



Explore More Rides

Explore an off-road series of farm tracks and green lanes from **Hunstanton** or **Heacham**



What to expect

This route takes you over the hills which overlook Hunstanton, Holme-next-the-Sea and Heacham using quiet green lanes and farm tracks which wind through a quiet, open, landscape

The 16 mile route is challenging due to the rough nature of the off-road sections. Allow approximately 4 hours to complete the ride.

Approximately 35% is off-road on a mix byways and unclassified roads with soft surfaces which are easy to cycle along during dry and dusty summer months, but which become more challenging after periods of rain. The route requires either mountain or hybrid cycles.

Getting started

This cycle ride starts at Hunstanton town sign opposite the [Tourist Information Centre](#) on The Green, Hunstanton. If you are arriving by public transport, you can book a cycle from [AE Wallis Cycle Hire](#) in Heacham. [Stagecoach bus](#) services 10, 11 and Coasthopper or [Lynxbus](#) 35 and 36 stop for Heacham for starting and finishing the ride from point **3** in the instructions.

If you have brought your own cycles by car to Hunstanton, there are several pay and display car parks in the town to choose from. Then make your way to the Hunstanton town sign on The Green.

Other ideas for cycle rides in the area can be found in the [Norfolk Coast Cycleway](#) guide.



Along the way

When you are cycling along some of the tracks, particularly Green Bank **(9)**, an east to west aligned track on the line of the Ringstead and Holme parish boundary, you can appreciate fine views over the rolling, open farmland which slopes down to the coastal plain to the north and up the slightly higher land to the south. It is easy to understand why this track is considered to be a prehistoric Ridgeway.

The ride skirts the edge of Hunstanton Park which was formerly a medieval deer park, greatly enhanced during the 17th and 19th centuries producing the landscape visible today. A short diversion towards the end of the ride **(10)** takes you to St Mary's Church in the grounds of Hunstanton Park. It is one of the largest churches in this part of Norfolk.



[Ringstead Downs Nature Reserve](#) **(8)** is the largest remaining area of unimproved chalk grasslands left in Norfolk. There are wonderful views from this nature reserve. The downs support a diverse range of species, including locally and nationally scarce species.



The ride . . .

1 From the Hunstanton sign on The Green, cycle down the hill, over the roundabout and turn first right through the barriers onto Beach Terrace, a car free road. Turn right into Seagate and left at the end of the traffic free section onto the road parallel to the sea front. Continue ahead at the junction with South Beach Road, eventually cycling up the concrete ramp at the end of the road.

Follow the un-surfaced road behind the sea bank passing the ad-hoc collection of beach huts, chalets and beach houses. It eventually becomes a tarmac track through caravans.

2 Turn left at the roundabout, pass the shops and cafes and cycle into Heacham. Continue ahead as the road becomes Station Road.

3 To start the ride from [A E Wallis Cycle Hire](#) on the High Street, cycle along Pound Lane, which is part of a one-way system. Turn right at the end onto Station Road to join the ride.

4 Explore More tip

To visit St Mary's Church in Heacham which has connections with Princess Pocahontas, turn left onto Hunstanton Road. The church is a short distance along the road on the right. Return the same way and turn left along Station Road.

Continue along Station Road almost to the end and turn left onto Ringstead Road.

5 Take care crossing the A149 onto Ringstead Road opposite, continuing ahead at the junction on the corner. Stay on Ringstead Road for a long, slow climb inland, leaving the noise of the busy road behind.

6 Turn right at the T-junction signposted to Sedgeford.

6 Explore More tip

If you wish to take a short cut, turn left follow the National Cycle Route 1 signs through Ringstead. Ringstead Downs Nature Reserve which is situated on the left before reaching the village. Continue ahead at the junction in the village onto Burnham Road, follow this for approximately 1.5 miles and turn first left at the cross roads and then following the instructions at point 8.

