INTRODUCTION

A wonderful walk through grassy valleys and over open hilltops. The walk crosses the site of the old Orford Priory, now a series of lumps in the ground, once an important settlement.

PATHS, PONDS and a Priory

A circular walk of 5½ miles from Binbrook

POINTS OF INTEREST

Orford Priory
As you cross the lumps and bumps, think what used to be here - the medieval nunnery of St Mary, founded in the 12th century and dissolved in 1539. Adjacent to the priory is the remains of the deserted settlement of Orford. There were a series of fish ponds, providing an important food for the nuns who couldn’t eat meat on Fridays. The nunnery would have been self-sufficient for all its food.

Kirnould le Mire has an interesting history to its name. Kirnould means goat hill, while le Mire means marshy ground. In the 1970s remains of a Roman villa were found in this area, including a mosaic that included an image of a blackbird. Unfortunately today there is no evidence on the ground of the villa.

Blackbirds
Blackbirds are today one of our most familiar birds, but have strong connections with folklore of our country, as sung in the nursery rhyme Sing a Song of Sixpence.

The walk is mainly on paths and tracks with some steep slopes and a number of stiles (some may be difficult for dogs). Some paths may be muddy, so stout shoes or boots are recommended. Allow 2½ - 3 hours for the walk.

There are toilets off Market Place. Considerate parking is available along Kirnould Road.

For times of buses to Binbrook phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.info
This walk is on Ordnance Survey Explorer map 282.

Don’t forget to follow the Countryside Code wherever you go – respect, protect, enjoy.
Prepared with contribution from the community of Binbrook

“four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie. When the pie was opened the birds began to sing. Oh wasn’t that a dainty dish to set before the king?” In medieval times blackbirds, and other song birds, were actually eaten as a delicacy! However, a court jester may well have suggested to the court cook to bake a pie pastry crust and place this over some live blackbirds to surprise and amuse the King!”
The route

1. Start at the Market Place and walk towards the T-junction at the northern end. Turn left (signposted for Skitter Rasen) and walk past the Queen's Hall. Follow the road left past the RAF 460 Squadron Memorial.

2. Cross the road, then immediately after the second bungalow on the right, follow the public footpath passing in front of a house, cross the stile and walk across a small field to a further stile.

3. Cross the stile and continue across the next field heading for a gap in the hedge. Continue across the next field aiming for prominent electricity pylons where three sets of power lines join.

4. G \[\frac{4}{5}\] a further stile and bridge and follow the dog-leg route of the footpath past the old Priory earthworks to a stile alongside a gate in the corner of the field. Take time to read the information panel about farming and wildlife.

5. At the far side of the next field, cross the wooden footbridge over the stream. Follow the footpath alongside the stream and then bear right continuing to another stile at the far side of the field.

6. Continue across three more fields to the village of Stainton le Vale. Go over the stile to meet the road.

7. Turn left along the road and where it bears right, go straight ahead through a small gap in the hedge and follow the public bridleway to the left past two cottages.

8. Continue along the bridleway uphill, through a small wood and turn left at the top of the hill. Follow the bridleway keeping the hedge row on your left and cross the stream using the wooden footbridge.

9. Cross the next field and follow the track through the farmyard and past the Mose House.

Once you have gone through the farmyard, look to your left to see the cultivation terraces.

10. At the road, turn left. Follow the path uphill on the field edge. This path has been created by kind permission of the landowner so walkers do not have to walk along the road here. At the top, carefully cross the road, then turn right up a steep bank to follow the public footpath.

11. Continue straight ahead, past cottages on your left. Cross a bridleway and follow the footpath to Binbrook. Turn left along the High Street back to the Market Place.

The really sharp eyed may be lucky to spot a weasel running for cover. They are smaller than stoats and do not have a black tip to their tail. Often they are seen crossing a road at top speed!