

## Suggested Accompanied Inspection Route for Planning Inspectorate Examining Body

### Aldeburgh Golf Course Walk

#### **Leiston Road (B1122) to Golf Club House - approx 1.5km**

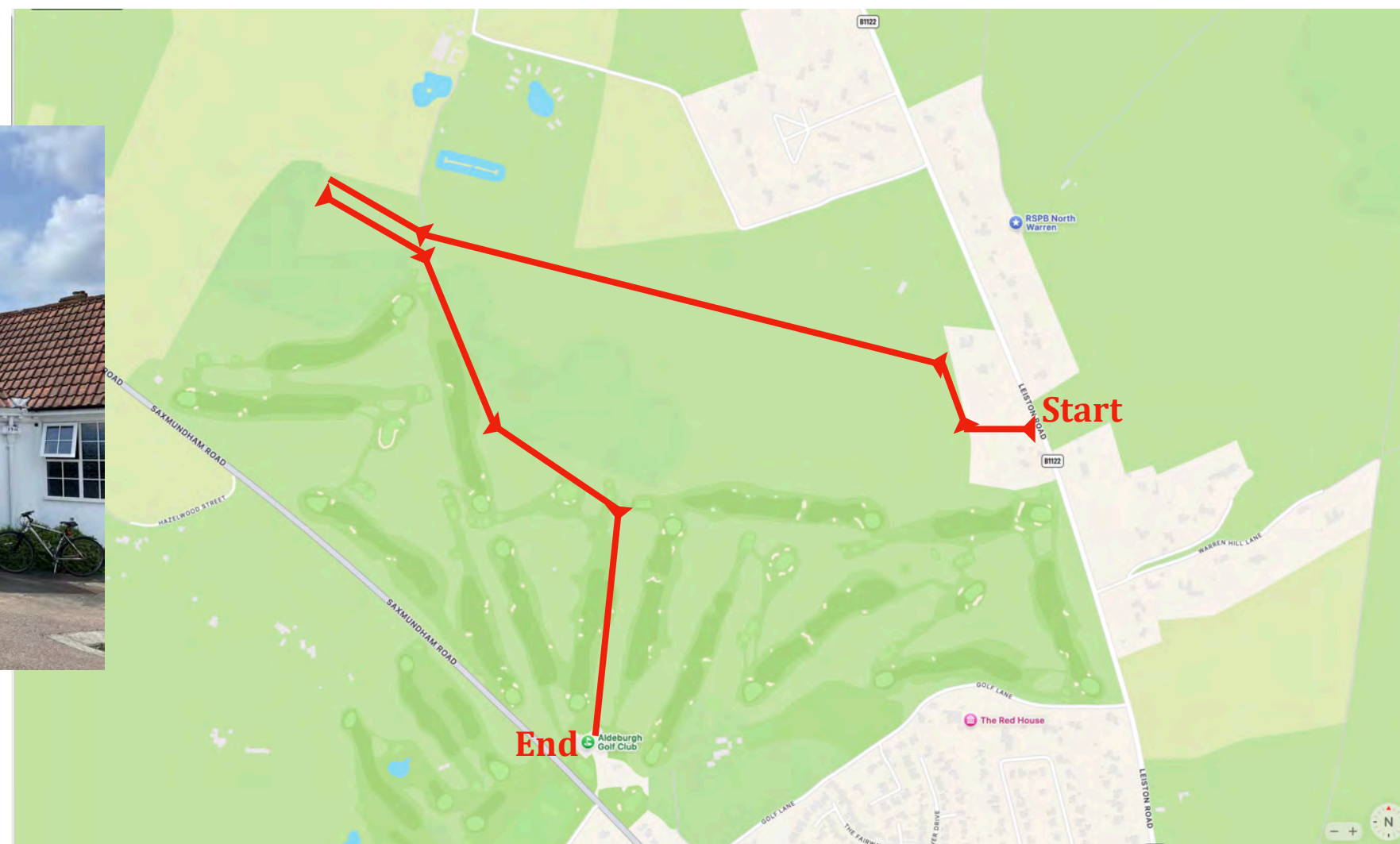
Founded in 1884, Aldeburgh Golf Club is England's second oldest maritime heathland course. The Clubhouse was built in 1910 and the challenging course is set in stunning scenery with glimpses of the sea through the trees and across to the River Alde. Public footpaths cross the course giving walkers and birdwatchers a magnificent opportunity to take in the wildlife and enjoy the peace and tranquility that this place offers.

