

Easy Access to the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Welcome to the Norfolk Coast

A land of beaches, salt and freshwater marshes, heaths, dunes and pinewoods, woodlands, stately homes and distinctive flint villages. Locals and visitors enjoy the coast in all its moods and savour the special and ever changing wildlife, light and colours. Gold and brown hues of winter make way for greens and the purple haze of sea lavender in the summer.

Norfolk's gently rolling terrain, network of footpaths and bridleways including a National Trail, and excellent nature reserves make the countryside easily accessible.



The Norfolk Coast Millennium Access Project

The Millennium Access Project was a one-year project aiming to create more opportunities for people with disabilities and those with limited mobility to enjoy and appreciate the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The project was funded by Heritage Lottery, as part of the Millennium Festival, and the Countryside Agency (*now part of Natural England*). It was created and operated by the Norfolk Coast Partnership, an organisation that promotes the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of the AONB.

The Project worked in partnership with local people with disabilities, access groups and environmental organisations to improve physical access at five sites which are included in the guide.

Other aspects of the project were:

- Running a summer programme of guided nature walks and outdoor based arts workshops.
- Raising awareness of access issues faced by people with disabilities amongst site managers and transport operators.
- Working with local people with disabilities to ensure the project achieved its aim of improving access.

Important update

The original printed version of the guide is no longer available and has been removed from our website. However, due to continuous enquiries some of the site information has been collated together into this document. It should be noted that the sites **have not** been audited since the original audit in 2000 by members of a local access group and therefore you should check with the site managers regarding suitability for your particular needs.



A revised set of information will be available ready for 2012 with a review of these original sites. We will not provide the level of detail here but each site will be described along with a set of images to allow users to determine how suitable according to their own particular requirements. In this way we anticipate that the guide will be a help to a wider variety of users and groups.

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How to use the guide


A selection of sites and paths have been described to cater for people of differing abilities and interests.

The site description section includes a brief description and a map of each site and outlines the route and what you can expect by way of facilities on site, width, length and surface of the path. All sites have Ordnance Survey map grid references, which refers to the start of the described walk or car park. A key to symbols can be found opposite (page 3). The grading system and page layout is outlined here.

The length of the path refers to the return journey, whether circular or a 'there and back' route. All the bird hides in the guide were accessible to those using wheelchairs and the paths had no inaccessible obstacles such as stiles at the time of original inspection.

Walk on the Wild Side!

The 'Walk on the Wild Side!' sections offer suggestions for people who wish to walk for longer and can manage a less accessible route. The path may be steeper or rougher than accepted countryside access standards. We hope the guide will help you to make informed choices about your enjoyment of the coast.

➔ **There & Back** or  **circular route**

Sandringham Estate (Name of site)

Tel: 01553 772675

www.sandringham-estate.co.uk

(Site telephone no. and other contact information)



(Facilities that are accessible)



(Other facilities)

Path Conditions

As the paths are in the countryside and are not hard surfaced they are more susceptible to the weather and wear and tear. After rain some paths may puddle and become muddy and in extreme situations may be impassable. If you are in doubt about the path conditions please contact the site.

The paths were graded according to a simple system, adapted from the Thames Path National Trail (see below).








Grade	Type of Mobility Aid	Surface Condition	Gradient & Camber
A	Self Propel, no assistance.	Firm surface - tarmac/firm gravel, short grass.	Flat gently sloping, no greater than 1:20
B	Self Propel, with some assistance.	Slightly bumpy or loose surface - compact earth, loose gravel.	Sloping, no greater than 1:20
C	Electric indoor/outdoor propel, with some assistance.	Rougher surface - bare earth, worn grass.	Sloping path, no greater than 1:15
D	Heavy-duty scooter or electric outdoor chair, propel with assistance from 1 or 2 people.	Long grass, mud, rougher surface loose stones and ruts.	Steep

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Key to Symbols

	Toilet
	Radar key toilet
	Free parking
	Pay & display parking
	Visitor centre
	Light refreshments
	Meals
	Picnic area
	Play area
	Telephone
	Wheelchairs and/or buggies for loan
	On public transport route
	'There & back' route
	Circular route
	Accessible facilities

Key to Maps

	Seat
	Passing place
	Bridge
	View
	Gate
	Bird hide
	Marsh

Key to Paths

Grade A	
Grade B	
Grade C	
Grade D	

Tourist Information

King's Lynn - The Custom House, Purfleet Quay
Tel: 01553 763044
Open all year

Hunstanton
The Green
Tel: 01485 532610
Open all year

Cromer (Open all year)
Prince of Wales Road

Wells-next-the-Sea
Staithe Street

Sheringham
Station Approach

Holt
Market Place
Open Easter to November
Tel: 0871 200 3071

Walsingham
Shirehall Museum
Tel: 01328 820510
Open Easter to September,
Monday - Saturday

Burnham Deepdale
Deepdale Farm
Tel: 01485 210256
Open all year

Full details of all information points under 'find out more' in Enjoying the AONB section of the website.

