

East Pye Solar

Statement Read out virtually on 16th September 2026

1. I am Ian Mitchell and I represent the Ramblers Norfolk Area. I happen to live in Norwich but have walked many of the public paths in the area covered by this application.
2. Of the people who have spoken already, some have identified themselves as horse riders, but many of the others will have walked the public paths and quite frequently. There are sometimes village walking groups which have social walks.
3. I belong to one of the Ramblers Groups which consisting of mainly retired people tends to do walks of 6 miles or less on a weekly basis. Being centred on Norwich we go to various areas round the city. We come to walk in South Norfolk every few weeks, usually parking at village halls. From there two groups of 20 to 30 people go out on a longer and a shorter circuit. We are often lead by members who live in the vicinity.
4. There are various reasons for walking either alone or together:
 - a) Social
 - b) Physical health
 - c) Mental health
 - d) Enjoying the views
 - e) Enjoying being in nature.
5. There are already solar farms in Norfolk, but they are mostly only a few fields and can be soon passed by. However in this application, the view of solar panels will go on for field after field.
6. It is to restore a green view that we propose hedge planting that will provide an effective screen within 7 years. To be effective it needs to be 2 metres high for walkers. For horse riders a hedge would probably have to be 3 metres high for effective screening.
7. The usual attempts at hedging seems to consist of putting cuttings in the ground surrounded by a plastic tube and leaving it to chance what comes up. I provided photographs in my submission on 9th June. I suggest there should be well developed young trees on 1 metre stems about 2 metres apart. In between there can be some of the short cuttings to fill in the lower part as they grow.
8. In my 9th June submission there was a table of the lengths of screening hedge required for public paths both on one side of a panel field and going between panels. It amounted to about 14 kilometres of new hedge.
9. If the Inspectorate are minded to approve the application in part or as a whole we request that a condition is imposed of effective hedge screening within 7 years.

After I had given my statement on 16th September, the Inspectors asked that I send examples of walks that would be affected by the East Pye Solar scheme.

First, presented below are walks devised by a few Ramblers and published in the Eastern Daily Press and Eastern Evening News. These are often used as a basis for walks of the Ramblers Wensum Group. The East Pye Solar sites have been pencilled onto the maps:

- a) 30 March 2013 – Long Stratton & Tasburgh – passes sites 4 and 7A
- b) 10 May 2014 – Hempnall & Saxlingham Nethergate – passes sites 7E, 7F, 7D and 7C.
- c) 27 December 2014 – Saxlingham Nethergate – passes sites 7F and 7D.
- d) 10 January 2015 – Hempnall and Morningthorpe – passes sites 7D, 7C and 5.
- e) 19 November 2016 – Woodton, Seething and Kirstead – passes sites 10.
- f) 26 November 2016 – Pulham Market, the Tivetshalls & Great Moulton – passes sites 8, 1B & BESS.
- g) 25 January 2020 – Brooke and Kirstead – passes site 9 and CRC13.
- h) 5 February 2022 – Saxlingham Nethergate and Hempnall – passes sites 7F, 7E, 7D and 7C.

Secondly, presented below are some route maps of walks actually lead by members of the Ramblers Wensum Group. The East Pye Solar sites have been noted on the maps:

- i) From Brooke village hall – passes through site 9
- j) From Tivetshall village hall – passes sites 1A, 1B and BESS – walked on 12 February 2026
- k) From Wacton village hall – passes sites 1A, 1B, 2 and BESS
- l) From Hempnall village hall – passes sites 5, 7C and 7D.

Ian Mitchell,

Ramblers Norfolk Area Footpath Co-ordinator

Four churches to explore

Start: Free car park in Swan Lane, Long Stratton.
Map: Explorer 237 G/R TM197927
Distance: 7.5 miles
Public Transport: Long Stratton is on a bus route from Norwich.
Timetables: 0871 2002233, www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk

Once away from the busy A140 road, this pleasant walk from Sue Aldis and Rod Webster is mainly along quiet country lanes and footpaths.

For those interested, the walk passes by or goes close to four village churches, all open daily, and an ancient earthwork. The return leg uses a section of Boudica's Way.

St Mary's at Tharston is in an intensely rural landscape. The church sits high and the lane leading up to it curves around the graveyard, a sign of an ancient site. It is built in the Perpendicular style and dates from the 13th to the 15th century. The tower, east and west sides feature flint flushwork. Inside the church are a number of fine 17th century monuments and a 15th century font carved with lions and flowers.

St Mary the Virgin at Tasburgh was built between 1050 and 1100 within an ancient earthwork. All that remains of the original building is the round tower, an external feature of which is the double row of blind arches and, internally, the tower arch and wall of the nave. The original nave was demolished in the late 1300s and a larger one built. Opposite is a large earthwork, possibly an Iron Age hill fort, now owned by the Norfolk Archaeological Trust. The site, with information boards, is open to the public.

St Michael's at Stratton St Michael, a quiet simple country church, lies on a narrow country lane just off the A140. It has a slightly truncated tower with a jaunty little bell turret. Inside is a 15th-century font.

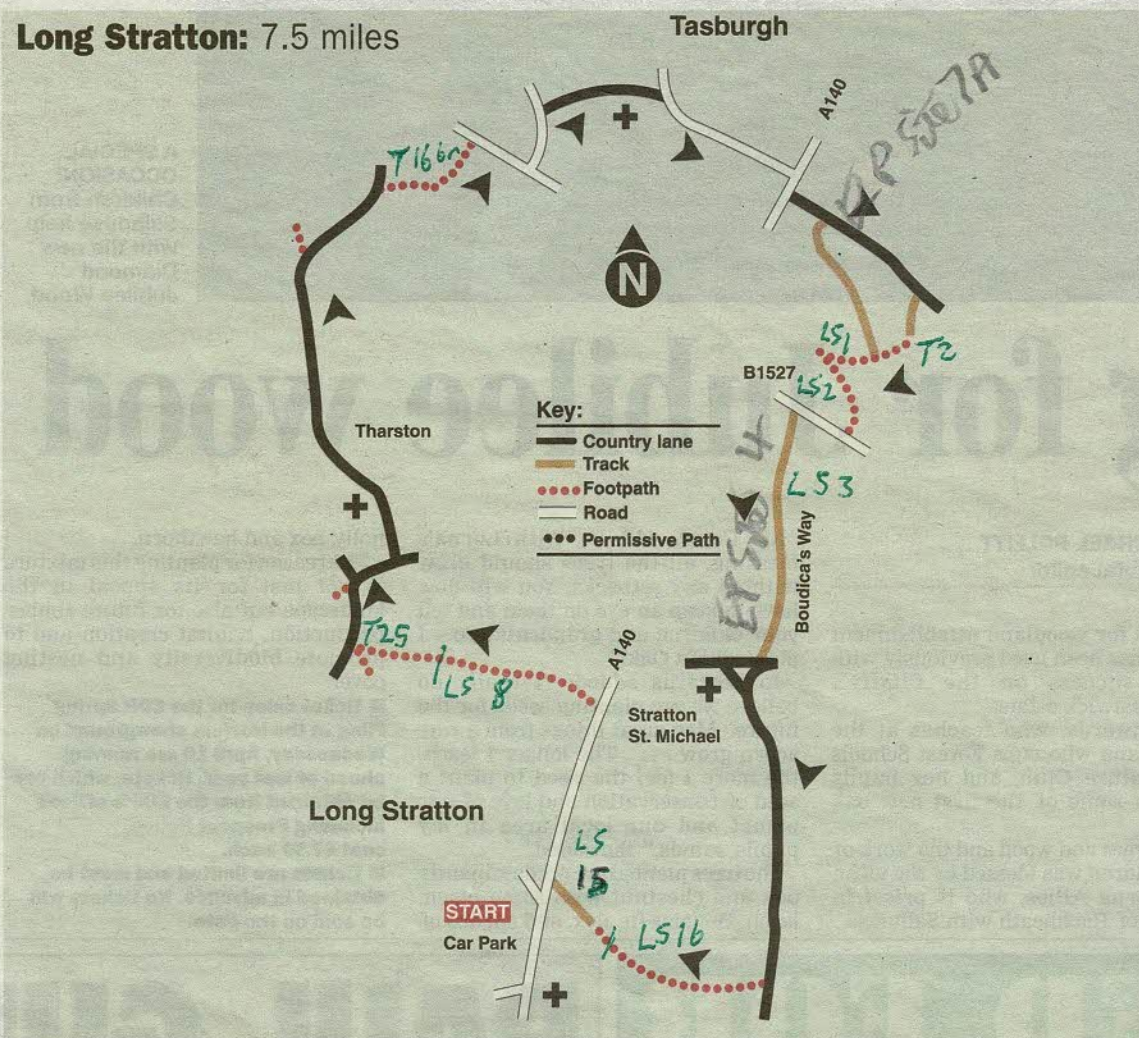
St Mary's in Long Stratton, also with a round tower, exhibits the famous Sexton's Wheel displayed in a glass case near the back of the church. Made of iron, it revolves on a spindle. Its exact function is not entirely certain, but it seems to have been used to determine which day of the week parishioners would start a fast. There are only two of these wheels in the country.