7 Turn first left (before reaching a house on the right) onto a track. This tarmac track becomes an unmade vehicle track; watch your speed going down the hill towards the road at the end.

At the end of the track, cross the road to the tarmac track opposite, signposted to Courtyard Farm.

Continue ahead onto the farm track at the corner, leave the tarmac road and cycle up and over the hill, turning right onto Burnham Road at the end.

8 Turn left at the cross roads onto Docking Road and cycle down the hill.

Continue ahead at the bottom of the hill onto the grass track leading up the hill—the fabulous views from the top beside the trig point are worth the effort!

9 Turn left at the road and then after a short Distance, continue ahead as the road veers left onto a final track called Green Bank. There are great views over the coast along the length of this ancient Ridgeway.

Turn left at the end onto Peddars Way North, follow this road round to the right and then turn right at the corner signposted to Hunstanton.

Turn left at the T-junction onto the A149 and take care on this short section of main road.

10 Explore More tip

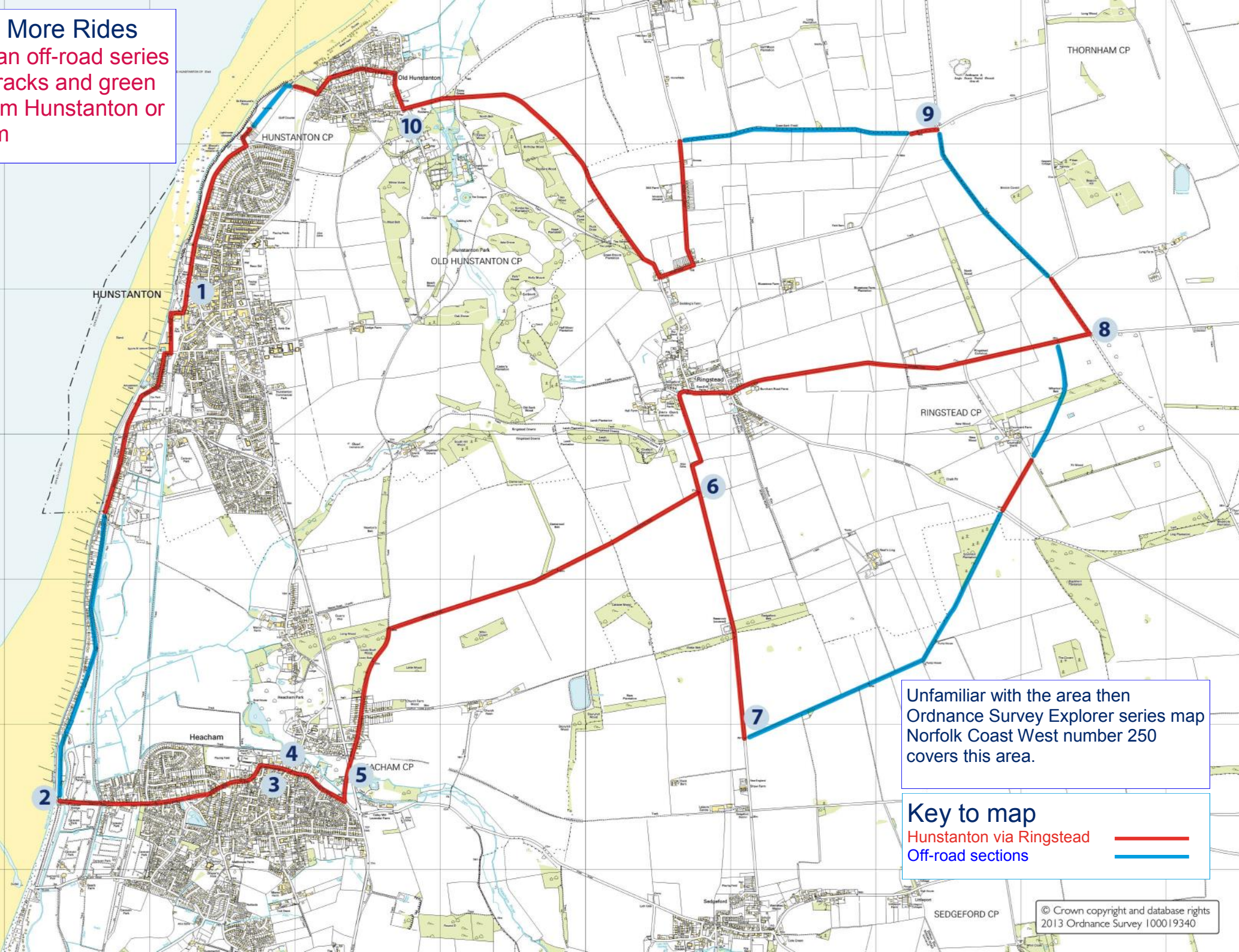
To visit St Mary's Church, turn left onto Church Road, then keep left at the junction. Return the same way and cross into Waterworks Road.