Public Transport

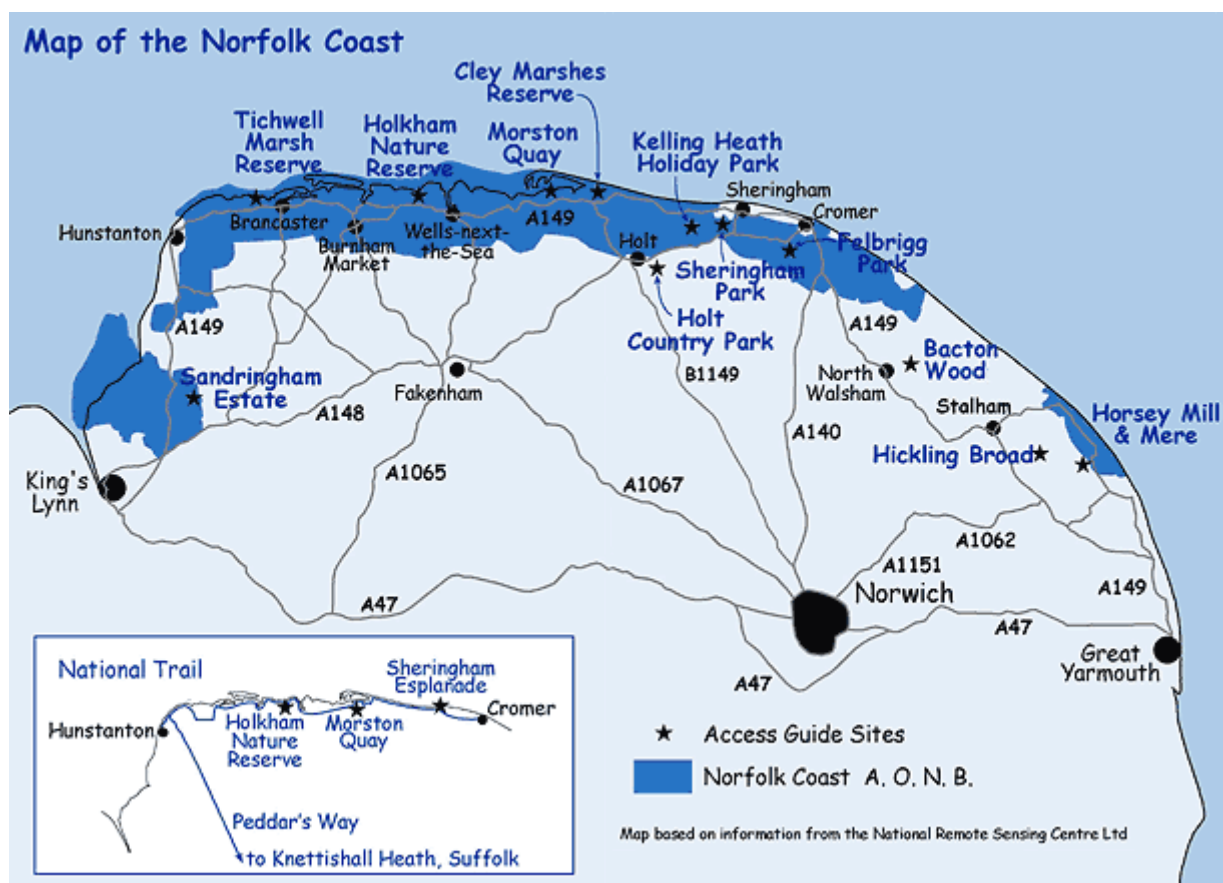
Telephone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk.

Opening Hours

We suggest that you should contact the individual sites for current information on opening times and facilities.

All sites in the guide were tested and audited by members of a local access group, *Access North Norfolk Action* in 2000 and have not been re-audited since, therefore some description information will have changed.

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Feedback

We would be pleased to receive feedback on these sites in order to update and improve the information for everyone.

Send your comments by post, fax or email to:

The Norfolk Coast Partnership
 The Old Courthouse
 Baron's Close
 Fakenham
 Norfolk
 NR21 8BE

Telephone: 01328 850530

Fax: 01328 850546

Email: office@norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk

Sandringham Estate & House

Tel: 01553 772675

www.sandringham-estate.co.uk



Map Ref. TF689288

Route Grade: B/C

1 Mile 1600 metres



Sandringham, the country retreat of the Royal Family, is set in sixty acres of beautiful grounds including gardens, country estate, woodlands and heath. The Country Park can be explored by foot or by guided tour on a tractor and trailer. There is also an accessible train that tours the gardens. The house, gardens, museum and their facilities have excellent access.

There are many walks throughout the gardens and Country Estate, the Visitor Centre sells a map showing the two nature trails.

A section of the shorter, blue, nature trail:

Starting from the Visitor Centre cross the road and head towards the play area on the edge of the woods following the hard surfaced path. When you enter the woods follow the blue dots, high on the trees, until you leave the woods and enter a wide grassy strip. At this point turn left, back towards the Visitor Centre. There are seats on this part of the walk. The wide path may be muddy in winter and there are some tree roots to negotiate and rough grass.



Public road on Sandringham Estate

The review of 2011 suggest this route is still useable although waymarking is no longer so evident. However, a good quality map is available on a leaflet obtained at the visitor centre and for those who wish to stick to surfaced paths and roads there are suitable options to try.

Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve

Tel: 01485 210779

www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/t/titchwellmarsh/index.asp



Map Ref. TF750437

Route Grade: A/B

½ mile 800 metres

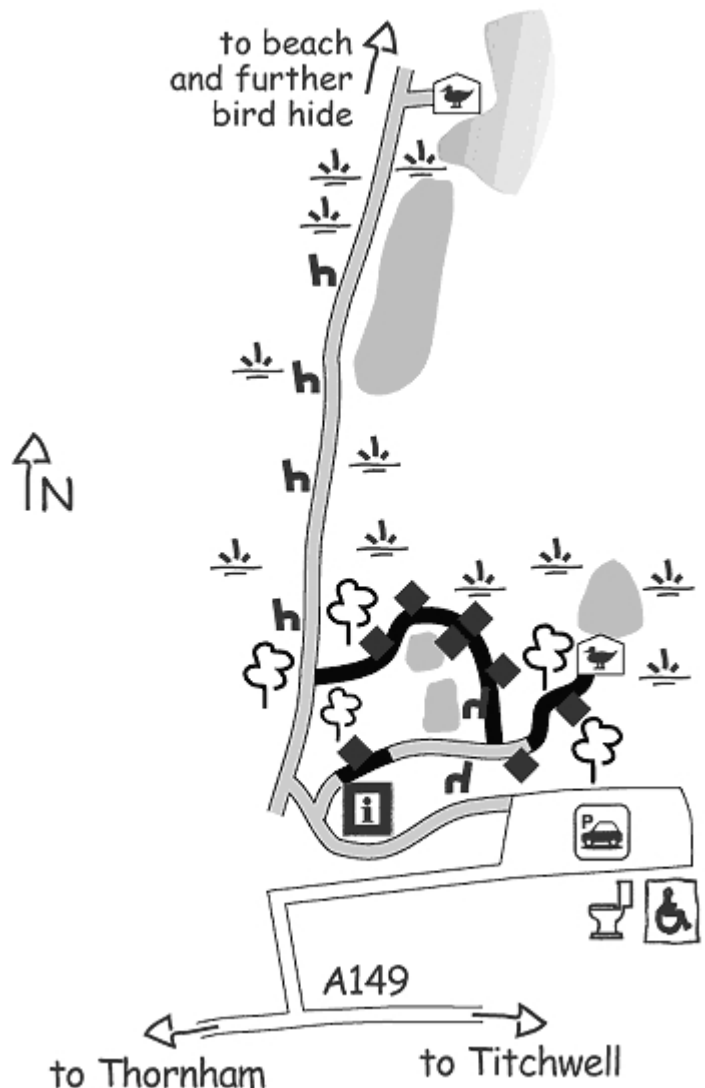


Titchwell Marsh is one of East Anglia's most popular RSPB reserves. It is an important and unique site for migratory birds with its fresh water reedbeds, salt marshes, lagoons and sand dunes. The wildlife on the reserve changes with the seasons. Orchids, dragonflies, butterflies, marsh harriers in the summer and great flocks of geese, waders and other migratory birds in the winter.