There are several opportunities for refreshments in Long Stratton.

■ Leave the car park and turn right to the main road. Turn left and walk uphill along the pavement for about a quarter of a mile. Immediately before the allotments, turn left at the finger post onto a field edge path. Keep on this downhill path crossing two plank bridges and on to an enclosed green track. Continue ahead onto a concrete path through the sewage works.

There was building work taking place but the pedestrian route was clearly signposted. Keep on this path to reach a lane (Picton Road) and turn right.

Turn right again at the next junction into Hall Road. Then turn left into Hall Lane opposite Tharston Hall (which dates back to the 1590s). Walk uphill to Tharston Church.



■ Then keep ahead along the lane past the junction with Church Road on the left. At the next junction keep right along Parkes Lane. There are lovely views in all directions along this road. The lane goes gently downhill for about three-quarters

of a mile towards Low Tharston. Turn right onto a muddy bridleway opposite 'High View'. After a few hundred metres turn left at the marker post along a wooded track to reach a road (B1135). Turn right along the road, and then turn left at the

junction opposite Hall Farm (signed to Lower Tasburgh). Cross the ford and soon turn right at the junction. Walk uphill to Tasburgh Church with the earthwork opposite.

■ Keep ahead to the junction and turn right, now joining Boudica's Way. Keep along this road through Upper Tasburgh to reach the A140 road. Cross carefully and turn right, then turn left into Fairstead Lane. After a long quarter of a mile, turn right opposite Lime Tree Farm onto a track (signed to Fairstead Farm). Just before the farmhouse bear right, keeping on the track for a short distance. By a 'Private' sign, climb the stile on the right.

■ Walk over the crest of the meadow and go downhill to a marker post by a wide bridge over a stream. Cross the bridge and go through the gate. Cross the water meadow keeping close to the left-hand boundary and over a small brick and earth bridge. At the marker post keep leftwards across the meadow to the track. Turn left and keep on the track to the road (B1135). Turn right and walk along the road for about 200m. Then turn left at the finger post along a field edge track which eventually becomes a green lane. At the lane (Church Lane), leave Boudica's Way and turn right to reach Stratton St Michael Church.

■ Turn left into the churchyard and leave through a metal gate behind the church. Cross the meadow to a stile opposite. Turn left along the field edge to reach a lane. Turn

right along the lane, crossing Rhees Green, to the junction with Edge's Lane. Turn left then immediately right along Mill Lane. Go over the stile on the right and along the right meadow edge to another stile with a plank bridge. Turn left and cross another plank bridge.

Turn right along the field edge path with the ditch on the right. Continue ahead into a muddy green lane which becomes a tarmac footpath (Star Lane). Keep ahead to the main road in Long Stratton. To visit St Mary's Church, turn left along the pavement. Otherwise, cross the A140 road into Swan Lane back to the car park.

Sue Walker

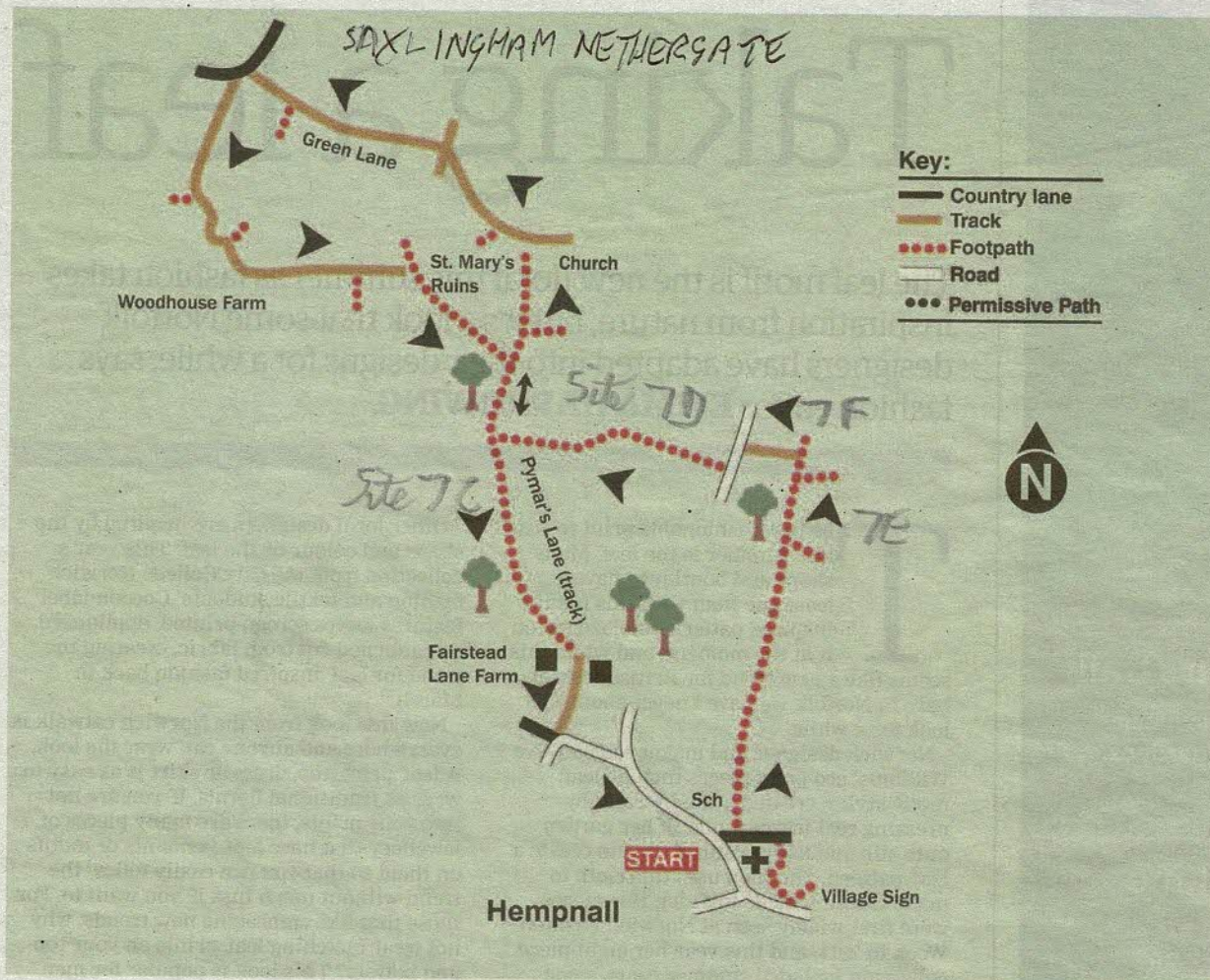
Joining The Ramblers

The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity which has been working to encourage

more people to take up walking and to safeguard footpaths and the countryside for 75 years. Whether you're an old hand or a complete beginner, the organisation can help you get the best out of walking through its extensive network of local groups. For more information about the Ramblers call 01508 538654 or click on www.ramblers.org.uk



30 MARCH 2013



Hempnall.

Start: In The Street in Hempnall, near the shop/post office.

Map: Explorer 237 G/R TM 240944.

Distance: 5.75 miles.

Public Transport: Hempnall is on a regular bus route from Norwich.

Timetables: www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk or phone: 0871 200 2233.

