

## Polstead Club Site Kersey and Lindsey walk

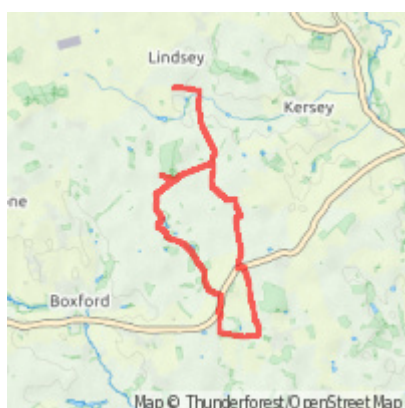
Camping and Caravanning



### Route Summary

Meander along quiet country lanes and pathways to explore beautiful south Suffolk countryside north of Polstead Club Site. The walk will take you back in time to when this part of England was a little more than the sleepy backwater it is now perceived to be. Walk created by Sky Strolls Ltd.

### Route Overview



Category: Walking  
Rating: Unrated  
Surface: Moderate  
Date Published: 9th July 2018  
Difficulty: Easy  
Length: 12.720 km / 7.95 mi  
Last Modified: 9th July 2018

### Description

An 8km/5 mile walk from the Camping and Caravanning Club Site near Polstead to the lanes that lead north towards the small picturesque villages of Kersey and Lindsey. Although they now seem small, quaint, little backwaters they were once the centre of a busy woollen industry. Kersey Cloth, a cheap twill fabric takes its name from the village.

The political and strategic importance of the area can be appreciated when considering that both Lindsey and nearby Groton both had castles built within them, by the same person. The small thatched Chapel of St James on the edge of Lindsey dates back to the 13th Century and was probably built by the owner of the adjacent castle, unfortunately not accessible to the public. It is known that a place of worship was on this site prior to the current building. However, the church was dissolved in 1547, the building being used as a barn until the 1930s. The Chapel is now managed by English Heritage, with free admission.

Groton Wood is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and has existed since prehistoric times. Due to the age and management of this area over many years a diverse ecosystem has developed that allows a myriad of wildlife to thrive. The woods are home to at least 15 different species of butterfly, spring sees an abundance of wild bluebells, and wood orchids thrive throughout. The trees will be full of the sound of birds such as the melodious Black Cap, Willow Warbler and all three native Woodpeckers. The site is managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, with free admission.

Dogs are permitted but must be kept on a lead.

The nearby village of Groton, again a small and sleepy place in today's world, is mentioned in The Domesday Book and once had a Motte and Bailey castle. It is the birthplace of John Winthrop who lead the puritan emigration to New England and then founded the city of Boston.

Care will need to be taken as you cross and walk along short stretches of the A1071 Sudbury to Ipswich road.

## Waypoints

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### 1 Camping & Caravanning Club Site, Polstead

(52.02494; 0.89557)



Leave the Camping and Caravanning Club Site via the main entrance turning left along the road to join the A1071, Ipswich to Sudbury Road. Here please take great care as you turn right for a short distance on the grass verge, until turning into the small hamlet of Bower House Tye opposite The Brewers Arms.

### 2 Bower House Tye

(52.03057; 0.89294)



Opposite the rurally set house called Chace a small path can be seen clearly signed, take this path which gradually

gets wider as you pass along its length. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this broad avenue with birds singing in hedgerows and trees on either side. On arriving at the road turn right for a short distance.

### 3 Hollies Cottage, Wicker Street Green

(52.03988; 0.88174)



A footpath sign will be found pointing along a private drive towards a beautiful house called Hollies Cottage. Take this path and pass counter-clockwise around the house to reach fields on the far side. Meander around the field edges until meeting the road adjacent to Groton Wood Cottage, turn left to enter the Nature Reserve.

### 4 Groton Wood Nature Reserve

(52.04887; 0.88065)




Having enjoyed the pleasures of this enchanting woodland, leave the wood by turning left to the hamlet of Kersey Tye, where you turn left along a no through road. After a short distance leave the road along a footpath that cuts straight across the middle of a field on your left. After passing through a metal gate into a meadow, look to your left where trees will be seen in the adjacent field, these mark the location of the remains of Lindsey Castle. When you get to the road turn left where St James's Chapel will be found secluded on your left.

## **5 St James's Chapel**

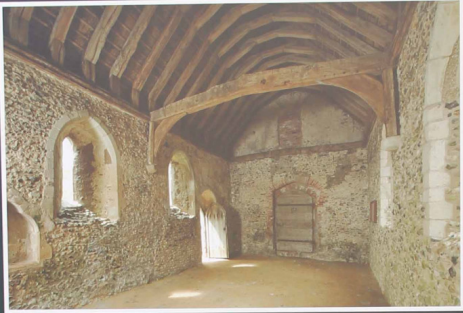
(52.06264; 0.88390)





ENGLISH HERITAGE

## ST JAMES'S CHAPEL




Dating from the 13th century, this chapel served the adjacent Lindsey Castle and was also a chantry where a priest said masses for the soul of the founder, a common medieval practice. The castle was abandoned by 1400 and only the earthworks are visible today. In the mid 13th century, Nesta de Cockfield, who was from a prominent local family, instigated a tithe to pay for the chapel's upkeep. All chantries were closed in 1547 as part of Edward VI's Protestant religious reforms. The building then became a barn until its restoration in 1930.

### Opening times


Daily 10am - 4pm

### Enjoy a safe visit

Explore this site with care and closely supervise your children.  
 Assistance dogs only.  
 Intentionally damaging this monument is a crime.  
 Smoking, commercial photography and metal detecting is prohibited.



Slip hazards



Trip hazards

Customer Services 0370 333 1181

After a few moments of thought within the chapel retrace your steps to Kersey Tye.

## 6 Road junction at Kersey Tye

(52.05064; 0.89363)



After leaving the no-through road take the small lane that is signed By Road. Stay on the road until meeting the A1071 on a sharp corner. Turn left along the field edge for a short distance to Potash Lane, please take great care as you walk alongside this busy road. Towards the end of Potash Lane, a sign will be found that suggests the hedgerow is over 500 years old and contains at least 19 different woody plants. Follow the road to your right, then right at the next junction to find the Camping and Caravanning Club site

