

EXPLORING INCE BLUNDELL

This is a 4 mile circular walk around the rural parish of Ince Blundell where you will pass numerous historic features associated with the Blundell family, the lords of the manor from the 12th century.

WALK - LEISURELY

The route starts at the bus stop on Lady Green Lane and is about 4miles (6.4km) in length.

On leaving the bus stop follow Lady Green Lane towards the garden centre and after approximately 76yds (70m) turn right into Carr House Lane. The cluster of dwellings on Carr House Lane is now a conservation area on the edge of the river Alt's flood plain. The Norse word 'kjarr', from which Carr derives means boggy land covered in willow scrub, which would have been the case when the cottages were built.

Turn right into Hall Lane and after 550yds (500m) turn left into the grounds of Keepers Cottage. Keeping to the left walk alongside the barn and enter Keepers Wood across a stile. This path turns right and then left to exit the wood as a field edge path with a drainage ditch on your right. After 150yds (130m) turn sharply left and keep the ditch on your right, continue until you reach a gate and Searchlight Plantation, so named as a searchlight battery was stationed here in WW2.

Turn right and follow the track, keeping the plantation on your left. At the end of the plantation, bearing right, follow the footpath and after crossing a footbridge turn right. (You can continue ahead here and after crossing a further two footbridges you will reach Baines Bridge at the River Alt.) After crossing the first bridge and turning right follow the field edge path to Carr Side Farm. Turning right the tree lined Carr Side Lane brings us back to Park Wall Road, where we turn right.

Look out for the white painted cross on the boundary wall of Ince Blundell Hall. Funeral processions used to halt at these medieval wayside crosses for rest and prayer whilst en route to Church for burial.

Ince Blundell Hall was built in 1729 to replace the 15th century Old Hall, the current building is now a nursing home. Most of the fine art collection from the Hall was moved to the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool in 1959 when Col. Joseph Weld moved to Dorset. The brick wall surrounding the estate was built between 1770 and 1776, it has several ornate gateways, the most impressive of which is the Lion Lodge Gate.

Continue along Park Wall Lane until you reach Cross Barn Lane, a dirt track which was once an access to Ince Blundell Hall. Along this path take the public footpath on the right along a field edge path and through a garden and kissing gate to reach Victoria Road. Follow Victoria Road, passing the Standing Cross, a scheduled monument to the start of our walk.



Keypoints

Distance - 6 miles (6.4km)

- 1 Lady Green Garden Centre
- 2 Ince Blundell Park & Hall
- 3 Weld Blundell Pub
- 4 Red Squirrel Pub