This interesting figure of eight walk from Mike Ringwood follows mostly good paths and tracks over a rolling landscape, with wide-ranging views of the countryside. The walk starts in Hempnall with a short diversion to the village sign which records the visit of John Wesley to preach in 1759. St Margaret's Church, next on the itinerary, is well worth visiting. Its medieval interior has been re-ordered to provide a light, open and flexible setting for worship and events. The 15th-century octagonal font is attractively carved with

Walking in the steps of John Wesley

beasts and angels. About halfway round the walk are the picturesque ruins of St Mary's Church in a small wood. The church served Saxlingham Thorpe, now a mile and a half away, but it was abandoned in the 17th century though it may have had some later, possibly agricultural, use. The final leg of the walk is along Fairstead Lane past Krons Manor, the oldest house in Hempnall. Then there are lots more interesting old houses along The Street at the end of the walk.

There are no refreshment opportunities on the route, the nearest inn being on the A140 main road some two miles distant.

Walk past the church to the village sign and stop to read about John Wesley's visit. Then return to St Margaret's Church and enter the churchyard by the gate beside the Long House. After visiting the church turn left and then left again beside the church and across the churchyard to an iron gate, and go left opposite the barn. Turn right at

the signed footpath with the school on the left.

Bear left at a junction of three paths and up a small grassy slope between bushes. Follow the path straight ahead across the big field. Continue ahead in the next field with a hedge and a ditch on the right. Pass a pond surrounded by trees to a plank bridge (these are sometimes called 'liggers' in Norfolk). Then, at a gap in the hedge, go right over another ligger and follow a left edge to yet another ligger. Turn left for few metres. Then go sharp right to follow another hedge on the left. Cross yet another ligger and turn left and right again following the corner of the field with a wood on the left, ignoring a footpath on the right. Turn left at the next footpath sign, between the trees, and continue ahead along the left edge of the field to a road.

Go left for a few metres and then go right over another plank bridge to a footpath. Follow the left edge of the field and, at the end of the field,

go over another plank bridge to the next field. Continue ahead to the next field corner and go right, still following the left edge of the field. Ignore a footpath on the left just before the field corner then, at the end of the field, turn left for a few metres through the gap and turn right to descend into the aptly named Mud Hole.

Go down the steps and cross the stream into the lovely enclosed path ahead. Ignore a path on the right and continue ahead on the path through the wood. When the wood and path end, turn left into a hedged path, following the fingerpost (Boudica's Way path). After a short distance, enter the wood on the left and follow the path to the St Mary's ruined church.

Go through the remains of the church and out through the arch near the tower. Go along the path to return to Boudica's Way and turn left. At crossing path go right, continuing on Boudica's Way, on a wide track towards Saxlingham Nethergate village and then ahead with trees on the right, and downhill. Now follow the sunken path to the left. Go ahead at the crossing path and continue along (on Green Lane) to the road (Windy Lane).

Turn left almost immediately on the drive to Woodhouse Farm, which is now a Redwings Horse

Sanctuary. Continue on the path as it bends left, ignoring a footpath on the right, and go round another bend following the main tarmac track and finger posts. Go round the metal barns and ahead onto a gravel path with a clay lump barn on the right. Follow the path round a left bend with a finger post, eventually ignoring a path on the right, and continue ahead slightly downhill and then on a winding path to the trees ahead.

At a T-junction, cross the track to a small green, signed path. (If this path is still overgrown, go along the wide field edge instead). Continue with trees and a ditch on the left to pass Mud Hole on the left and turn right back along this stretch of path with a hedge on the right. At the field corner turn left and shortly right into a lovely, enclosed wooded path that can be a little muddy at times.

Continue on a nice wide track and bear left with the track towards a farm. When the track ends turn right along the concrete farm track and go between the farm and a barn. When the track reaches a road (Fairstead Lane), turn left towards Hempnall. Bear right at the War Memorial into The Street. Continue ahead back to the post office and church.

■ Sue Walker



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10 MAY 2014

Stunning views are guaranteed

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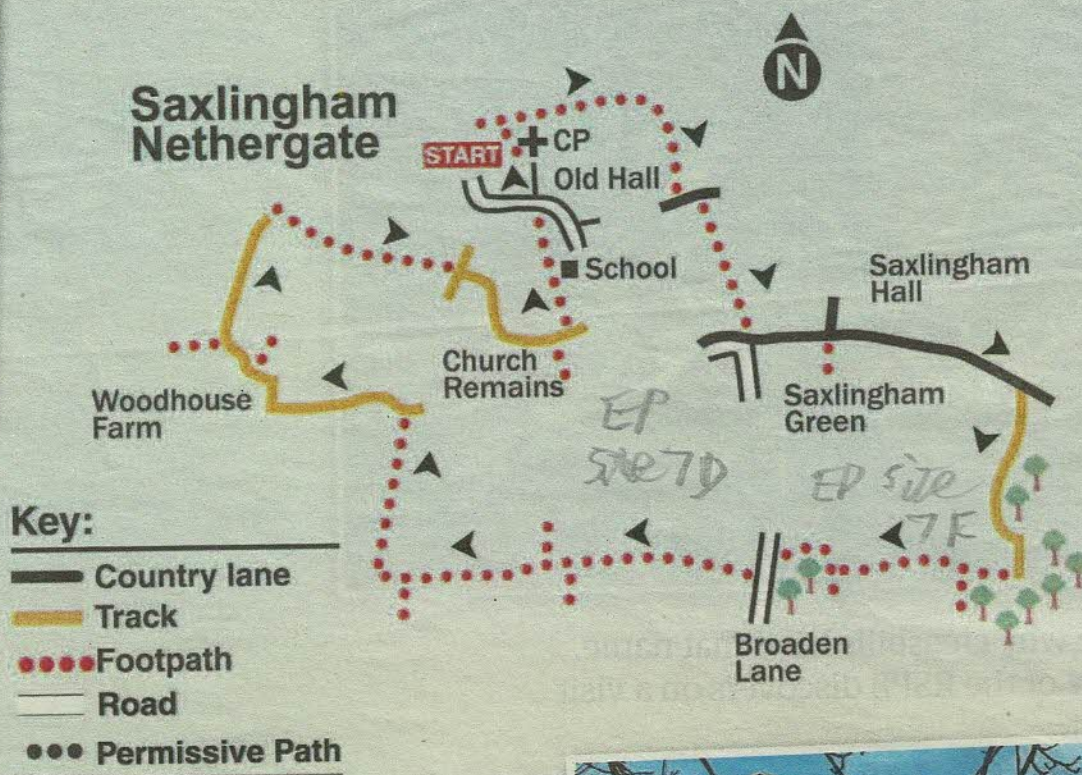


Saxlingham Nethergate

Start: St Mary's Church, Saxlingham Nethergate.
Map: Explorer 237 G/R TM 232972
Distance: 6 miles.
Public Transport: Saxlingham Nethergate is on a regular bus route from Norwich
Timetables:
www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk or phone: 0871 200 2233

This walk by Richard and Sally Parker starts from the car park of St Mary's Church, which is Decorated Gothic with a chancel, nave and square west tower, and a ring of eight bells. In 1867 the church was thoroughly restored. It has an excellent collection of stained glass windows. On the route there is one stile, farm tracks, quiet country roads and public footpaths. There are stunning views along the way, with the paddocks of Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Part of the walk is along Boudica's Way, a long-distance route of 36 miles between Diss and Norwich, which is named after the legendary warrior Queen of the Iceni. Also on this walk are the ruins of St Mary's Church at Saxlingham Thorpe, which was abandoned in the late 17th century.

There are no refreshment opportunities on the route.

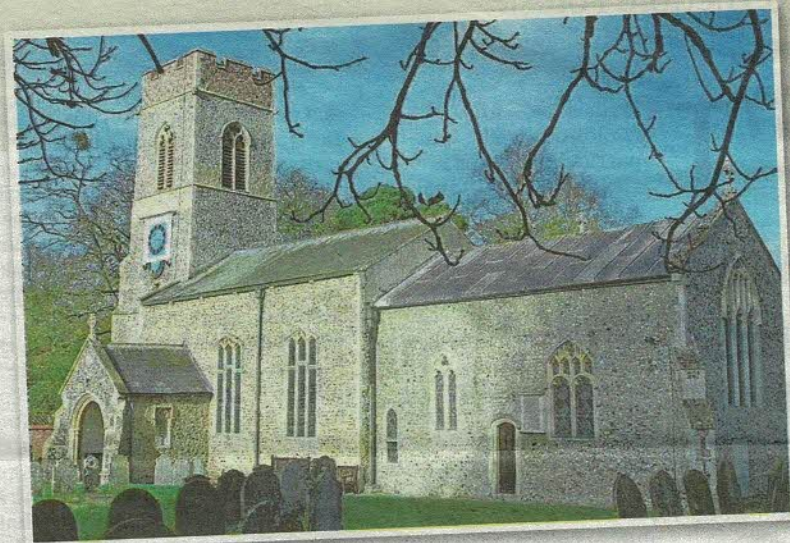


From the car park, enter the churchyard and pass the front entrance of the church. Beyond the church, at the wall ahead, turn right and follow the path through the graveyard to the kissing gate and into the field. Continue straight ahead to the field corner, looking out for the finger post on the right by the stile. Turn right here, keeping the hedge on the left. Follow the field path, ignoring the joining path from the left, to the next path junction. Turn right here, up the hill, crossing two fields, and continue to the lane (Hall Lane) ahead. Turn left along this lane, again looking for a finger post beyond the first hedge on the right. Take this path on the right marked as Boudica's Way. Where it emerges at the road ahead, turn left into Saxlingham Green.

