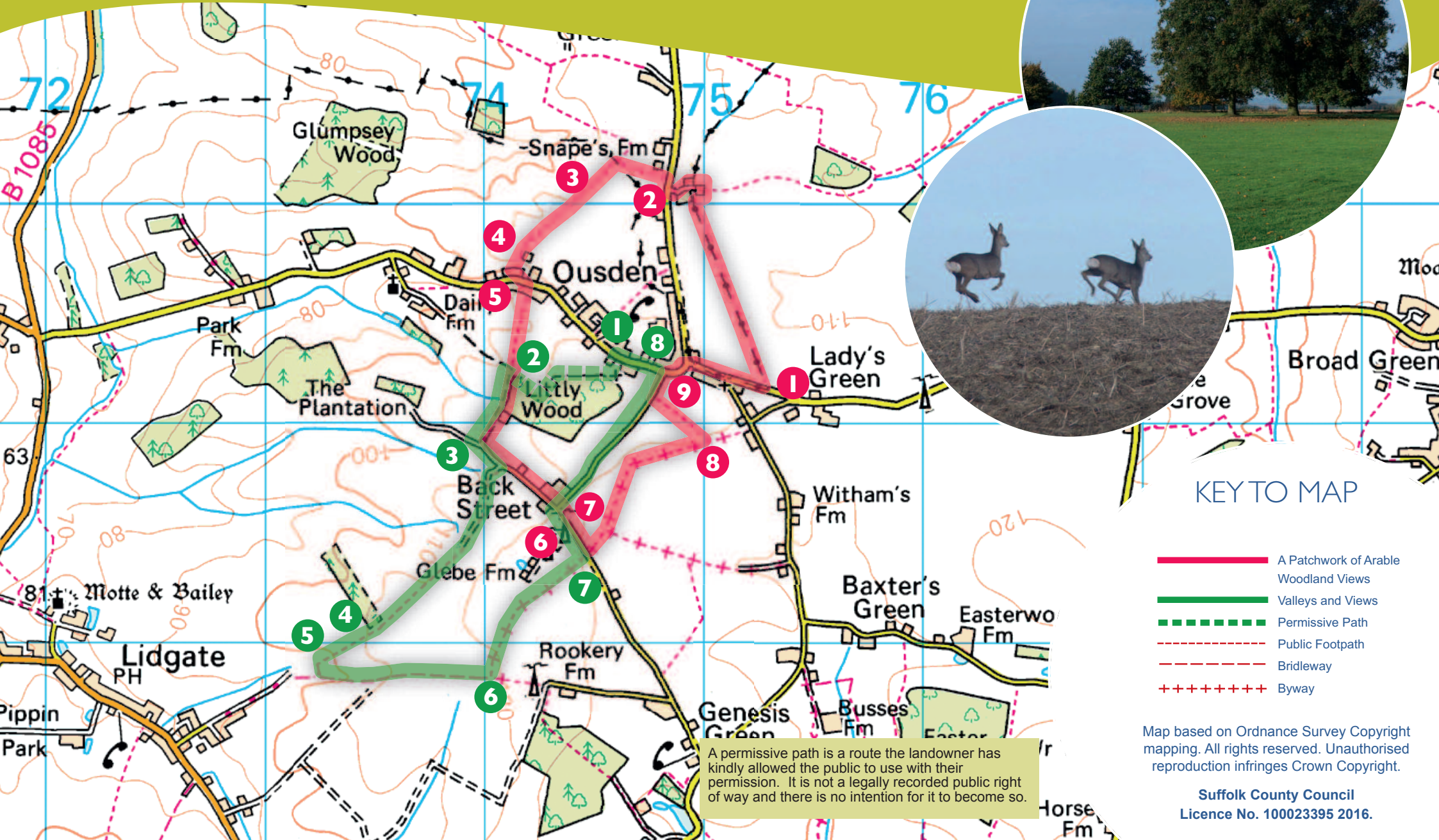
Turn right back to Front Street **8** and then left to return to the village hall.





# Ousden Circular Walks

Views of Pure Delight



## KEY TO MAP

- A Patchwork of Arable Woodland Views
- Valleys and Views
- ⋯ Permissive Path
- - - Public Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- +++++ Byway

Map based on Ordnance Survey Copyright mapping. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright.

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A permissive path is a route the landowner has kindly allowed the public to use with their permission. It is not a legally recorded public right of way and there is no intention for it to become so.



# Valleys and Views

**DISTANCE:** 3 ¼ miles (5 ¼ km)

**DURATION:** 1¾ hours

**WAYMARKER:** Green Circular Walk



The village hall was built in Camberwell and erected at Stowlangtoft in 1916; it was used as a billet for military accommodation for sick and wounded troops during World War I. In 1921 the building was purchased by Mr Praed of Ousden Hall and transported to Ousden by steam traction engine. The building was erected on the playing field in Front Street.

To commemorate the Queen's Coronation in 1952, the village hall and playing field were donated to the village by Cyril Praed.



From the village hall car park ❶ enter the playing field, turn right, and follow the perimeter of the field past the oak trees to Littly Wood ❷. Turn right and follow the permissive path to the end of the wood.

Deer are often seen in this area. On a clear day, if you turn around and look towards the right of St Peter's church, Ely cathedral is visible in the distance.

Turn left, keeping the wood on your left and passing Littly Wood Cottage, until you reach the concrete footpath on your right ❸. Follow this footpath as it leads you gently to the top of the hill.

Pause and enjoy the valley views, Lidgate church can be seen in the distance. Listen to the skylarks as you look out for buzzards, kites and sparrow hawks.



Proceed past the copse ❹ and with the hedgerow on your left, head downhill. At the end of the hedgerow ❺, turn left, past a field entrance onto a grassy tree lined bridleway.



This bridleway, called Bury Lane, is an old thoroughfare to Bury St Edmunds.

Continue along this track until you reach the byway on your left ❻ before the telecommunications tower; follow the tree lined byway until you reach the road.

Turn left ❼ follow the road, which curves right into Lord's Lane and leads you back to Front Street ❽, where you can turn left to return to the village hall or visit The Fox Inn opposite.

