



Walks for all Bacton Woods

Walks for all are a selection of easy access walks that aim to provide the opportunity to experience the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for everyone including the less able, wheelchair users and families with buggies.

Suitability checklist

Distance: About one and a third miles (2km) for red access trail

Accessibility: Red route follows woodland paths, mostly on firm compacted soil, surface will vary subject to current or recent weather conditions. Section to Sessile Oak is along a forest access road and may have larger stone used in surface repair and possibly restricting some wheeled users. Woodland car park with disabled parking

Gates and barriers: None on the waymarked trails

Facilities: No public toilets at this site (nearest at North Walsham or Bacton) or permanent refreshment facilities

Seats: At the picnic area near car park

Planning your visit: Entrance and car park off B1150 two and half miles north-east of North Walsham. Grid Ref: TG317313 (car park)

Open: Woodland open all year round

Public transport: No public transport currently serves the site

By bike: On Norfolk Coast Cycleway; **Walking:** Quiet Lanes network

Dogs: Popular site for dog walkers with dog waste bins in the car park

The site is owned/managed by Forestry Commission

Bacton Woods is mosaic of conifers, mixed woodland and open areas with heather, broom and gorse providing a variety of colour through the changing seasons. A rich diversity of wildlife to spot while enjoying a leisurely walk

The most rural of the original Easy Access sites which does not offer the same standard of facilities found at other sites but is included as it does offer a real walk in the woods experience. 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 the site are thought to be over 200 years old.

The woods are owned by the Forestry Commission and cover some 280 acres, boasting 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 to relax and explore. A bronze age burial mound, a pond and ancient pot boiling site all to be found in Bacton woods.

Information boards in car park display a site map. A map leaflet can be obtained from NNDC 01263 513811 or the Forestry 0300 067 4500 and downloaded from <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/your-community/find-out-about-bacton-wood/> and <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/englandeastanglianoforestbactonwood> prior to visiting.

Walk instructions

Starting from the car park along a short path to the main woodland paths. The parking area is quite spread out and the woodland around quite open with a number of informal tracks around. If it's your first visit and you are unsure - it is the continuation of the forest access road that you enter the woods car park on that you will be walking along for the first section of this trail.

This access road trail section path is firm and wide although after routine maintenance can be some loose stone areas. 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 routes split, follow the wide track to your right to continue along the red 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. The surface can sometimes become worn and the width reduced. Bearing right at the end of this section through an area cleared to encourage the native woodland to regenerate. At the multi-path junction one path leads to the Ancient pot boiling site - refer to your Bacton Woods map leaflet.

Continue along a wide track with young Wellingtonia trees to the left and mixed woodland to the right and along the wide avenue back towards the car park. The car park is waymarked to the right along a short track as you near the end of the avenue. As to be expected in a countryside wood some of the paths are prone to puddling, leaf and twig debris.

Bacton Woods - something for everyone

Orienteering with map and compass to find control points all set up for you further information www.northnorfolk.org or phone 01263 513811

Cycling for all abilities whether family cycling on main paths or mountain bikes. Horse Riding is permitted throughout the woodland and adjacent lanes and bridleways. Group visits for all sorts of activities along with a programme of family events and activities.

Walking along the three waymarked trails: Red Trail 2km (1.3 miles); Blue Trail 3.3km (2 miles) and Yellow Trail 4km (2.5 miles) or just explore and enjoy the many tracks.



The Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 46 AONBs in the UK, which together with 15 National Parks comprise our finest landscapes, rich in wildlife and cultural heritage.

Along the way . . .



Large covered information board with map dispenser in main car park



Parking is around the entrance road loop



Colour coded waymarking for mapped routes



A section of the route is used for forestry access



Site visit Autumn 2017 saw repairs to the forestry access road taking place



Forest path along the second section



Path narrows for a short distance



Path as it turns back towards the car park



Last section before returning into car park