Ignore the first path on the right by the red telephone box and keep on along the road. Just after the two cottages with large chimneys set back from the road on the left, look out for a finger post on the right. Take this track on the right and follow it with first the hedge and then woodland on the left to reach the wooded Saxlingham Grove. Here the path bends to the right. Just after this bend, ignore the un-marked path to the left and continue straight ahead through the kissing gate. Follow the field edge path and keep ahead past a path with a foot bridge joining from the left. Then immediately bend right with the path by a small wood. At the path junction, take the path to the left over the dirt bridge beside the woods to reach a road (Broaden Lane).

At the road, turn left and look for the small gap in the hedge on the right after about 80 metres. Pass through the gap and follow the hedge line straight ahead with the field on the right. Ignore footpaths off to the left and then off to the right. At the copse ahead, follow the path as it goes round the copse and through a hedge. Keep ahead past a footpath on the left with a footbridge. Then, at the field corner, follow the path as it bends right. Continue through two kissing gates. Go through another kissing gate to a track. Turn left along the track. Follow the track round a bend to the right and pass the front of the buildings (Woodhouse Farm).

Ignore the path ahead and, instead, take the track to the left beside the farm buildings. Beyond the farm, the



track turns right, then left. At the fork, take the right option. Shortly after the fork, turn right at the path junction and follow the drive to a lane (Windy Lane). Turn right here and, at the bend of the road, take the footpath straight ahead on Boudica's Way. Keep ahead along this path, ignoring a path on the right with a foot bridge and then a footpath off to the left. At the Public Bridleway crossing, keep straight ahead. Continue round the right bend and up the hill to the marker post ahead at the corner of the woodland. Enter the woods to reach the ruins of St Mary's Church.

Enter the church and walk along its length, with the tower to the rear. Leave the ruin and proceed along the path ahead. Leave the woods and ignore a path joining from the right. Turn left at the next path, following it down the hill. Pass over the footbridge and continue beside the allotments on the right, then beside the school grounds and building to the smaller

gate at the school entrance. Go through this gate and cross over the road, passing the village sign. Go up the track to the church and car park to complete the walk.

■ Sue Walker

Join The Ramblers

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more people to take up walking and to safeguard footpaths and the countryside for 75 years. Whether you're an old hand or a complete beginner, the organisation can help you get the best out of walking through its extensive network of local groups. For more information about the Ramblers call 0750 5426 750 or click on www.ramblers.org.uk



27 DEC 2014

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Water meadows and churches

Hempnall, Morningthorpe and Fritton

Start: Hempnall. (Park along The Street near the church).

Map: Explorer 237 G/R TM 241945

Distance: 7.25 (or 3) miles

Public Transport: There are bus services to Hempnall from Norwich and Harleston.

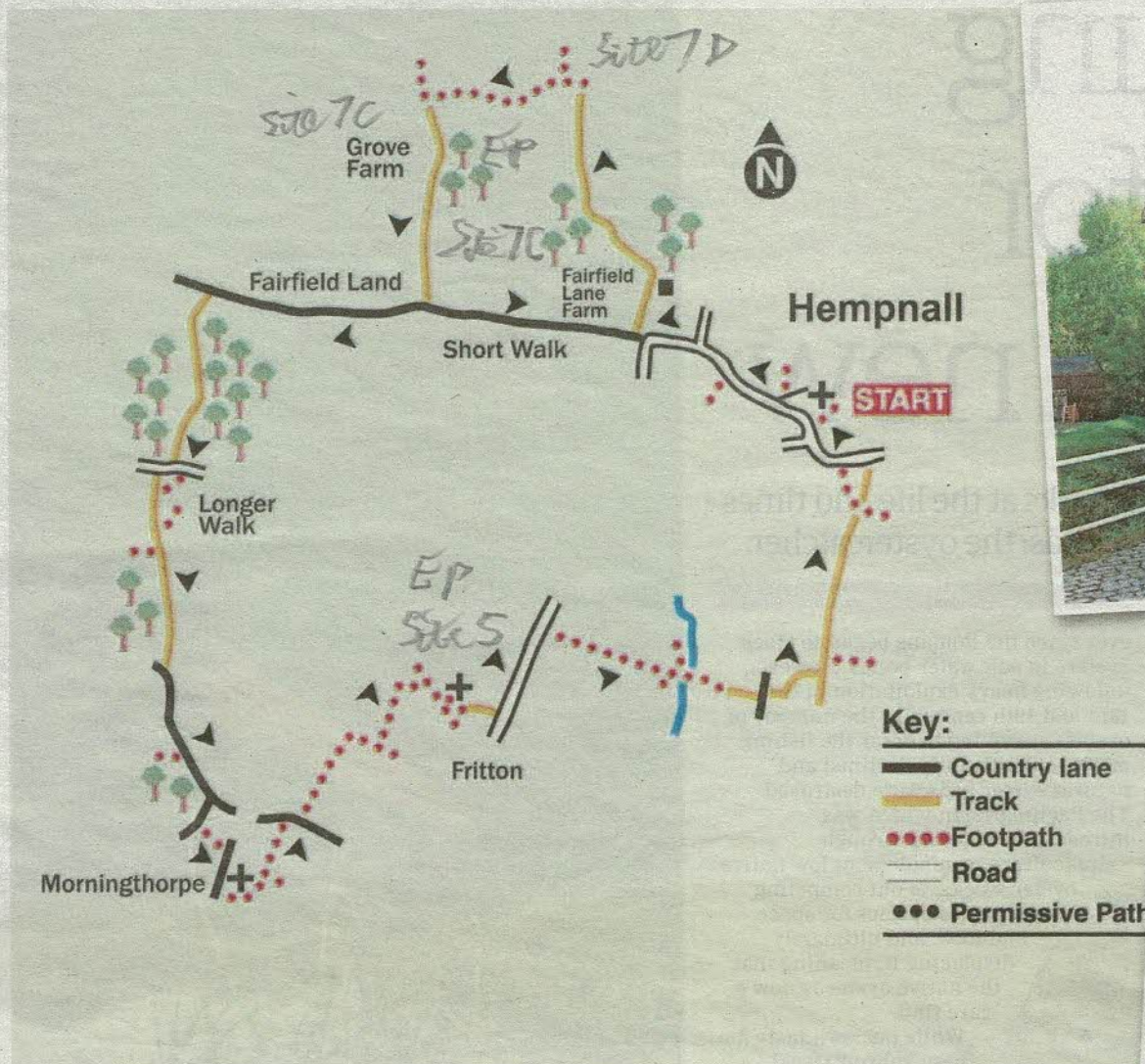
Timetables: www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk or phone: 0871 200 2233

This walk from Pauline Brookes explores footpaths and tracks around Hempnall, Morningthorpe and Fritton, and there is the opportunity to visit the churches of each village. The latter part of the walk passes over unspoilt water meadows.

St Margaret's Church, Hempnall, was restored by the Victorians after suffering fires in the 14th and 17th centuries. A wide, light space is filled with modern chairs, allowing it to be used for concerts, but a medieval font has survived. St John the Baptist's Church in Morningthorpe, stands on the edge of a farmyard. It has a round tower, probably originally constructed around the time of the Norman Conquest, although other parts of the church have been built in stages at different times. St Catherine's Church, Fritton, stands at the northern end of the village surrounded by quiet farmland. It is built in the early perpendicular style: the lower part of the tower is Norman although the upper section may be late 13th or 14th century. The fine rood screen (c.1510) was given by John Bacon who is shown with his wife and fourteen children. The fine murals were uncovered in 1850 and depict St George and St Christopher.