The car park is potholed, rough and puddles easily.

Walk description

From the Visitor Centre (150yd from the car park) take the path to the right passing the bird feeders. The path takes you through woodland, past reedbeds and ponds with seats conveniently positioned, to a bird hide. Return the way you came, turning on to the boardwalk to your right, the Meadow Trail. This trail takes you on a circular route to the main path past freshwater ponds and a fen meadow. Here you can either turn left for the Visitor Centre or turn right to visit the other bird hides and the beach, which is roughly 3/4 mile away on a hoggin, well-graded but slightly bumpy path.



2011 Update

This site has seen considerable changes with the introduction of a state of the art hide off the main beach path, this path has also seen considerable improvements for all users including wheelchairs and pushchairs. The route described here is still in use with some improvements.

Holkham National Nature Reserve

Tel: 01328 711183

Natural England - www.naturalengland.org.uk/

Holkham Estate - www.holkham.co.uk



Map Ref. TF891447

Route Grade: A/B

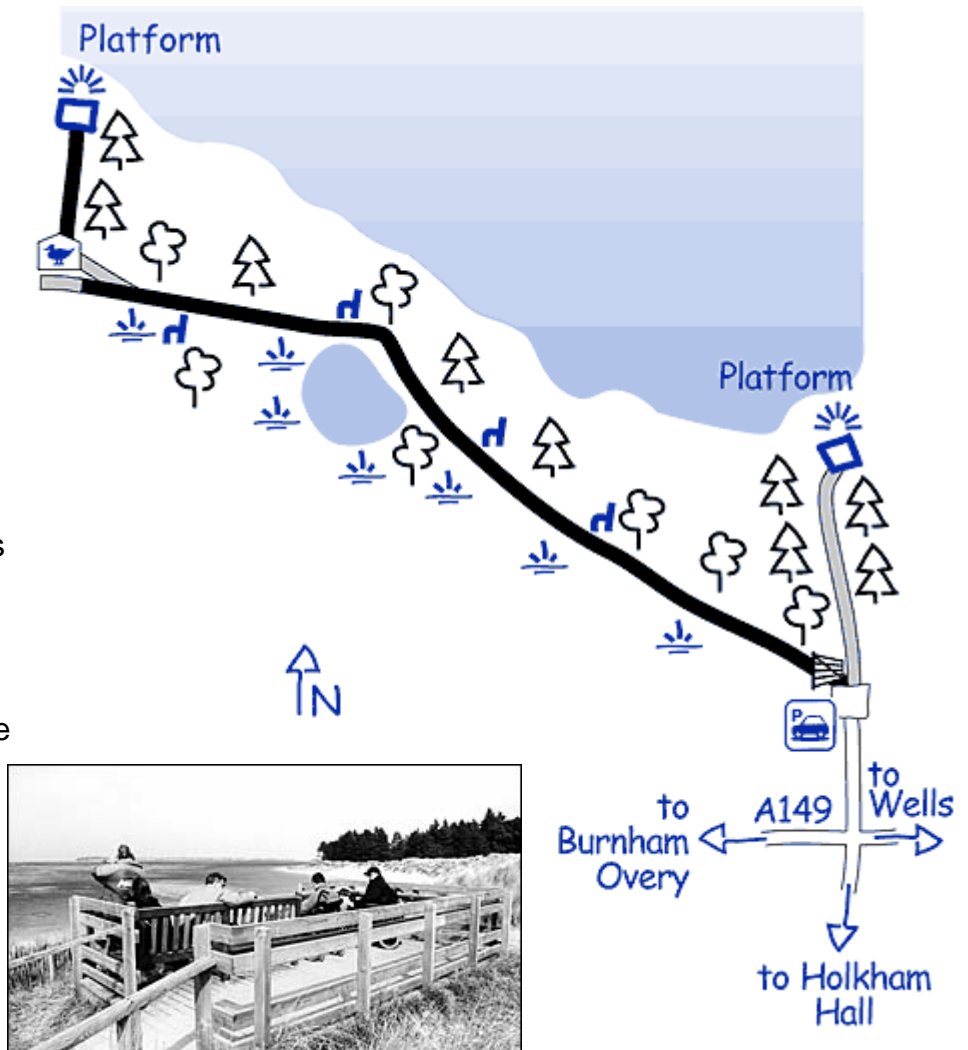
To first platform,
return **1/3 Mile** 600m

To hide & platform,
return **1 Mile** 1600m

Holkham is one of England's largest nature reserves, it has a wild and natural coastline that is rich in wildlife and variety. Walking in the reserve allows you to sample the wildlife in pinewoods, sand dunes, salt and freshwater marshes and the coast. The site caters well for people with mobility difficulties. It's paths, boardwalks and viewing platforms all being of excellent surface and easy slopes.

These two paths are on land owned by the Holkham Estate.

Start from the information board at the site entrance; walk up the bumpy rise in front of you to the boardwalk. This meanders alongside pinewoods to a viewing platform that offers fine views of Holkham Bay. Return the same way and at the entrance take the path that is on your right (heading west), around a gate. This wide, smooth hoggin path takes you past a brackish pond onto a bird hide, take the second ramp. Continue on the boardwalk across the dunes to another viewing platform. From here you can enjoy vast and spectacular views of unspoilt coastline. This is an excellent place to relax, watch the tide ebb and flow, the migrating birds or a wonderful Norfolk sunset. Don't forget to stop and look at the information boards along the way!