The Golf Club was named Environmental Golf Club of the year in 2019 which recognised the Club's efforts to balance the course requirements with environmental considerations.

National Grid's proposed cable route runs along the northern boundary of the course and in particular it should be noted that, whilst the site is not subject to any statutory ecological designations, it crosses important wildlife habitats and valuable wildflower meadows. The meadows are identified as Lowland Dry Acid Grassland and bounded by Hedgerows which we understand are considered to qualify as 'Priority Habitats' under statutory country-level biodiversity strategies. Habitats within and around the meadow are likely to support a range of prey species and bird nesting sites.

For the golfers it is a place to test their skills in the quiet of the Suffolk countryside and for the wildlife it is a place of rare mixed habitats where they have made their homes, hitherto unaffected by industrial noise and disturbance.

We invite you to take your time to appreciate what makes this place so special and why so many people are concerned about the potential impact of the multiple energy projects proposed along the Heritage Coast.



Produced on behalf of Aldeburgh Golf Club  
Contact David Wybar, Secretary 01728 452890



It is suggested that the walk commences from the gates on the west side of Leiston Road. Opposite lies the field across which the cable route is proposed to run. There is no parking here. OS Landranger Map Ref 45605835



Follow the open grass track east before turning north and then head east along the hedge line. The proposed cable route follows the hedge line across an increasingly rare wildflower meadow and this area of land is of vital importance to enhance this location's biodiversity, particularly in view of how much meadowland has been lost over the past century throughout England.

View west from walk entry point



View east towards point where cable route would enter the meadow.



View west showing area affected by cable route



View east showing area affected by cable route



The meadow has a significant line of Lilac bushes along its northern edge. The area is rich in wildlife and is alive with butterflies and other insects. It contains a selection of grasses (including Sheep's Fescue & Sorrel) and wildflowers include Common Bird's Foot Trefoil, Ragwort, Viper's Bugloss, Dandelions, Yarrow, Shepherd's Purse, Thistle and Lady's Bedstraw.



Pass through the gate, then cross the path and walk to the north west corner of the meadow (used for sheep grazing) where the proposed cable route continues before turning right, away from the golf course land.





Return to the sandy path, then turn right and follow the track to the Club House with a detour through the beech wood.



View to River Alde



Beech wood



On the route you will note the views to the river, the diverse range of trees including Scots Pine, Oak and Beech as well as the low level bracken and gorse cover which is a key feature of the vegetation on this acid soil. A path to the left leads through a small beech wood.

The bird life here is extensive. The open meadow provides excellent hunting ground for Kestrels, Sparrowhawks, Buzzards and Owls whilst the hedgerows and gorse provide safe nesting sites for a range of song birds including Nightingale, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Yellow Hammer and Linnet. Turtle Doves are regular visitors to the area around North Warren and understandably there is significant concern that the excavation works proposed by NGET will cause material disturbance to the wildlife. Badgers, Foxes and Deer are regularly seen and Adders, Grass Snakes and Lizards have been noted within the golf course area.



Once again, we urge you to take your time to listen to the silence and take in the serenity of this place. At times one can only hear the wind whistling through the pine trees (maybe interrupted by the call of a frustrated golfer!). Such areas for recreation, wildlife and mindfulness are under existential threat throughout England and should be treasured, not put at risk particularly if there are other less damaging options available to maintain our energy security.