There are no refreshment opportunities on the walk, although nearby Long Stratton has various cafes and pubs.

From the church, turn right and walk along the street passing the shop and the school. At the War Memorial keep left along Fairstead Lane. Just past the junction with The



Krons, turn right along a track (Pymars Lane). Keep leftwards through the farm and turn left by a metal gate. The track, which can be muddy at first, becomes a leafy green lane with firmer ground. Continue along this path for half a mile to emerge at a field. Turn left along the edge of the field to the corner. Cross a plank bridge and keep in the same direction along the next field edge. At the end of this field, bend to the right and, at a gap in the hedge, cross a plank bridge. Then turn left following the path by the wooden fence of a paddock. After a short

distance turn left at a marker post and follow the field edge path to a track. Turn right towards Grove Farm then, after just a few metres, turn left along a track for a quarter of a mile to reach a lane (Fairstead Lane).

For the short walk: Turn left along the lane for two-thirds of a mile, passing The Krons again on the right. Then keep right at the junction by the War Memorial and retrace the outward route back through the village to the church.

For the full walk: Turn right along the lane and, after half a mile with a 'Private' notice by a large oak tree on the right, turn left along a track (known as Chestnut Grove) past Cranny Hills. Cross the road (B1527) and go over the plank bridge opposite. Turn right along the field edge for a short distance, then turn left along a track and continue ahead along it, ignoring paths on both sides, to a road (Norwich Road). Turn left for a quarter of a mile. Then turn right at a junction (signed to Long Stratton). Shortly, at the end of the trees on the left, turn left through a wooden gate onto a meadow. Follow the left edge to a gateway near a telegraph pole. Keep in the same direction over another meadow to a road. Turn right and, after a short distance, turn left into Morningthorpe churchyard.

After visiting the church, continue through the churchyard, then onto a tree-lined path to reach the corner of a field. Keep leftwards and follow the cross-field path towards some cottages and a road. Turn right and then, about 100 metres past The Old School House, turn left onto a signed cross-field path. Keep ahead through the next field entrance and turn right to follow the right edge. At the corner turn right at a marker post onto a cross field path. Turn left along the field edge and at the second field corner follow the path round to the right and into Fritton churchyard.

After visiting the church, leave by the lych-gate and onto a tree lined track to reach the road. Turn left along the road. After a short quarter of a mile, after passing some cottages but just before reaching the large converted barn, turn right at a finger post onto a field edge path. After about 100 metres turn left at a marker post, then immediately right along a track. Keep ahead and, just after the right bend near a hedgerow, go left at a sign and through a squeeze gate. Keep ahead across the water meadow to another squeeze gate and cross the bridge over the stream. Go up some steps and keep ahead along the field edge which turns right at the corner of the woods. Go past old farm detritus to a lane by Bush Farm. Turn left

and, at the junction, cross the road (Field Lane) onto a grassy track between fields. When the path forks by the hedgerow, turn left and follow the long field edge path. At the end turn left through a wooden gate into the playing field. Go through the village hall car park to the road (B1527). Turn left along the road. At the junction, turn right back to the church.

■ Sue Walker

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10 JAN. 2015



Wandering from Woodton

Woodton and Kirstead Green

Start: Woodton Village Hall.
Map: Explorer OL40 G/R TM 290939.
Distance: 7.5 miles.
Public Transport: Woodton is on a regular bus route.
Timetables: www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk or **phone:** 0871 200 2233

This pleasant walk from Woodton goes along lovely tracks, pretty paths and quiet lanes to reach the hamlet of Kirstead Green. It then follows more tracks and quiet lanes before eventually visiting Woodton's All Saints' Church, where there is much to enjoy. The church dates from around 1300 and has a round tower with an octagonal top and six bells. In the churchyard lies the grave of a famous huntsman, Ned Baldry. His horse, Old Shell, is said to have been buried in the park nearby. Both horse and rider are featured in the village sign. Inside the church, the window tracery and stained glass is especially good, some of the glass being medieval, and the top of the font is Norman. The medieval timber framework is still in place in the roof of the aisle. There are several fine memorials to the Suckling family, ancestors of Lord Nelson. From the church the walk then follows a field path back into the village.

Refreshment: King's Head pub, Woodton.

From the village hall, turn left along the lane on the pavement. Then, at the crossroads by the King's Head, turn left along The Street. Follow the street to the main road (B1332). Cross the road carefully into the signed grassy track (Pound Lane) opposite. Follow the track for about a third of a mile and, as the track bends right at a fingerpost, continue ahead on a restricted byway (footpath). Then, after about 250 metres, turn right into another track (Hobb's Lane). Go through the gate and on along this nice wide track. Then, at a crossing track, go across leftwards into another track with a ditch on the right. Then, as this track bends left, continue ahead on a nice path through woodland. At a lane (Harvey's Lane) by Nene Valley Farm, turn right.

After about a hundred metres, turn left over a concrete pad with a farm building on the left of it into a track. Follow this track (still Hobb's Lane) straight ahead for about a mile. Then, on meeting a lane (Swangate Lane) at a corner, go ahead slightly leftwards along it. Then, at a T-junction turn left, signed to Kirstead. Follow the lane round a long left bend past Walnut Tree Farm. Then, at the next junction, turn right into Green Man Lane. Keep ahead along the lane passing another lane on the right and a track on the left into Kirstead Green.

At a crossing road in the village, go ahead by a fingerpost into the farm and through a gate between the barns. Go ahead and over a corner stile on the left of double metal gates and along a narrow fenced path. Follow the path left and then right over another stile and down steps to the main road (B1332). Cross the road carefully and then go right and up steps. Follow the path to an overgrown stile and a gap. Turn right and then go round the corner of the field. Continue ahead with a hedge on the right. At a wide gap keep ahead, passing to the left of a large tank on wheels. Go past the reeds on the right continuing with the hedge on the right. Then go

past a building on the right, which is behind the hedge, and follow the path round to the right. Go through a gap and turn left in front of the chicken huts. Then go left again along the crossing track. Just after the track bends right, turn left into an enclosed track (Green Lane). Follow the track for about three-quarters of a mile to a crossing track with a shed just to the left and a house on the right. Turn right and follow this track to a lane at a corner by Frogs Farm and Oaks Farm.

Turn left along this quiet lane for about half a mile. Just before the end of the wood (Beckett's Wood) on the right, turn left through a gap into a field. Follow the signed path

diagonally rightwards across the field making for a gap in the hedge to the left of the church. Go through the bird-seeded edge and over the stile. Then go across the next field to another stile. Cross the stile, turn right and go beside the fence with the wood on the left. Continue along to the corner of the churchyard wall. Turn left alongside the wall and then follow the wall round a right corner. Continue on the grass alongside the wall parallel to the drive on the left. Then turn right again at the next wall corner and still keep alongside the wall to reach the gate on the right into the churchyard of Woodton Church.

After visiting the church, go down the drive to the road. Turn left along the road (Church Road) for about 150 metres. Immediately after Home Farm on the right, turn right onto a signed track. Go past a gate with a notice (Home Farm buildings only).

