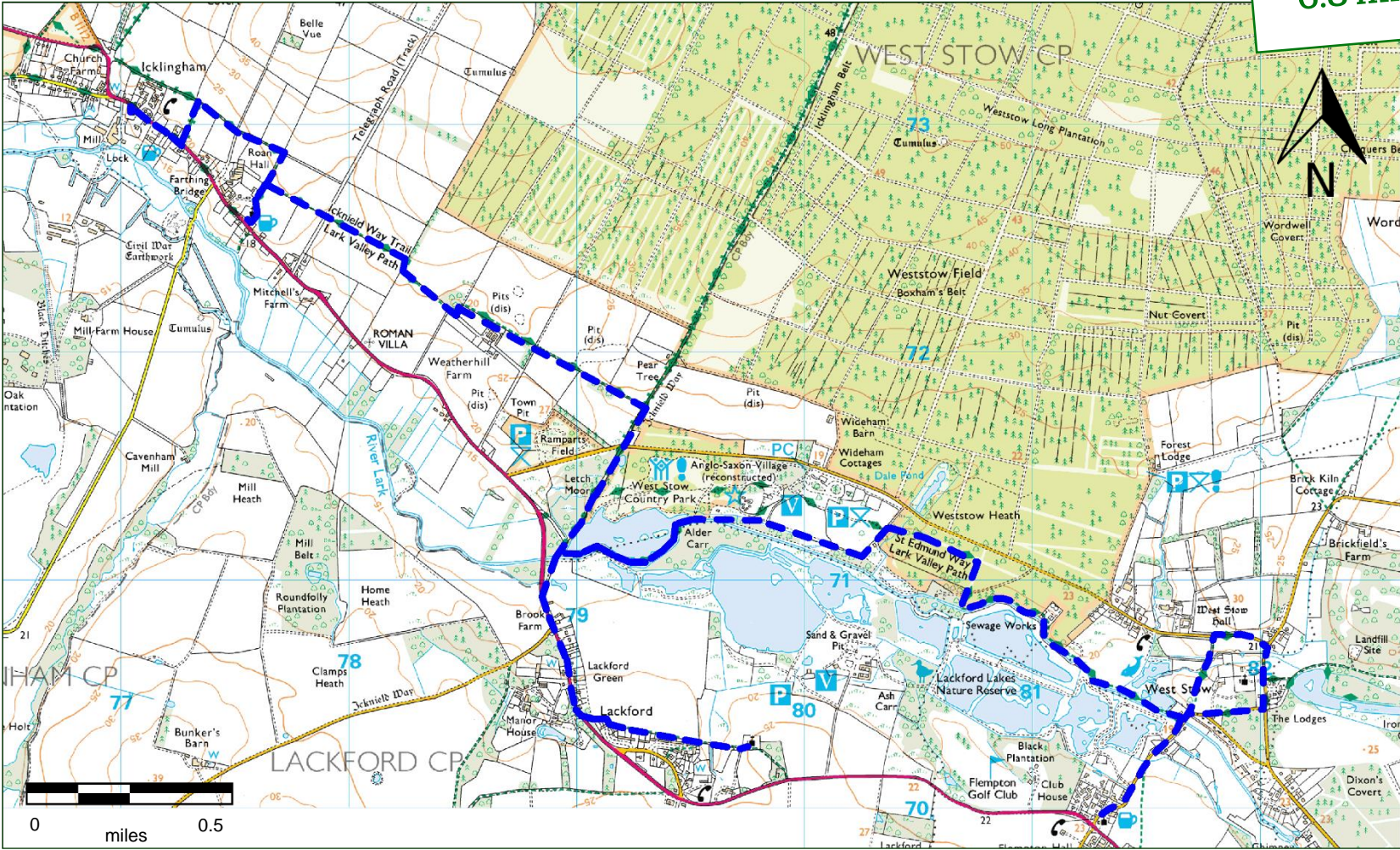


# Linear Walk

## The Churches Trail, Icklingham

6.8 miles



## Along the way

This linear trail follows the valley of the River Lark passing through a classic Brecks landscape with rows of Scots Pines and heathland flora.

There are five churches in all along the way, two of which can be found in Icklingham - St James's dating from the early 1300s is an impressive building notable for the high-quality black flint used in a Victorian restoration. The interior is equally impressive.

All Saints, now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, is an unspoilt thatched building and offers a rare view of a largely complete and unaltered medieval church.

Third on the list is St Lawrence at Lackford set in a quiet tree-lined location with its huge medieval tower, and then St Mary's at West Stow, mostly 14th century in origin but restored in Victorian times after becoming largely derelict.

Last but by no means least, you will find St Catherine's at Flempton. In its wonderful wildflower setting near the pretty village green this church is worth a visit for its early 20th century stained glass alone.

### Walk summary

This trail links historic settlements along the River Lark's valley, focusing in particular on their important churches.

**Getting started:** This linear trail starts at St James's, Icklingham (TL7705 7307) or St Catherine's, Flempton (TL8129 6991).

**Getting there:** Mulleys Motorways Nos 355 and 955 and Stephenson's of Essex No 16 operate in the area with stops at Icklingham and Flempton. Limited on-street parking is available at Icklingham, and The Greyhound pub at Flempton is currently used for car parking. Additional parking can be found at West Stow Country Park (charges apply).

**Maps and guides:** Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 229, Thetford Forest in The Brecks and Explorer Map 211, Bury St. Edmunds and Stowmarket.

**What to expect:** Unsurfaced footpaths and tracks, with some surfaced roads and pavements.

**Facilities:** A shop, cafe and toilets are available at West Stow Country Park.