



Roman Rougham Walk



Time taken: 1.5 hours

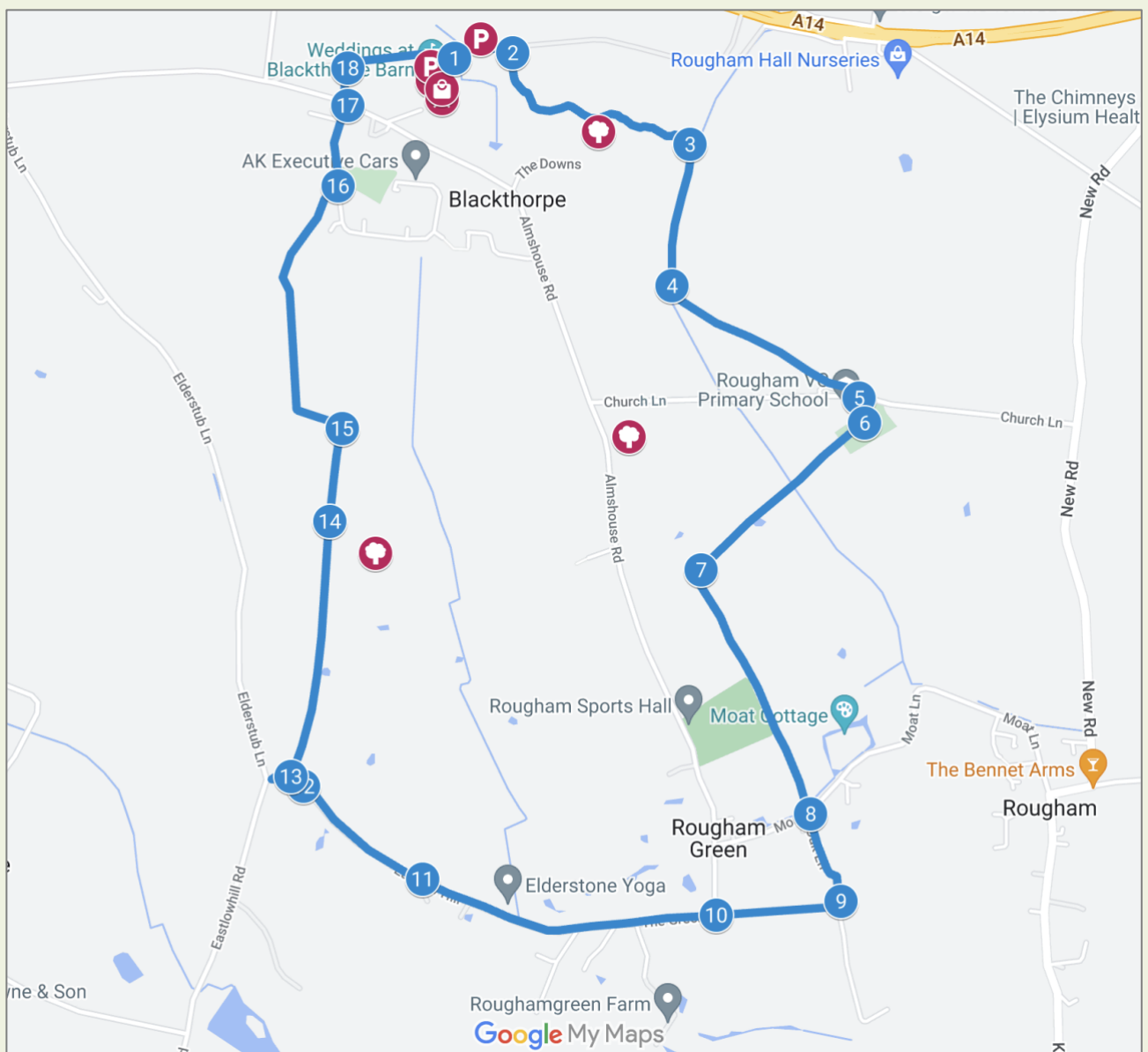


Distance: 3.7 miles



Difficulty: Hard, including stiles, a kissing gate, meadows that may contain cattle and walking on a public road.