Join The Ramblers

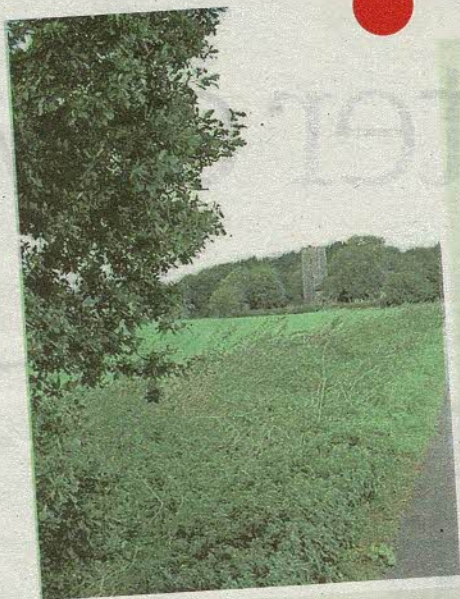
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Then continue across the field on the track to a road (Hempnall Road). Turn left along the road back to the village hall.
Sue Walker

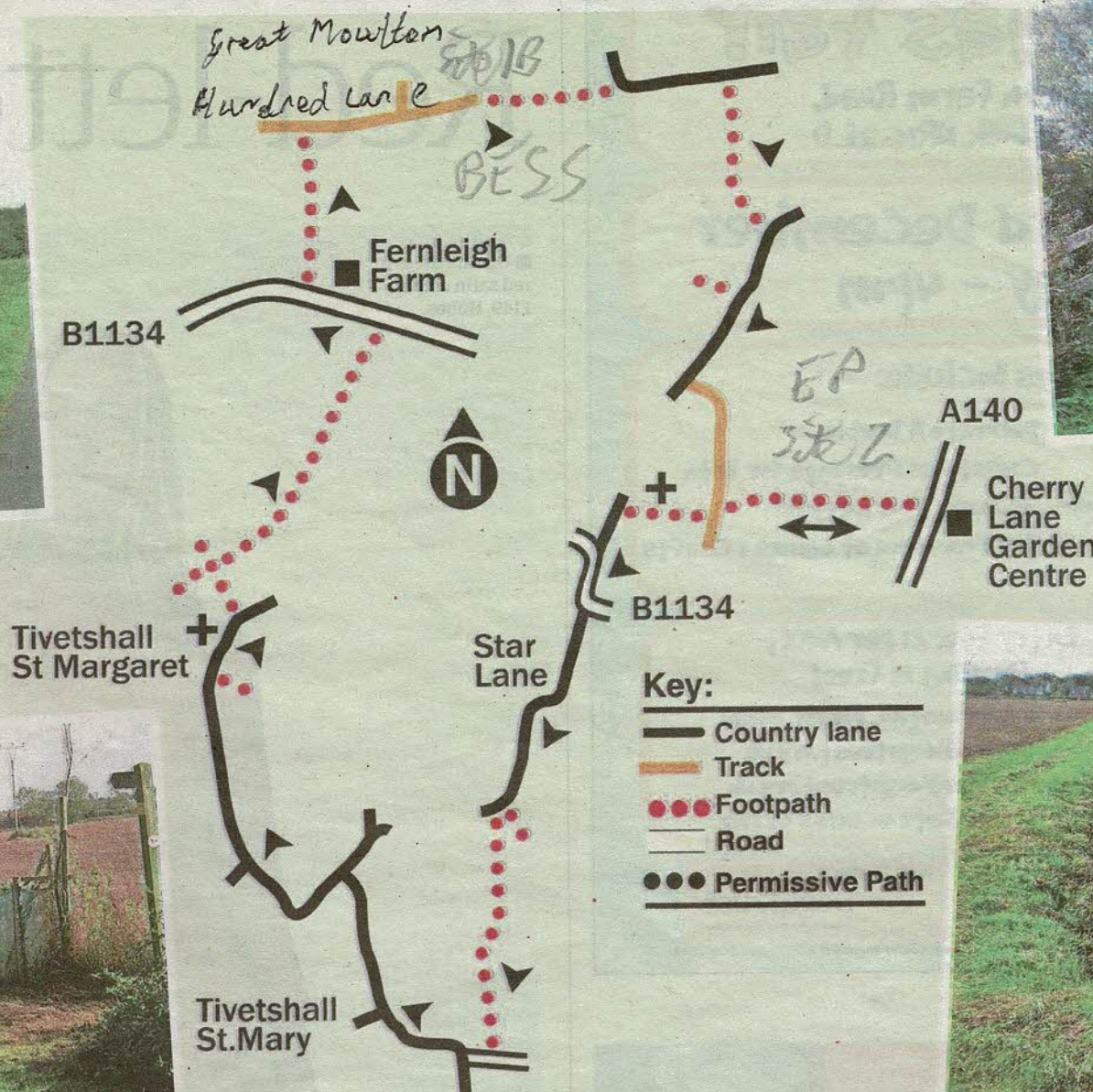


19 Nov 2016



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26 Nov 2016



The Tivetshalls

Start: Cherry Lane Garden Centre (on A140), Pulham Market (You must ask for permission if parking there).

Map: Explorer 230 G/R TM 186875

Distance: 6.25 miles

Public Transport: Buses serve Tivetshall St Mary along the A140.

Timetables: www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk or **phone:** 0871 200 2233

Stepping off the A140

Refreshments: Plantation Café, Cherry Lane Garden Centre.

Start from the wide pull-in outside the garden centre entrance. Cross the main road (A140) and go through the wide gap in the tall hedgerow opposite. Go down the left edge of a large field with a ditch and hedgerow beside the wide grass path. Continue ahead into a second field still with the ditch on the left. On reaching a T-junction of paths, turn left. Then, after just a few metres, turn right by a waymarked post. Now, with ditch and hedge on the right, keep ahead to a lane (Lodge Road). Turn left to the junction with Station Road (B1134) on a bend. Continue ahead along Station Road a short way. Then, when the road turns left, continue ahead into quiet Star Lane. This goes gradually downhill for some 400 metres to a sharp right bend

where the lane is crossed by a drainage course at a fording point. (The verge is raised here and a timber footbridge is provided for use in adverse conditions).

Continue along Star Lane for another 500 metres. Where the lane curves right and a farm track joins on the left, look in the hedgerow between the two for a low stile with waymark arrows. Cross into a field and go forward along its left edge. At the field corner swing right for a few metres, then turn left at a gap in the low field border into the adjoining field. There is a fingerpost showing the line to take across the field but, if the path has not been reinstated, make for a point slightly to the left of a low building with a white gable. At the far side of the field enter a short path which winds through some trees, crosses a couple of plank bridges and emerges in a small meadow. Go straight over and

through a gap in the hedge into Rectory Road. Turn right and go along this road past a lane (Bond's Road) on the left into Tivetshall St Mary.

At a fork, ignore the left turn to Gissing and continue on along The Street into Tivetshall St Margaret. After 500 metres turn left into Mill Road. (Note the contrast between modern houses and an ancient thatched cottage here). Go past a converted Wesleyan Chapel (1860) on the right and follow the road as it turns right and becomes Stony Road. (There are views across the fields to the railway off to the left and, ahead, the grove of trees almost hides the tower of St Margaret's Church).

Continue ahead past the church and the front of the adjacent Hall Farm. Beyond the barns, farmyard and farmhouse, take a broad track that swings away from the road to the left. A damaged fingerpost is almost hidden in the hedge on the left, but the track is wide and clear soon reaching the fields at the back of the farm. There is an unmarked crossroads of footpaths at this point. Ignore the more obvious route along the substantial farm track ahead and, instead, take the path to the right (which may not have been reinstated). Go into the corner of the field and then take a line rightwards, diverging at slightly less than 45 degrees from the prominent ditch and heading for

the left edge of a wood on the other side. There the route crosses a wide timber bridge into a 600 metre long narrow belt of trees. Follow the gently rising path along the left edge of the trees until it emerges onto Station Road (B1134).

Turn left for a short distance past Fernleigh Farm on the right. Then immediately turn right into a footpath running along the right edge of a meadow and then going straight over an open field to reach a sunken bridleway lined by trees. Turn right and follow this narrow path for about half a mile until it reaches a road (Frith Way) on a bend. Continue ahead along this road. Then, after 250 metres, turn right at a fingerpost into a path between two large fields separated by a hedgerow on the right. At the far end of the field and hedge, turn left for a few paces and emerge into a lane (Lodge Road). Turn right along the lane. Then about 500 metres along this quiet lane look for a marker post pointing left along a rutted track. This bridleway (Prangle Lane) soon turns right and skirts the edge of a large field. (On the far side of the field, the buildings of the former workhouse are now just visible). At the corner of the field, turn left to re-join the path walked earlier. Follow the path back to the main road (A140). Cross the road back to the start.

Sue Walker

This walk from Malcolm Palmer explores the area sandwiched between the busy Norwich-to-Ipswich main road (A140) and the London-bound railway line running parallel some two miles to the west. The area comprises quiet stretches of level farmland and the small connected villages of Tivetshall St Margaret and Tivetshall St Mary. There are quiet lanes, large fields edged by deep drainage ditches and scant woodland. At the start of the walk, beside the A140 road and Cherry Lane Garden Centre, lies a complex of buildings dating from 1836 which began life as the Depwade Union Workhouse designed to accommodate 400 inmates. It closed in 1955 and is now residential. A visit to St Margaret's Church, with its curiously-designed chancel, is worthwhile. Look out for the tympanum painted with the royal arms of Elizabeth I and the medieval bench ends.