2011 update

The walks described here are still very much in place and waymarked accordingly. Parking machines now in place and although still no facilities on site the Victoria PH opposite the Lady Anne Drive and a café about 100 yards Wells side of entrance provides a wide range of refreshments.

Cley Marshes *Norfolk Wildlife Trust*

Tel: 01263 740008

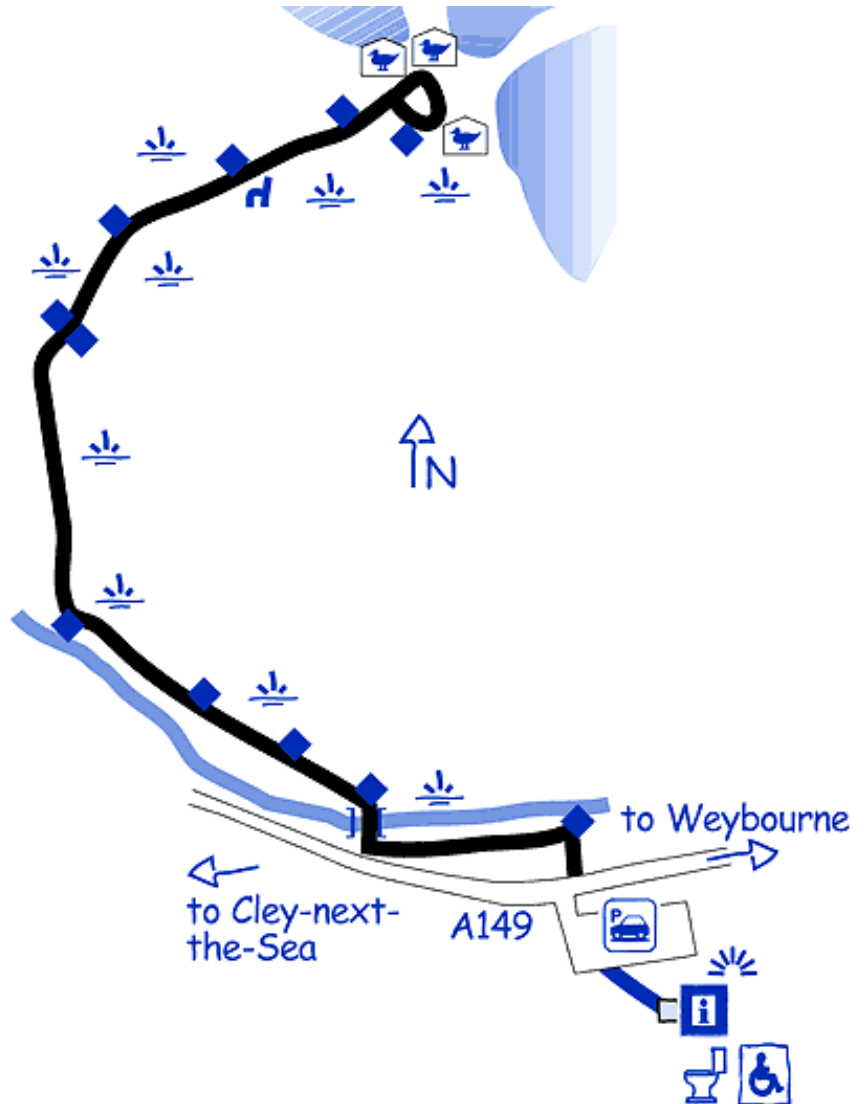
www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/Wildlife-in-Norfolk/Reserves/Cley-Marshes.aspx



Map Ref. TF7054441

Route Grade: A

1 mile 1600 metres



Located half a mile east of Cley-next-the-Sea on the A149 coast road. Buses stop outside the reserve.

Cley Reserve is a beautiful and tranquil site to watch and listen to birds. If you are lucky you may spot a rare visiting bird that has been blown off course. The bird hides blend well into the environment with their thatched roofs. There is an entrance fee to the reserve if you are not a Norfolk Wildlife Trust member.

The Visitor Centre is situated on high ground allowing panoramic views along the coast. There are binoculars available for use. The car park has an unmade surface.

The excellent boardwalk starts across the busy A149 from the car park. It is a lovely flat walk following creeks and passing through beautiful reedbeds to the three magnificent bird hides. Return the same way.

2011 update

In 2007 a brand new visitor centre was opened with full facilities including:

Wheelchair access to visitor centre, toilets, boardwalk and hides

Nature reserve open daily except Christmas Day and Boxing Day (Visitor Centre open 10am-5pm).

