



Walks for all Holkham beach

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.

Something for everyone with pinewoods, marshes, sand dunes overlooking a vast and spectacular coastline. Relax, watch the tide ebb and flow, the migrating birds or a wonderful Norfolk sunset

Designated a National Nature Reserve, Holkham bay with its sandy expansive beach has appeared in many films and photos. The reserve is one of the largest and most diverse along the coastline stretching from Burnham Norton to Blakeney.

Originating from and using boardwalks and viewing platforms installed for the 2000 Easy Access guide to the Norfolk Coast AONB. A fingerpost at the beach entrance on Lady Anne's Drive indicates two options - Beach viewing point 250 yards and the Hide walk half a mile. Both options are 'there and back' but there opportunities for additional walks using the Norfolk Coast Path through to Wells and the many options Holkham Park has to offer so whatever your ability and interests there is much to do and see and to make the most of your visit.

Away from the beach, Holkham village offers an interesting array of shops and the Victoria Inn. Holkham Hall and parkland is very popular and provides another unique experience. Full details including accessibility is on the Holkham.co.uk website. A wide variety of events also take place throughout the year.

Suitability checklist

Distance: 250 yards and half a mile.

Accessibility: Wheelchair, buggy friendly on paths and boardwalks to viewing platforms.

Gates and barriers: None on this section

Facilities: None currently at beach*, nearest disabled toilets / baby changing facilities at Wells beach. Some public toilets available in Holkham village. Refreshments at Wells beach and Holkham village.

*Some facilities may become available on-site in 2018

Seats: At viewpoints and all along routes

Planning your visit: Main entrance via Lady Anne Drive, A149 Holkham village (opp Victoria PH). Map Ref: TF891447; Postcode NR23 1AB

Open: all year to beach and pinewoods. Lady Anne's Drive (parking) open 6am-9pm Apr-Sept; 6am-6pm Oct-Mar. Parking charges apply but tickets also valid at Holkham Hall and Wells beach car parks.

Public transport: Coasthopper bus service stops at top of Lady Anne's Drive (Holkham village) (half-mile to beach)

By bike: On Holkham loop of the Norfolk Coast Cycleway; **Walking:** On the Norfolk Coast Path National Trail

Dogs: Under close control beach but on leads in parkland

Site contact: Holkham Estate 01328 710227, www.holkham.co.uk

Walk instructions

Option at signpost '**Beach viewpoint 250 yards with 1 rest stop**'. Leads onto a boardwalk, subject to some sand cover but in general good condition. The right hand side is mostly level with or cut into the adjoining ground but the first section to the left has no barrier or handrail and drops away by varying amounts to the sand below. The handrail section starts by information signs describing features around you, the boardwalk continues along the tree line with some undulation and raised areas. A bench is set well back allowing space for a wheelchair. The handrail continues all the way to a large viewing platform which has a bench and ample wheelchair room to enjoy the superb panoramic views across the bay.

Advisory note: Wind blown sand can sometimes fill in the gaps along the wooden boardwalk and make the surface slightly slippery.

Explore more . . . access to the expansive open sand below this first viewing platform is via a boarded slope with a drop at the end so will be down to individual discretion and ability. Surface is sand which where compacted is firm enough for larger wide wheeled kids buggy's, but less likely to support heavier mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs.

Signpost option '**Easy access trail to hide ½ mile, 4 rest stops**' follows a wide unmade access track with a level surface and minimal potholes through a mix of open low scrub and mainly deciduous tree cover to the south. The pinewoods to the north offers users some protection from northerly winds providing a sheltered and relaxing walk. There is an abundance of birds, insects and flora to see, so rest up at one of the benches on concrete platforms and with ample wheelchair room.

Reaching the boardwalks, one goes directly over the dunes to the beach viewing platform and the other providing a zig-zag slope for disabled access up to the a George Washington viewing hide. The hide provides elevated views across a pond and grazing marshes towards Holkham

Holkham beach



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Park. The hide has a single door, bench seating and multiple viewing hatches with the area directly in front of the entrance iclear for wheelchair use and the viewing hatch set accordingly lower.

From the back of the hide a connecting boardwalk link takes you to the beach viewpoint that offers views across the dunes and coast.

Explore more . . . if you are able to walk along the sand and capable of a step up from the sand of about 4 inches it may be possible to make a circular walk by following the Norfolk Coast Path signs to the left of first viewing hide along to the second viewing platform behind the George Washington viewing hide.

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 . . .



Lady Anne's Drive beach access, disabled parking area



Last section to first beach viewing platform and below seating area



Start to hide and viewing platform boardwalks



Above - boardwalk across dunes to viewing platform (inset) and below to Washington Hide



Start of short viewpoint boardwalk



Track to hide and second viewing platform