10 Turn first right onto Waterworks Road, then first left onto Wodehouse Road. Turn right after Le Strange Arms Hotel to cycle through Hunstanton Cliff Car park.

Cycle up Lighthouse Close to leave the car park and turn right at the end onto Cliff Parade. Stay on this road over the hill and down into Hunstanton and the start point.



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Unfamiliar with the area then Ordnance Survey Explorer series map Norfolk Coast West number 250 covers this area.

Key to map
Hunstanton via Ringstead ————
Off-road sections ————



Local cycle hire and public transport

Cycle hire: A E Wallis Cycle Hire, Heacham. To book a cycle, visit www.aewallis.co.uk or phone 01485 571683.

Public transport: *Stagecoach bus* services 10, 11 and Coasthopper or *Lynxbus* 35 and 36 stop for Heacham and Hunstanton. For details of all bus services to Hunstanton and Heacham visit the Traveline website or telephone 0871 200 22 33.



Explore More tips

Short diversions take you to a couple of interesting churches, the beautiful St Mary's Church in Old Hunstanton and also St Mary's Church in Heacham. Courtyard Farm at Ringstead has permissive farmland walks, including Ringstead Downs Nature Reserve.

Share the space

The Explore More Rides offer a mix of off-road, quiet lanes and other roads for cycling along a network of bridleways and byways. The off-road routes are also used by farm vehicles, so please take care at all times when following these routes. In wet weather, off-road paths become muddy and therefore more challenging if cycling — be prepared to occasionally walk some sections!

When using off-road routes please remember

- Be prepared to slow down and stop for other users including walkers, horses, farm traffic or other vehicles.
- Keep to an appropriate speed for the type of track and amount of other users.
- Slow down at junctions and bends.

Courtesy

- When you approach walkers, horse riders and other cyclists from behind, remember that cycles can be silent. Use your a bell or call out to warn of your approach and please pass others sensibly whether on road, path or track.

A section of the route is along *Sustrans National Cycle Route 1* which from Dover to the Shetlands via the east coast of the UK. Route 1 between King's Lynn and Wighton also forms part of the *Norfolk Coast Cycleway*— further information including loops and links along the cycleway can be found on the map guide.



Refreshments

There are many places offering refreshments in Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton and Heacham, ranging from cafes and fish and chip shops, to ice-cream parlours, pubs and restaurants.

Away from the coast there are a couple of refreshment opportunities. If you take the short cut you pass *The Gin Trap* on the High Street in Ringstead, a 17th century coaching inn. Alongside the traffic lights in Heacham is the popular *Norfolk Lavender* attraction where there is a café and a Walsingham Farms Shop.

The **Norfolk Coast area of outstanding natural beauty** (AONB) is one of 42 AONBs in England and Wales, which together with 13 national parks comprise our finest landscapes, rich in wildlife and cultural heritage.

The **Norfolk Coast Partnership** is funded by Defra and local authorities to bring local organisations together to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty and promote its sustainable use and enjoyment.