Holt Country Park

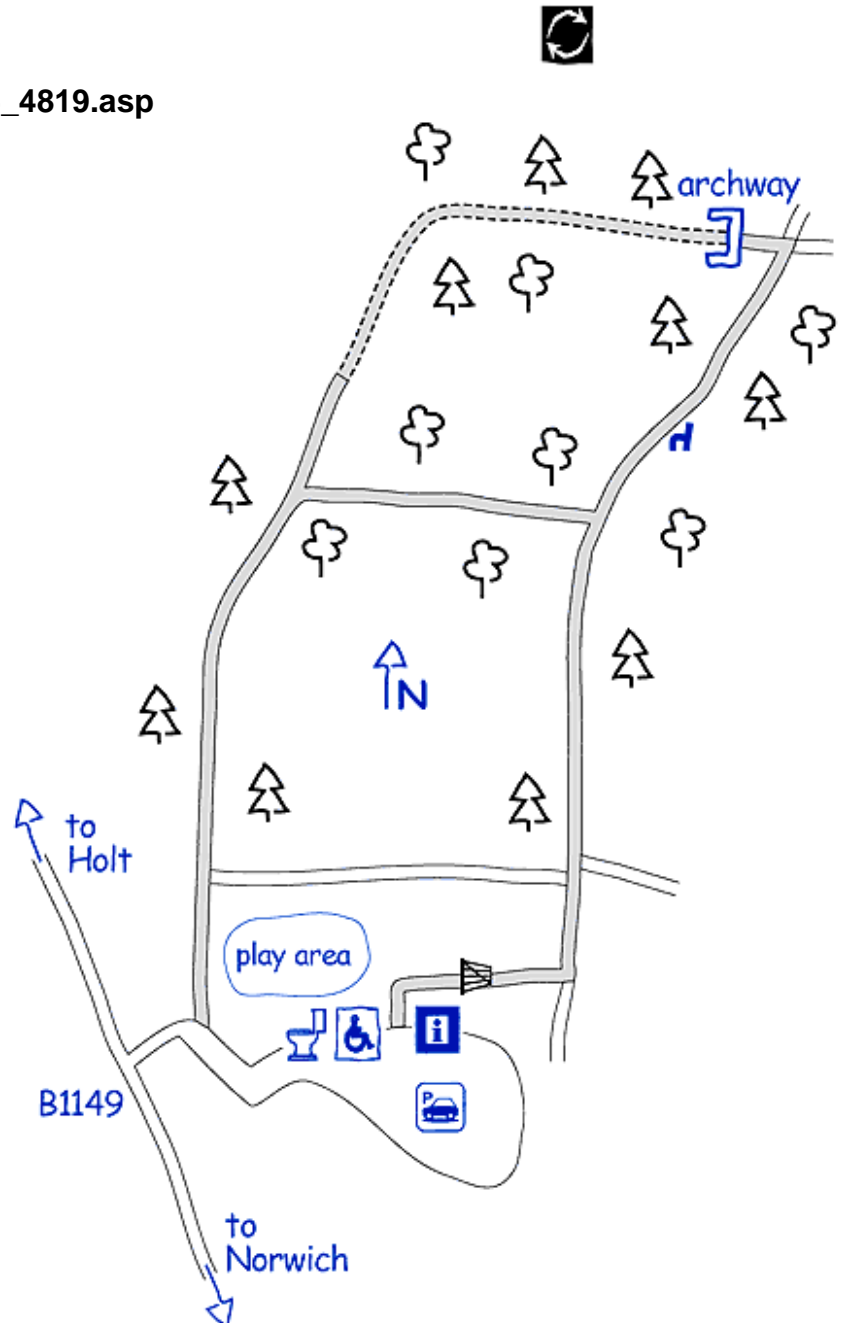
Tel: 01263 516062

www.northnorfolk.org/tourism/4816_4819.asp

Map Ref. TF583388

Route Grade: B

½ mile 650 metres



This old racecourse and estate offers visitors beautiful walks in woodland along with excellent facilities for families with picnic areas and a playground.

Instead follow the driveway from the car park past the playground. Take the path on the far side of the playground, on your right. Continue on this, keeping left, to a crossroads, take the path on your right to another crossroads, and turn left. This will take you to an arch, the remains of the old gate leading to Holt Lodge. Go back the way you have come, straight through the last crossroads and continue on this path to a right hand turn where you can see a barrier, which has a path

around it. This will take you back to the visitor centre and car park.

The path had a good firm surface, with one small section liable to puddle in the winter.

Walk on the Wild Side!

There are many excellent paths throughout the Country Park. The Visitor Centre, which is open in the summer, has leaflets and a site map is on an information board near the toilets.

2011 update

This site remains much as described, leaflet with map available on-line or at site.

Kelling Heath Holiday Park

Tel: 01263 588181

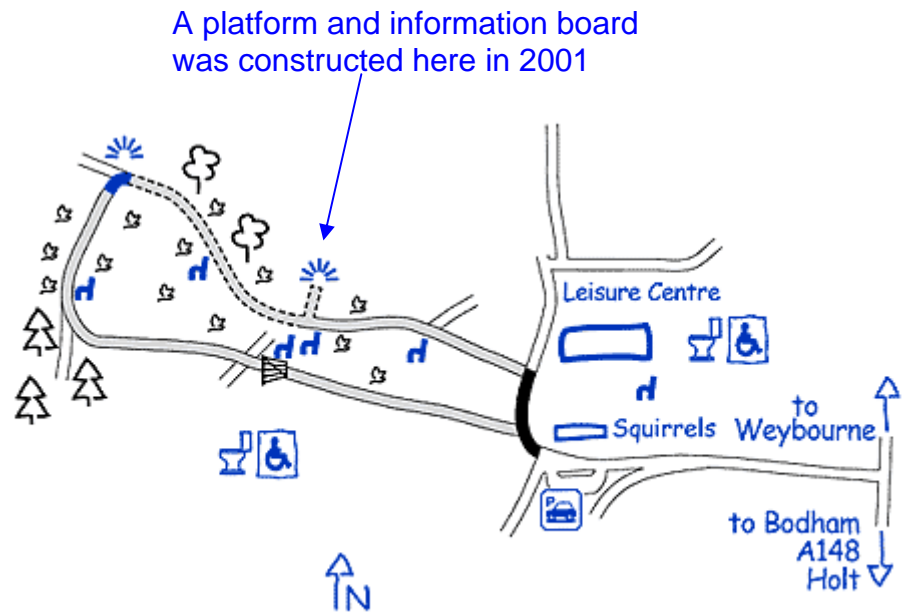
www.kellingheath.co.uk



Map Ref. TG107415

Route Grade: B/C

3/4 mile 1200 metres



Kelling Heath holiday park is situated amongst the heather and woodland on the Cromer Ridge. It offers a unique opportunity to explore rare heathland and enjoy spectacular views of coastal villages and the sea. Day visitors are welcome to the site.

The path is waymarked by square, white markers with green butterflies. Starting from the car park and keeping the squirrel enclosure on your right, there is a sign directly ahead pointing to a gravel road, follow this for 165yd. Pass around a wooden barrier and continue to the pinewoods, turn right onto a path, you are now entering the heath.

Follow this compacted sand path until you reach a crossroads, turn to your right. At this point the path slopes steeply and is rough (grade D) for a short section (25yd). The path continues on a lesser gradient, but is still a little rough in places. There are wonderful views over the heath and Weybourne village to the sea and after several hundred yards there is a magnificent viewing area to your left. **Be careful as it slopes away from you very steeply.**

Return to the main path and follow it until you reach a hard surfaced road. Follow this back past the leisure centre to the village square and car park.



2011 update

The surfaces around this commercial holiday park have changed dramatically, the disabled accessibility of the path pictured here is now a narrow rough surface, the viewing platform is however still in place and there is a site map available both on-line or from reception. Most of the site is level but users would be advised to contact the site direct for guidance.

