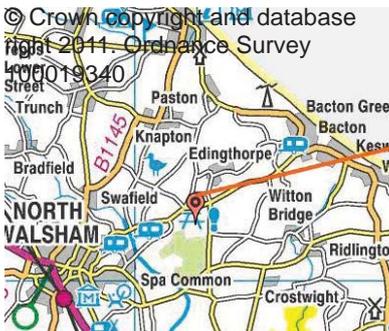


Bacton Woods

Enjoy walking through this mosaic of conifers, mixed woodland and open areas with its heather, broom and gorse providing a variety of colour through the changing seasons. With its rich diversity of trees and plants, insects, birds and animals these woods provide a lovely walk.

Distance - about 1.3 miles (two kilometres)

Circular walk from car park following waymark posts. Map available showing waymarked trails and network of paths for exploring.



Above: The majestic 200 year-old Sessile Oak at end of first section
Below: Information board at start of walk

Location

Car park is off B1150 two and half miles north east of North Walsham. Ordnance Survey map reference for the car park is TG:317313
[Active map](#)

Planning your visit

Site owned by the Forestry (0300 067 4500) with North Norfolk District Council (01263 513811) part managing.
OPEN: dawn to dusk all year
PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Nearest bus and train service is at North Walsham
Bacton Woods is located in the 'Quiet Lanes' area and the Norfolk Coast Cycleway (Sustrans regional route 30) also passes close by.
DOGS: are permitted in Bacton Woods
Note: There are no public toilets on the site.

Accessibility

WHEELCHAIR/PUSHCHAIR: YES
GATES OR STYLES: NO
REFRESHMENTS: NO
DISABLED TOILETS: NO
SEATS: YES

The car park is unsurfaced but has a disabled parking area. Yellow trail is promoted as accessible. Only facility is a picnic area.



About Bacton Woods

Bacton Woods or Witton Woods as it is sometimes referred to has survived from agriculture since the Saxon times because of its poor soils and steep slopes. Two Sessile Oaks on site are thought to be over 200 years old. The woods are owned by the Forestry Commission, cover some 280 acres and boast over 30 species of tree including Scots and Corsican Pine, Western Hemlock, Douglas Fir and Larch.

Although lacking in facilities there is ample space and opportunity for all ages relax or explore. A bronze age burial mound, a pond and ancient pot boiling site all to be found in Bacton woods.



Three waymarked trails - Blue, Red and Yellow (*above*) commence from the car park, close to the interpretation board. Parking is in informal blocks around the unsurfaced access road with some disabled allocated.

Dogs are allowed which makes this a popular dog walking site and the main paths through the woods are great for family cycling. Horse riding is also permitted throughout the woodland with adequate space for de-boxing in the car park along with a variety of bridle paths and lanes to explore the surrounding area.

Bacton Woods remains a working forest so beware of machinery and observe any warning signs. It is also used as a valuable education resource with the habitats providing a rich haven for wildlife and plants including many rare species.

Yellow Trail (1.3 miles) review - August 2012

A short path connects the car park to the main woodland paths and the final few metres were a little worn after some prolonged wet weather (*photo 2*). Once onto the main path the surface was wide, firm and the route easy to follow. Initially passing through young mixed woodland before emerging into an open mature woodland area.

There are shallow ditches (mostly dry) alongside much of this section with a pond on the left. After here much of the woodland on the left is quite open and well used by families for recreation. At the end of this wide open stretch stands a magnificent Sessile Oak and the yellow and red routes split, follow the wide track to your right to continue along the yellow route.

With conifers on the left and mixed woodland to the right the path has a gentle incline for about 200 metres before levelling out (*photos 9-10*). At the time of the review visit the surface was showing signs of wear (*photo 11*) and the width



reduced. Bearing right at the end of this section (*above*) the route passes through an area cleared to encourage the native woodland to regenerate (*photo 14*). At the next multi-path junction one path leads to the Ancient pot boiling site - refer to the downloadable Bacton Woods site map leaflet.

The yellow route continues along a wide site access track with young *Wellingtonia* trees to the left and mixed woodland to the right. There is a dip in the route here prone to puddling (*photo 15*). Following the yellow and blue route markers along this wide track returns you back to the car park.

The route can easily be reversed and like all countryside routes the surface condition varies and is subject to recent or prevailing weather.



The other waymarked trails are the Red trail 3.3km (2 miles) and Blue trail 4km (2.5 miles) and use additional tracks and paths, some may not be suitable for all users. Check the site information board for current path and site updates. Site map leaflets are available from dispensers on site at the information board and on-line from the Forestry at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/englandeastanglianoforestbactonwood> and North Norfolk District Council at <http://www.northnorfolk.org/community/18345.asp>

Bacton Woods - Yellow Trail site visit



1. Start of route by disabled parking area



2. Worn area on connecting path near start



3. Good signing and condition once on route



4. Bench overlooking pond



5-6. Path passes through mixed woodland then alongside more mature open areas



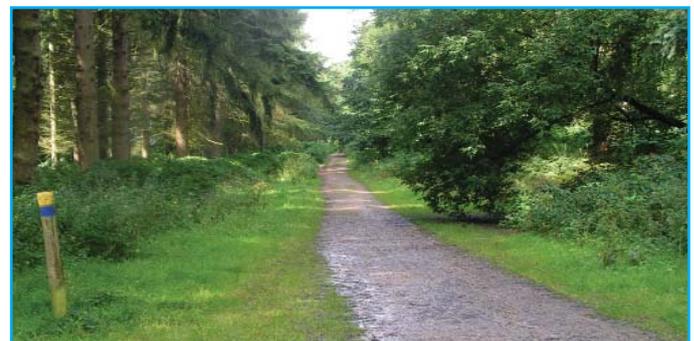
7. Majestic Sessile oak at end of first section



8. A bench opposite the oak tree



9. Yellow trail continues right from the oak



10. Gentle gradient on second section



11. Surface and width poorer on second section



12. Bench midway on second section



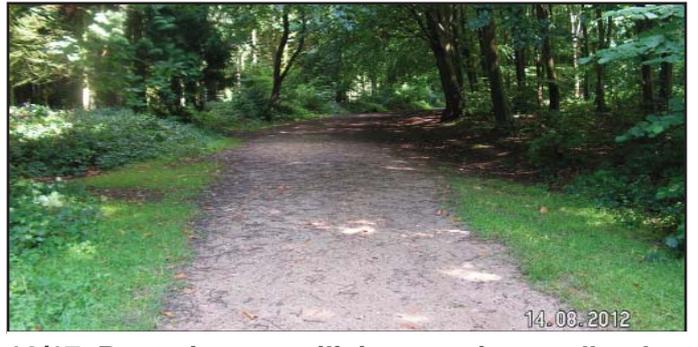
13. End of second section onto the return leg



14. Passing through a recently cleared area



15. Some puddling where paths cross near Wellingtonia tree area



16/17. Route is now utilising a main woodland management access track to return to car park. (follow the blue & yellow markers)



18. Eyecatching sight at end of route



20. Routes start and finish in the parking area