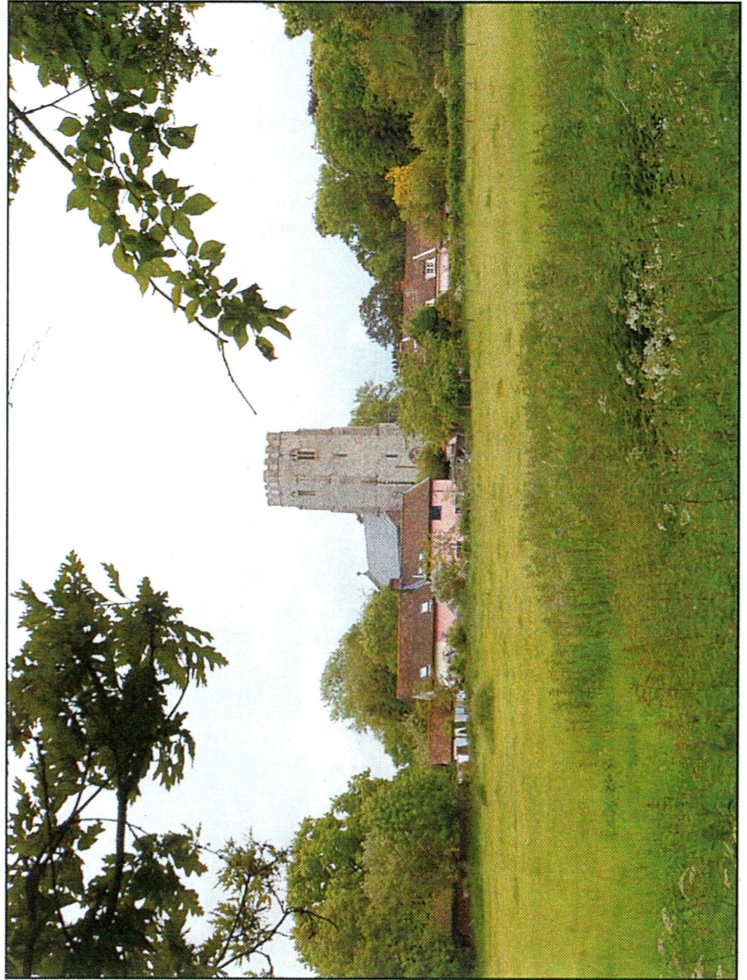


Introduction.

The **Worlingworth Wayfinder** has been produced to mark the completion of the Worlingworth footpath improvement scheme started in 1992, and finalised in June 2008. Here you will find more than 17 miles of easy to follow walks through a gently rolling, open landscape of arable fields, grazing meadows and ancient greens interspersed with small fragments of woodland.

These well signed posted paths mostly follow the margins of fields, often using wide grassy verges for a pleasant all weather walking experience. Where cross-field paths still exist there are frequent marker posts to guide you on your way. This together with the provision of new bridges and stiles throughout the network means no more getting lost, jumping ditches or scrambling through hedges.

Look out for some local wildlife, learn a little local history and above all enjoy that sense of freedom which comes from wide open spaces, peace and quiet and distant horizons.



Worlingworth Footpath Improvement Scheme.

October 7th 1992! On this date Worlingworth Parish Council held a meeting with all the landowners in the parish who had public footpaths over their land which were recorded on the 1952 Definitive map. It was agreed that improvements were needed for better access for the public and for the landowners to be able to farm with modern farm equipment, and have security for their farm yards, and security and management of their livestock. This was the beginning of the Worlingworth Footpath Improvement Scheme. It has involved fifteen landowners, who have loyally stayed together, financing the scheme: Worlingworth Parish Council acting as applicant on their behalf in the legal process; Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council Rights of Way, and liaising with user groups. Support within the parish from Worlingworth and Tannington Women's Institute as part of their Millennium project and the many people who regularly walk the paths. The result of all this, and one of the action plans within the Worlingworth Parish Plan, is seventeen miles of improved public footpaths, with circular walks within the parish, and around the parish boundary linking to other parishes. It has taken 16 years to achieve, with a celebratory party being held on June 28th 2008 and the final piece of the jigsaw being walked for the first time on October 11th 2008.

Historical Notes for Worlingworth Wayfinder.

1. Borret's Mill

A map of 1754 shows at this point a mound surrounded by a moat where a windmill once stood. It is likely that the pond here is a remnant of the moat.

2. Page's Piece

An early 17th Century map shows this field still being farmed in its medieval strips. The kink in the hedge that this path follows is the last border remaining of one of those strips. In 1605 it was cultivated by one John Page.

3. Hilton Wood

At a point about half-way between the river and Cole Street this path passes through where the fringes of Hilton Wood once stood. According to one theory this may have been the wood where St. Edmund's head was said to be found by his followers guarded by a wolf.

4a. and 4b. Worlingworth Great Green

Each of these paths follow one of the boundaries of the largest piece of common land in the village which was enclosed in 1832.

5. Stanhaugh Wood

The small patch of woodland which this path passes is the last remaining fragment of the more than 100 acres of Stanhaugh Wood.