Sheringham Park *National Trust*

Tel: 01263 823778



For further National Trust information contact 01284 747500
or go to: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Map Ref. TG158433

Route Grade: B/D

1¾ mile 2.5 km

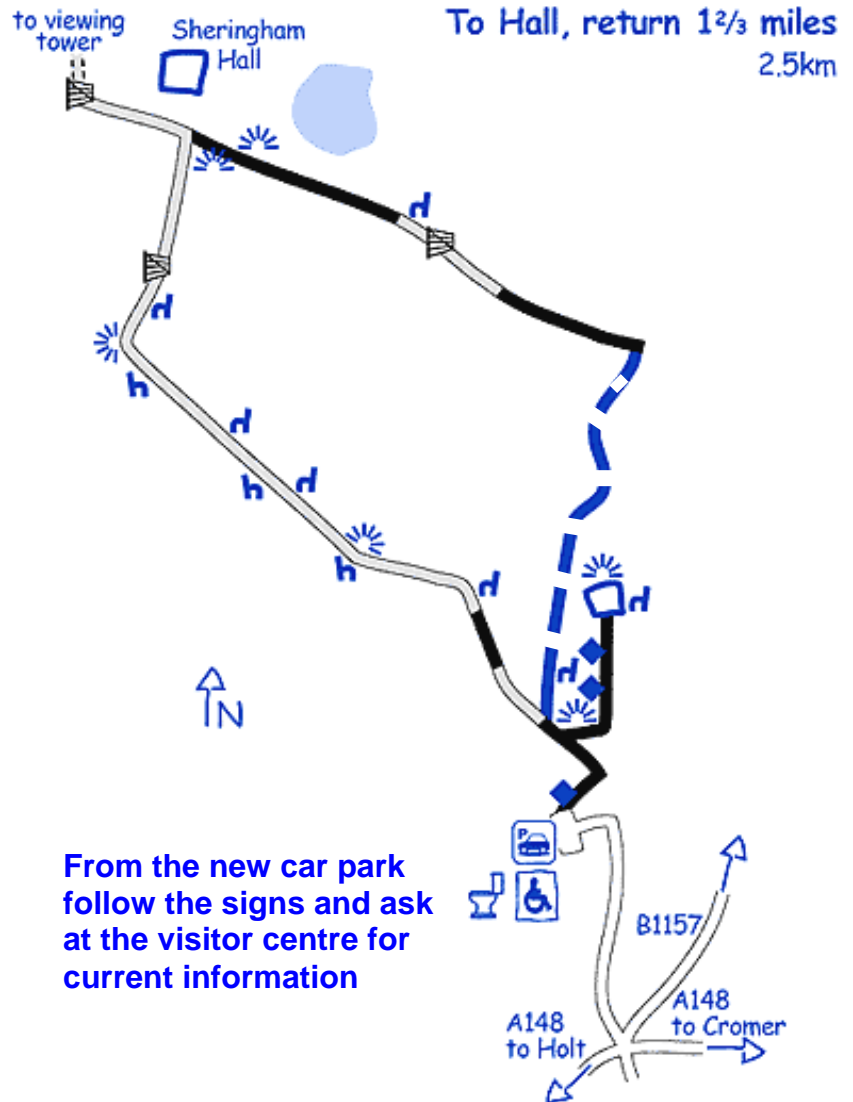


A brand new visitor centre has opened with full facilities including: Wheelchair hire, access to visitor centre, toilets etc.

Magnificent rhododendron and azalea collections and lovely views of the coast feature in this spectacular parkland designed by Humphrey Repton, a renowned landscape gardener of the early 1800's.

The blue path takes you from a boardwalk to a hard surfaced path leading through the gardens. The boardwalk may be difficult for those using a tapping stick. From here the undulating path leads you towards Sheringham Hall. The path is wide with a firm surface but steep in places. There are plenty of resting-places, though some are difficult to get to for wheelchair users. There are two cattle grids on the route, which are avoidable by using the adjacent gates.

At the Hall you can take the detour to your left to the gazebo viewing tower 250yd away. There are nice views from the path. The tower itself has a flight of 60 stairs and the last section of path has 40 steps.



2011 update

The whole site has been transformed with an excellent car park and visitor centre that includes refreshments and toilets. Maps available and guidance provided to various routes suitability. Electric wheelchairs are available to use including a twin seater.

Although the splendour of the late spring rhododendrons and azalea is the star attraction the site is open all year and provides an excellent walk at any time.

Felbrigg Hall, Gardens and Park *National Trust*

Tel: 01263 837444



For further National Trust information contact 01284 747500
or go to: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Map Ref. TG195395