9

BROOKE AND KIRSTEAD

Start: In front of the White Lion public house, The Street, Brooke.

Map: Explorer OL40 G/R TM 289992.

Distance: 7.5 (or 4.75) miles.

Public Transport: Brooke is on a bus route between Norwich and Bungay.

Timetables: www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk or phone: 0871 200 2233.



STROLL FROM PUB CAN BE MADE SHORTER

This lovely walk, which includes a shorter option, starts from beside pretty Brooke Mere. It is along mostly good paths and tracks, and some quiet lanes. Brooke has a long history and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. There are several 17th century timber-framed houses on The Street and also a number of large 19th century houses in the area built by wealthy merchants. St Margaret's Church, Kirstead, was originally built in the 1100s but this pretty little church was almost entirely rebuilt by the Kerrison family in the 1800s and there are a number of memorial tablets of the family. The grand early 17th century red brick Kirstead Hall, nearby, is worth the short diversion to see it. (It is open occasionally for public visits via Historic Houses).

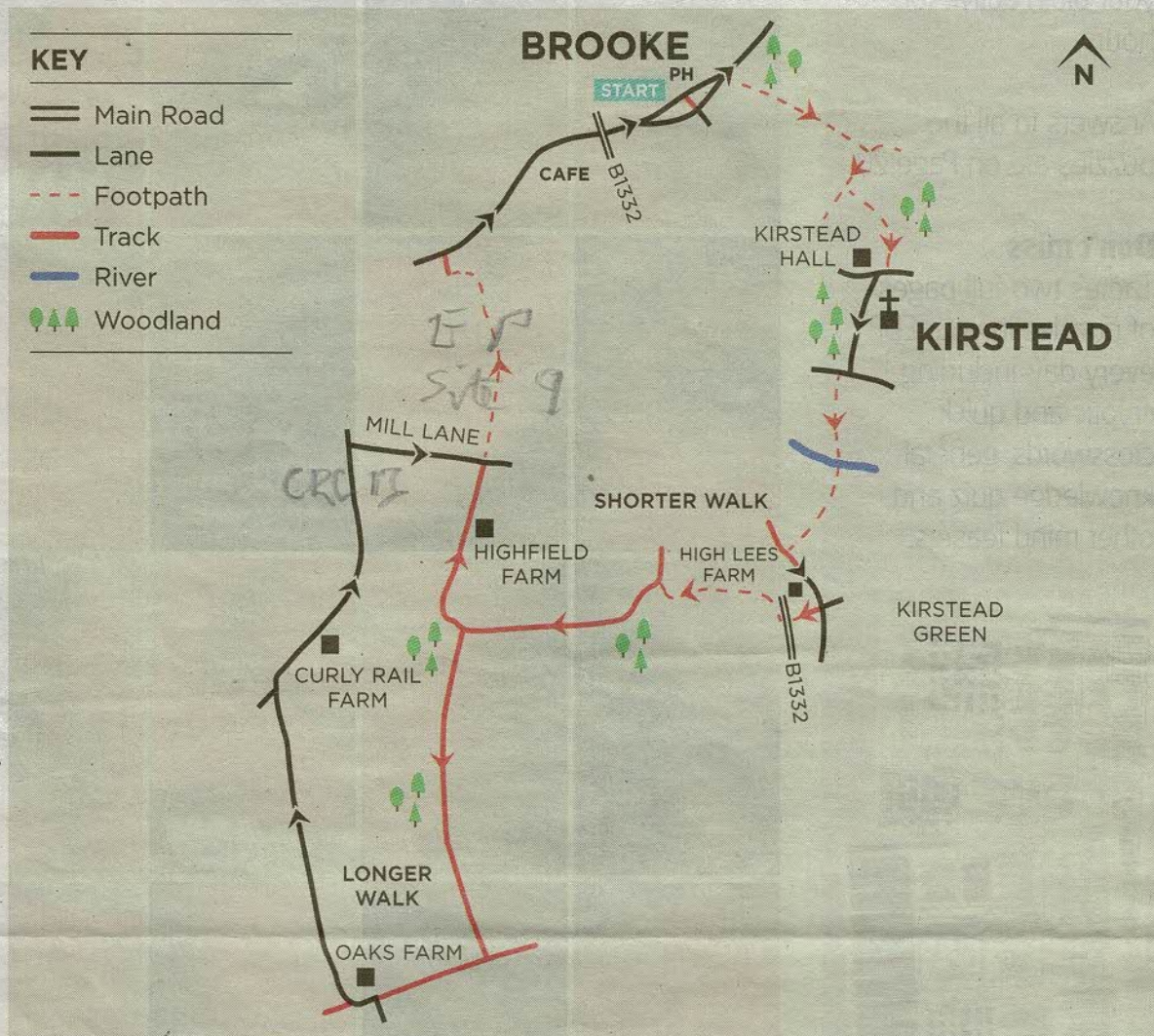
REFRESHMENT: The White Lion public house in Brooke opens from 12 noon every day. The Rural Kitchen Café, Park Farm, Brooke, opens from 8am until 4pm (except closed on Sundays and Wednesdays).

Facing the Mere, go left along the pavement. At the junction, turn right past noticeboards round the end of the mere. Then go left by the '30 mph' sign into a signed enclosed path between houses. Follow the path for about a third of a mile to a path junction and turn right through a gap into a field. Then turn left onto a wide, grassy, field-edge path. Go right round the corner. Soon there is a ramblers' gate on the left, but the path beyond this was blocked by farm machinery. If so, turn left a little further along through a wide gap into a track. Continue past the farm building on the right to a crossing track and cross leftwards to go through a gate at a sign. Continue along a path on the right edge of the field with a wire fence on the right. Go through another gate and continue ahead to reach a road. Turn right past Hall Farm to a junction. (To see impressive Kirstead Hall on the right, continue ahead at the junction for about 30 metres, then return to the junction and turn right). Otherwise turn left at the junction into Church Road and go past Kirstead Church.

Continue along the road to a T-junction. Turn right for a few paces then, opposite a bungalow on the right, turn left onto a signed footpath across a field. Cross a wooden bridge and continue on a faint path. Go over a bridge with a sign and continue through to the

KEY

- Main Road
- Lane
- - - Footpath
- Track
- River
- Woodland



next field keeping ahead at a marker. In the next field go slightly rightwards and continue to a fingerpost at the end of the field. On reaching a tarmac track turn left. Follow the track through a gate and continue ahead along a lane past houses in Kirstead Green.

Then, at a junction, turn right along the drive to High Lees Farm. On reaching the building, turn left and go through a gate (making sure to close it afterwards). Go between the buildings to a marker and narrow path. Follow the path left and right. Go down steps to the main road (B1332). Carefully cross the road rightwards to a footpath. Go up more steps and turn right to a stile. Cross the stile and turn right. Continue along the edge of the field. Go leftwards round the corner and follow the right edge of the field with a hedge on the right. Then, with an old tank ahead, go leftwards round the tank and the reeds. Continue along the right side of this field. Go past the bungalow over the fence and then right and left along a drive. On reaching a track at a corner go

leftwards. Follow the track for just over half a mile to a junction.

For the shorter walk: Follow the track to the right. Continue past Highfield Farm to reach a crossing lane. Cross into the signed footpath opposite and then continue as below for both walks.

For the longer walk: Where the track bends right, go left onto a track between the trees. (At the time of the walk, this track was muddy in places but it was possible to go through gaps on the left and along the grassy edge of the field). Continue for nearly a mile to a wide crossing track. Turn right and follow this track for about a third of a mile past Oaks Farm to reach a road (Shotesham Road) at a corner.

Keep ahead along the road which immediately bends right. Follow the road for just under a mile. Then, at a junction, keep ahead and almost immediately bend right. Continue for just over half a mile past Curly Tail Farm to the junction with Mill Lane. Turn right along the lane. After about a quarter of a mile, just past Mill

Farm and opposite the drive to Highfield Farm, turn left onto a signed footpath.

For both walks: Continue along the field-edge path with a ditch on the right. After about a third of a mile, at a crossing track, keep ahead over a plank bridge into a narrow, enclosed path. Follow the path leftwards round the garden to the large gate of Brooke Manor. Turn right along the drive to the road. Turn right along the road for about half a mile, past the Rural Kitchen Café on the right, to reach the crossroads by the village sign in Brooke. Carefully cross the main road and continue ahead along The Street. Fork left at the junction back to the White Lion public house.