Map



Waypoints

This walk visits the important Roman burial tumulus at Eastlowhill, first excavated during the 1840s by John Henslow and returns down a major Roman Road, Margary 33A, which linked Chelmsford with many points in East Anglia and via Peddars Way to the Wash and so on to Lincolnshire and the North of England.



1. From Blackthorpe Barn turn right and pass through the carparks along the concrete road until you reach a wood on your right. A path leads into the wood shortly after you reach its boundary.



2. Follow this path bearing left and then turning left after 50 metres. Follow through the wood to the far end.



3. At this point turn right at a T junction. Follow this path out of the wood with a hedge on your left. Follow this path until it meets a path from the right.



4. At this point follow round to the left heading for Rougham Church which appears dramatically in front of you. At the far end of this path cross the school and church carpark. Cross the public road with care.





5. Enter the churchyard and walk up to the great western tower. Turn right here.



6. Follow this path to the west and leave the churchyard by a metal pedestrian gate made to commemorate the Rougham Harvest Fair which was one of the Tree Fairs that were a feature of life in Rougham during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Continue down this path until you reach a hedge in front of you.



7. Turn left here. Follow this path past Rougham playing field, over a foot bridge and over two stiles and passing through a meadow before crossing the public road. Do so with care.



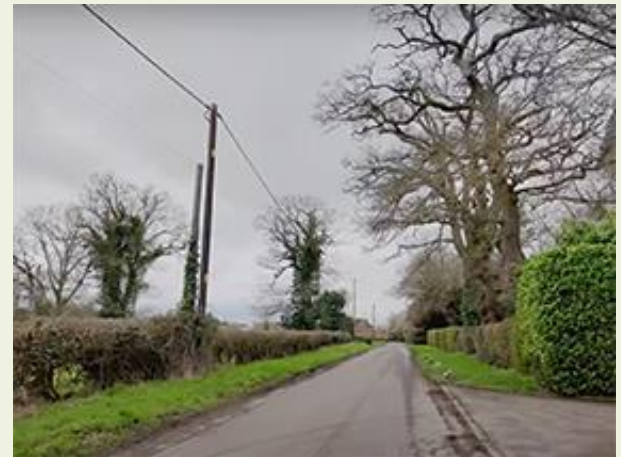
8. On the far side, walk down Oak Lane for several hundred metres, beyond a slight left turn and a slight right turn in the lane.



9. Turn right from the lane onto another footpath. This will take you to the public road on a sharp bend which actually provides good visibility for walkers coming from this direction.



10. Go straight ahead on this road. The next section of the walk is on a quiet public road and takes about 10 minutes. Please take care.



11. On your right you will pass an ancient meadow belonging to the Rougham Estate. The oak trees in this meadow are very old and the place has an extraordinary atmosphere. There is a public footpath leading through this meadow but there are often cattle in the meadow. A stile leads into the meadow, so you can go in and have a look.



12. Continue down the public metalled road until you approach a T junction with a pair of brick-built houses on the right. At this point look left where you will see the huge Roman burial mound known at Eastlowhill Tumulus. This was originally one of a group of four tumuli built along the Roman road that we are about to join. It related also to a nearby Roman villa site.
13. Turn right down Whitebridge Lane which is just before the cottages. This is the original Roman road and now a beautiful green lane. Follow this for half a mile.



14. After walking along the side of a small wood to your right, you will see a footpath set off across the fields to your right. It is the route of the Roman road. We, however, do not follow this but continue straight on the green lane until encountering a hedgerow ahead of you.



15. Turn left here and follow this green lane for 100 metres before turning right down another green lane called Mouse Lane. This lane becomes quite narrow in parts but, when followed, brings you out at some mid-century houses also called Mouse Lane.



16. Turn left onto the metalled road with a pavement also called Mouse Lane. Follow this to the public road.



17. Cross here with care as it can be busy and follow the footpath on the far side for 100 metres.



18. Turn right into the Blackthorpe Barn avenue and right again to return to the Barn itself and Roots Café for some well-earned refreshment!



The walk starts and ends at Blackthorpe Barn, where you can find plenty of free parking as well as Roots Café and the Garden Room shop.

Please remember that the gates to the avenue entrance are locked after the Café and Shop close.
We hope you enjoy your walk!

More information from roughamestate.com