Route Grade: B/C

1 mile 1600 metres

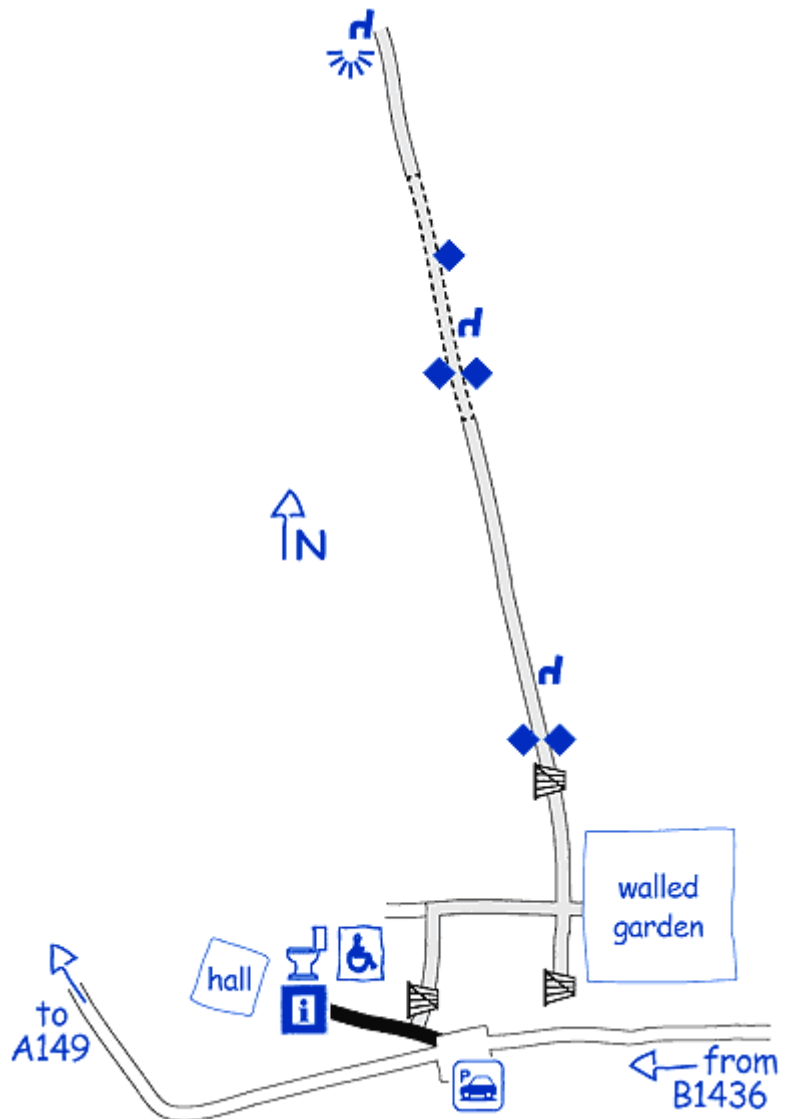


Felbrigg is a fine example of a 17th century stately home and parkland. The gardens are splendid and house the national collection of Colchicum (Naked Ladies). The beautiful 500-acre Great Woods behind the house are a scientifically important area. The ground floor of the house and all the gardens are fully accessible except for a small step into the Orangery. Photographs of the upstairs rooms are available.

From the house follow the hoggin paths to the walled garden. From here you see the path following one arm of the 'Victory V' through the Great Woods, waymarked by orange and red arrows. The gradient is a little steep in places but there are seats for resting along the way and at the top. There is a wooden gate that is easy to open from both directions. At the top you are rewarded with spectacular views across the estate. You can approach the walk directly from the car park via the metal gate beside the picnic tables, near the walled garden.

Walk on the Wild Side!

There are many paths which criss cross through the woods, and a lakeside walk. Ask at visitor reception for more information.



2011 update

This is another National Trust site that has seen many changes. From the car parking, walks to visitor facilities these all help to improve the visitor satisfaction. A new map was in the process of being produced and should be available for 2012. The gates shown on map all appear to be either missing or permanently open and a new access path takes walkers along back of car park entrance to start of this walk.

Bacton Wood

Tel: 01263 516001

<http://www.northnorfolk.org/community/2262.asp>

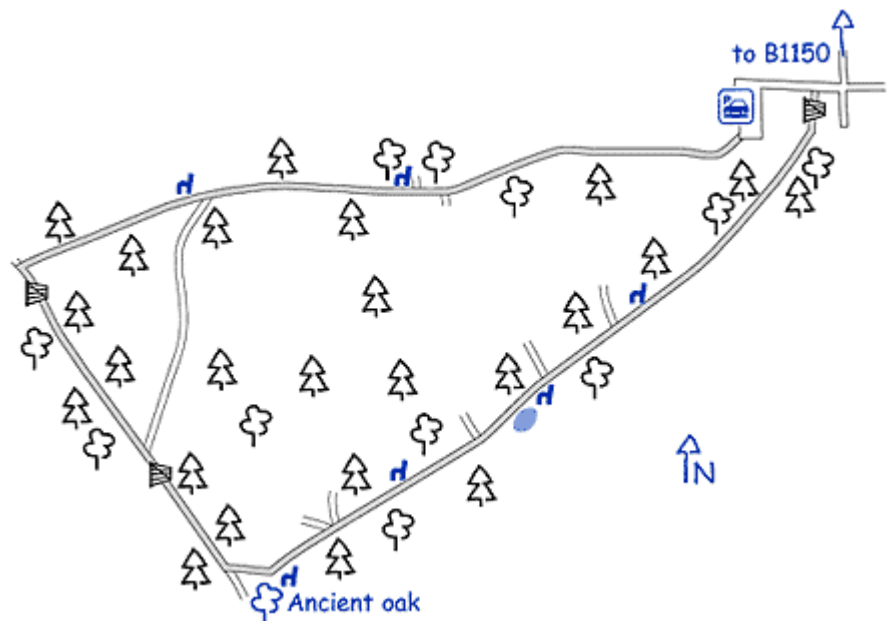


Forest Enterprise & North Norfolk District Council

Map Ref. TG319318

Route Grade: B/C

2 miles 3.3 km



Bacton Wood is a beautiful wood with a wealth of coniferous and deciduous trees that provide valuable wildlife habitats. It is a working woodland managed for timber production. Two ancient oaks (over 200 years old) are in the woods; this walk visits one.

The route

Start on the yellow route from the car park. After several hundred yards the yellow route turns to the left, but don't take this path as it has steep gradient and is rough. Instead, continue until you reach a T-junction. Turn left at the junction, the path just before may be muddy (grade C). After the junction the path quickly widens. After the yellow route rejoins the path you will encounter a barrier that can be negotiated by wheelchair users.

Continue on the path for some 250yd until you come to the ancient oak. A lovely place to pause and enjoy the majestic tree.

Continue up the yellow route, on a gentle slope, past a pond. You will see the car park on the left after 800yd. At this point there is a narrow track to it or, you can continue on the path to a barrier that can just be navigated by someone using a wheelchair. This takes you to the driveway, turn left for the car park.

2011 update

This site has yet to be visited but the information leaflet and map downloadable from above suggests like its sister site at Holt that the walk is as described.

