



# PUB WALKS with Darcy

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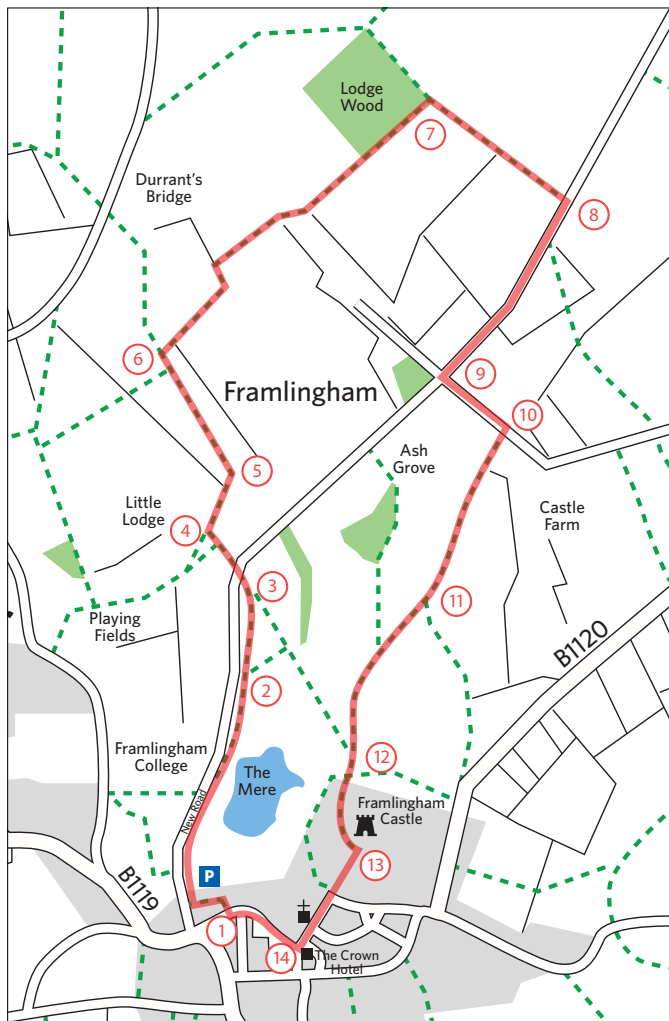
This month's walk sees Darcy visit the beautiful market town of Framlingham with great views of the mere and castle along with a stop at the dog friendly recently refurbished Framlingham Crown

**F**ramlingham is I believe one of Suffolk's gems. It is a thriving market town with an abundance of local independent businesses, a market on Tuesdays and Saturdays and a myriad of options to eat and drink with the newly refurbished Crown Hotel, the dog friendly stop for this walk, a must visit venue. Any of these elements alone would guarantee that the town would be a good place for a walk but Framlingham has one asset that sets it apart, its splendid 12th century medieval castle.

Whatever the season, whatever the weather the castle dominates views on the northern side of the town. On sunny days children, run play and roly poly down its steep embankments

and on days when weather turns inclement the castle broods magnificently on its mound and it is easy to imagine it in bygone days, a sturdy and impenetrable retreat.

Our walk which starts at the Elms public car park on New Road passes initially alongside the mere with beautiful views over to the castle before heading out to open fields and farmland. Turning back towards the town the walk delivers views of the castle that many will not have experienced as well as glimpses of the imposing Framlingham College. Finally the path emerges at the foot of the castle before continuing to Market Hill and The Crown. ■





# THE WALK

Distance: Approx. 3.5 miles

Time: Approx. 1 hour 30 minutes depending on your pace

Terrain: Field paths, quiet lanes. 2 stiles

Stops: The Crown

Ordinance Survey Map: Explorer 212

Start Point OS reference: 282 635 (The Elms Car Park – New Road)

*As always please keep your dog under close control and follow any advisory signs. For a printable version of this and previous walks go to [www.placesandfaces.co.uk/dog-walks](http://www.placesandfaces.co.uk/dog-walks)*

1. Take the wooden gate on the left of the car park marked "Welcome to Framlingham Mere". The path passes through a series of kissing gates marked with Framlingham Castle Mere Trail.
2. Having passed The Mere the path turns to the right and you will see a gate ahead of you. DO NOT follow this path but instead take the path through the sprung gate that is initially obscured on your left. This path emerges onto Framlingham College's sports field. Keep to the left.
3. Shortly after the pavilion there is a gate. Cross the road and follow the FP sign opposite passing through another gate. Keep to the hedge on the right initially going straight on and then turning right.
4. Having followed the hedge to the right you will come to a FP sign. Turn right, follow the path by a wire fence and cross a wooden bridge to a gate with a sign 'Horses'.
5. At the gate turn left, cross over a stile, turn right and then immediately left following the FP and crossing the field ahead.
6. At the end of the field is a second stile. Cross this and then immediately on your right are steps down to a small wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and follow the path around the edge of the field. After passing farm buildings on your right the path becomes a track. Follow the track past Lodge Wood which soon approaches on your left.
7. At the end of Lodge Wood you will come to a 'T-junction' follow the track to the right.
8. At the end of the track turn right onto road follow the road ignoring FP sign on the left.
9. At the end of this road you will reach a 'crossroads' turn left and follow the road for approx. 200yds to a FP sign on your right.
10. Turn right at the sign.
11. After approx. 500yds the path forks, keep right and follow path straight ahead. Ignore any splits in the path and you will reach a kissing gate marked with the Framlingham Castle Mere Trail. Pass through the gate.
12. Pass through another gate and over a bridge and you will emerge at Framlingham Castle. Follow the path around the castle, cross the footbridge and up the path.
13. At the top of the path turn right passing the Castle Inn and into Church Street. As you pass the church on your right you will see the dog friendly Crown Hotel ahead of you on your left at the top of Market Hill.
14. From The Crown to return to the car park take the pavement on the right hand side of Market Hill. Pass the telephone box and then the library on your right. After crossing a bridge (which is hardly noticeable as a bridge) there is a black and white signpost pointing to Elms car park. Go to the right of the building.

Words and photographs: Adrian Rawlinson



  
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