Collated by Sue Walker for The Norfolk Area Ramblers' Association.

For more information about The Ramblers' Association call 07505 426750 or click www.ramblers.org.uk

walks

JOIN THE RAMBLERS

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The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity which has been encouraging more people to take up walking and to safeguard footpaths and the countryside for 85 years. Whether you're an old hand or a complete beginner, the organisation can help you get the best out of walking through its extensive network of local groups. For more information about the Ramblers call 0750 5426 750 or click on www.ramblers.org.uk. Check out our blog on <http://blog.norfolkra.org.uk/> and the 'norfolkramblers' page on Facebook.

25 JAN 2020

SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE & HEMPSTALL

Start: Saxlingham Nethergate Playing Field.

Map: Explorer 237 G/R TM 234968.

Distance: 5.5 (or 4) miles.

Public Transport: Saxlingham Nethergate is on a regular bus route.

Timetables: www.travelinesw.com or phone: 0871 200 2233.

Collated by Sue Walker for The Norfolk Area Ramblers' Association.



EXPLORE HISTORIC VILLAGES

This pleasant walk, which Ian Mitchell led recently for the Ramblers' Wensum Group, links the villages of Saxlingham Nethergate and Hempnall. The walk includes a short section of the Boudicca Way long distance path that runs between Norwich and Diss.

The walk starts at the Playing Field car park which is situated on the edge of the village on the east side of the road as it leaves Saxlingham Nethergate and heads towards Hempnall. There are many half-timbered houses in Saxlingham Nethergate and, in Hempnall, there are several interesting houses along The Street. The walk also visits the substantial remains of St Mary's Church, Saxlingham Thorpe, which was abandoned during the late 17th century and is now hidden amongst the trees.

Refreshments: There are no refreshment opportunities on the route of the walk.

Leave the playing field by the small gate next to the children's play area. Follow the path to the road and along to a junction with a narrow lane. Turn right along this lane for 400 metres. Then turn right into a bridleway and follow the path with a hedge on the right. At the end of the field continue along the wooded path ahead to reach a road. Turn left and follow the road along to a telephone box (now an information point for the Boudicca Way) at Saxlingham Green.

Turn right into an enclosed footpath. After 250 metres, and a side step to the left, the path continues on between a hedge and a wire fenced meadow.

For the short walk: Just before the wire fence ends, there is an opening to the right take this field-edge path to the road. Turn left along the road for about 60 metres then look for a gap on the right and a footbridge into the field. Follow the field edge with the hedge on the left. At the end cross a bridge into a second field and continue ahead until another path (the main route) joins from the left. (A warning – there are bird scarers in this field). Keep ahead now on the full walk route.

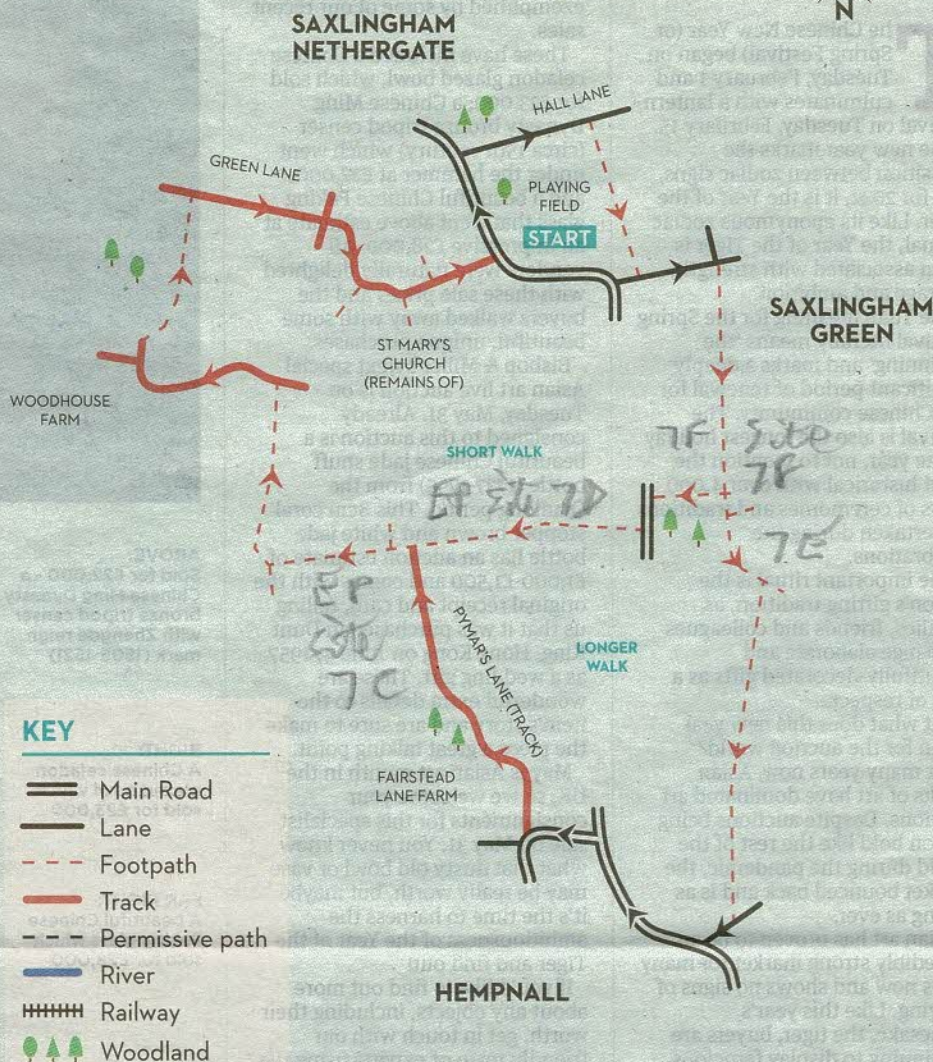
For the full walk: Ignore the turning on the right. Then turn

left at the corner of the fence and go right over a bridge. Continue along the edge of an arable field to the end of the hedge. Then cross 30 metres of ploughed land leftwards to the next hedge, and cross another bridge on the right. Follow the edge of this field to a third bridge which swops from having the hedge on right to having the hedge on left. At the end of the field, the path reaches an open field to cross. The path is well-trodden over a cereal crop, going slightly downhill and close to an electricity pole, to reach a hedge gap. The path then goes more steeply downhill with a hedge on the right and then rises to reach a lane. Turn right to the road junction by the school in Hempnall.

Turn right and follow the road to a fork at the War Memorial. Take the left fork to the next road junction. Here turn right into Pymars Lane. After two bungalows and a set of steel gates, cross a concrete yard leftwards with a long shed on the left. Just before the concrete ends take the muddy grass track on the left by the electricity pole. The track goes downhill and then bends right and then left. (The track along here can be wet but it starts to rise and becomes drier). The track continues with trees on both sides to reach an open field. Turn left (with the short walk joining from the right) to the field corner.

For both walks: Cross the bridge and continue along the edge of the grass field to a hedge. Go about 30 metres to the right to find a gap and a short bridge (taking care as one of the timbers was sunken). Turn left and follow the rails round the paddock of Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Ignore a signed path on the left but, at the end of the paddock, turn right between the rails and a hedge. Continue on passing through two kissing gates and then a third gate to reach a stone track. Turn left uphill through several bends until the track turns right as a concrete surface leading past a large shed. Beyond the shed a roadway goes to the left but, on the corner, there is a kissing gate for the footpath ahead with rails on the right and a hedge on the left.

The path bends to the right with a second kissing gate and, at the



end of the rails, turns left into a grass field. Follow the left edge to a bridge into a wood. Then follow a faint path through the trees with one waymark to another bridge into another meadow. Cross this meadow, then cross a third bridge into another track (Green Lane). Turn right and follow the lane which goes downhill to reach a stream (called Wash Lane) that flows towards the village. Cross the stream to a track: (there are a couple of stones to help). Follow the track uphill. At the top, where it levels

out, St Mary's Church remains can be seen ahead in the trees.

Turn left at the trees and follow the track which eventually reaches a road. Turn left for 30 metres. Then turn right through a gate next to an information board about Saxlingham Meadow (a community meadow). Turn left and follow the path past the scout hut back into the playing field.

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