Hickling Broad Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Tel: 01692 598276

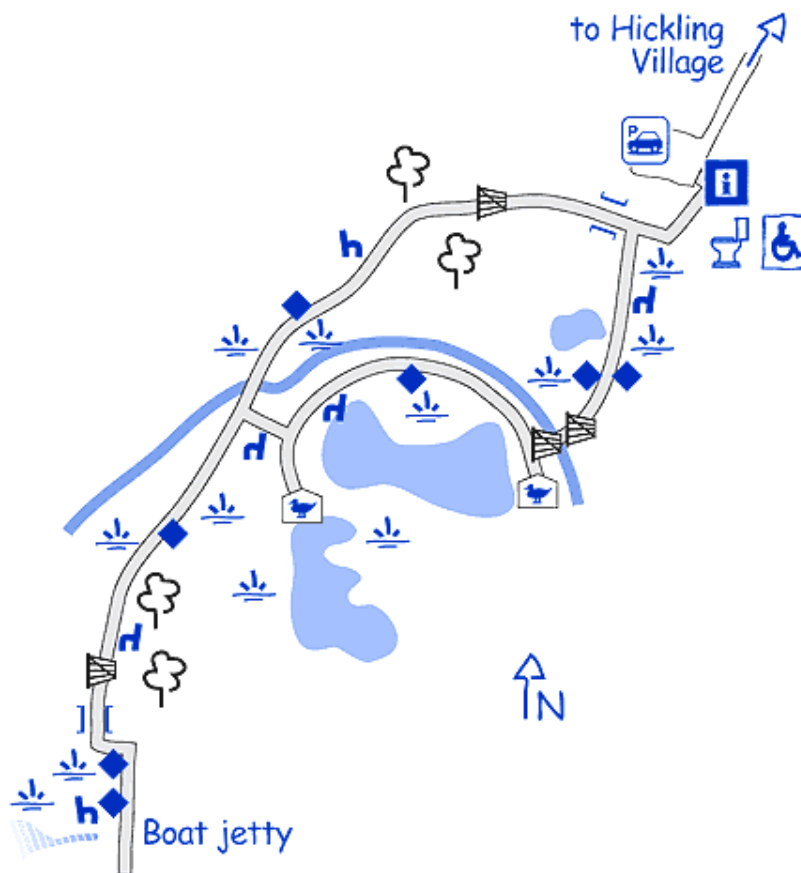
www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk



Map Ref. TG428222

Route Grade: B

½ mile 750 metres



This peaceful and beautiful reserve is home to some very rare plants and animals including the elusive bittern and colourful swallowtail butterfly. There is an entrance fee to the reserve if you are not a Norfolk Wildlife Trust member.

There are several paths on the reserve, the Swallowtail route is described here. Starting from the visitor centre the route runs clockwise and takes you to two hides. Sometimes part of the path is closed so that nesting birds are not disturbed, check at the visitor centre before starting your walk. The path is a mixture of hoggins and boardwalk, the gaps in the boardwalk are quite wide in places, but wire netting will be placed on the boardwalk in winter 2001.

There are several gates that can be difficult for those using wheelchairs to open, depending whether the opening device is on the side you approach the gate.

Take the time to visit the boat jetty. Norfolk Wildlife Trust are hoping to install a hoist system for the 2001 season which will make the broad boat tour more accessible.

2011 update

The information provided appears not to have changed although there is likely to be some considerable changes with the Environment Agency carrying out improvement works that may provide an improved walking experience.

Horsey Mere and Windpump *National Trust*

Tel: 01493 393904 (shop open April-Sept)

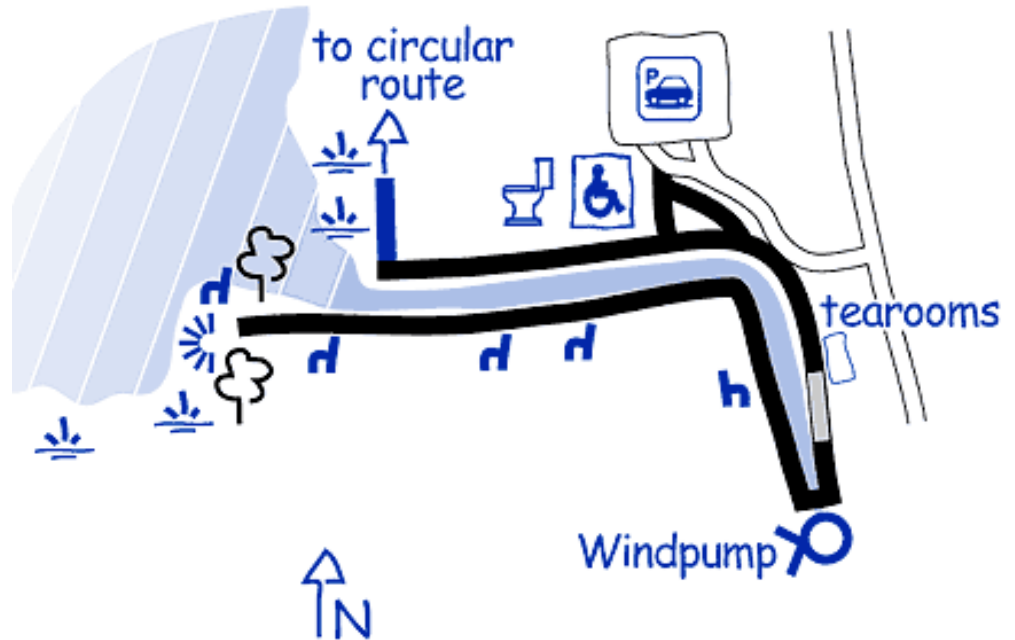


For further National Trust information contact 01284 747500
or go to: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Map Ref. TG455224

Route Grade: A/B

2/3 mile 900 metres



Horsey Windpump is one of the few remaining examples of a drainage mill, very important in the development of east Norfolk. It is situated close to the Norfolk Broads and offers a pleasant walk alongside the dyke to the mere.

The entrance to the windpump has a small step and the small shop has a narrow entrance.

The path is flat and has an excellent firm surface. It starts at the car park, running alongside the dyke, past the shop, crossing the bank on a gentle gradient and up to the windpump. After a visit to the windpump cross the dyke and follow the path to the mere. Stop awhile enjoying the birds and boats. You can also walk along the other side of the dyke.

Walk on the Wild Side!

A circular route of approximately 3 miles continues around the mere from the path on the car park side of the dyke. After 250yd the path becomes muddy and is bumpy with tree roots, and it has no seats.

2011 update

This site is forever popular and although a couple of bits of surface i.e. behind the toilets up onto the bank and part of the bank had become more of a grade B/C and the viewing area had also become well worn this site is as described. During the summer season of 2011 a boat trip was being operated by an independent provider.

Peddars Way & Norfolk Coast Path *National Trail*

Tel: 01328 850530

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/PeddarsWay.co.uk

Access for All

There are many sections of this National Trail that can be used by people with access needs, be they wheelchair users or parents with children in pushchairs.

2011 update

The National Trail website provides a large amount of useful information that enables users to tailor walking to their own needs and includes a selection of downloadable walks.

