

WALK 2 [3.97 miles/6.4 kilometres]

There are notes to accompany this walk you do not need them in order to complete the walk. They are interesting pieces of information about things along the way.

From the hotel walk down the drive to the main entrance. Cross the road to the footpath on the opposite side of the road and turn left. [1] Proceed to the junction with Low Road (about 100yards/91metres) and carefully cross the road onto the footpath in Low Road.

Proceed along this footpath until the end of Low Road where you will see a row of cottages on the right. Walk along the front of the cottages until you reach the road. Cross the road to the public footpath opposite and proceed along it until you come to a wood. [2]



The cottages at the end of Low Road

Continue into the wood past a large house with fenced in grounds on your left until you reach a sign for 'Congham Heath Wood'. There is a notice board here showing other walks within the wood. However continue along the track, with Scots Pine with its reddish bark on your left and the taller more robust Corsican pine on your right, until you reach another track crossing at right angles to the one you are on. (0.93 miles/1.73 kilometres)
Turn left onto this track.



The track through the woods

Parts of this track can be quite muddy at times throughout the year. In summer as you walk along this track you may see lots of Butterflies and Dragonflies. The track takes you out of the wood, with hedges on both sides, and you will pass a small pumping station on your left. Continue along the track crossing another significant track. Do not turn here as this is a private road. Continue straight on until you reach the point where two power lines cross. Turn left and follow this track with the hedge on your left and open fields on your right until you reach a road. (0.7 miles/1.2 kilometres)



This is the track you will cross heading for the track at the end of the next field

Once you reach the road cross it, turn left and walk along a low bank. After a short distance you will pass Manor Barn and Broadgate Barn on your right and Congham Farms Ltd., (Pond Farm) on your left. (280 yards/256metres)

Take care as there are no footpaths and the roads are quite narrow.

Just after passing Congham Farms Ltd., turn right onto St Andrews Lane and follow this road through Congham [3] until you see a derelict red telephone box, a post box and a noticeboard on your left.

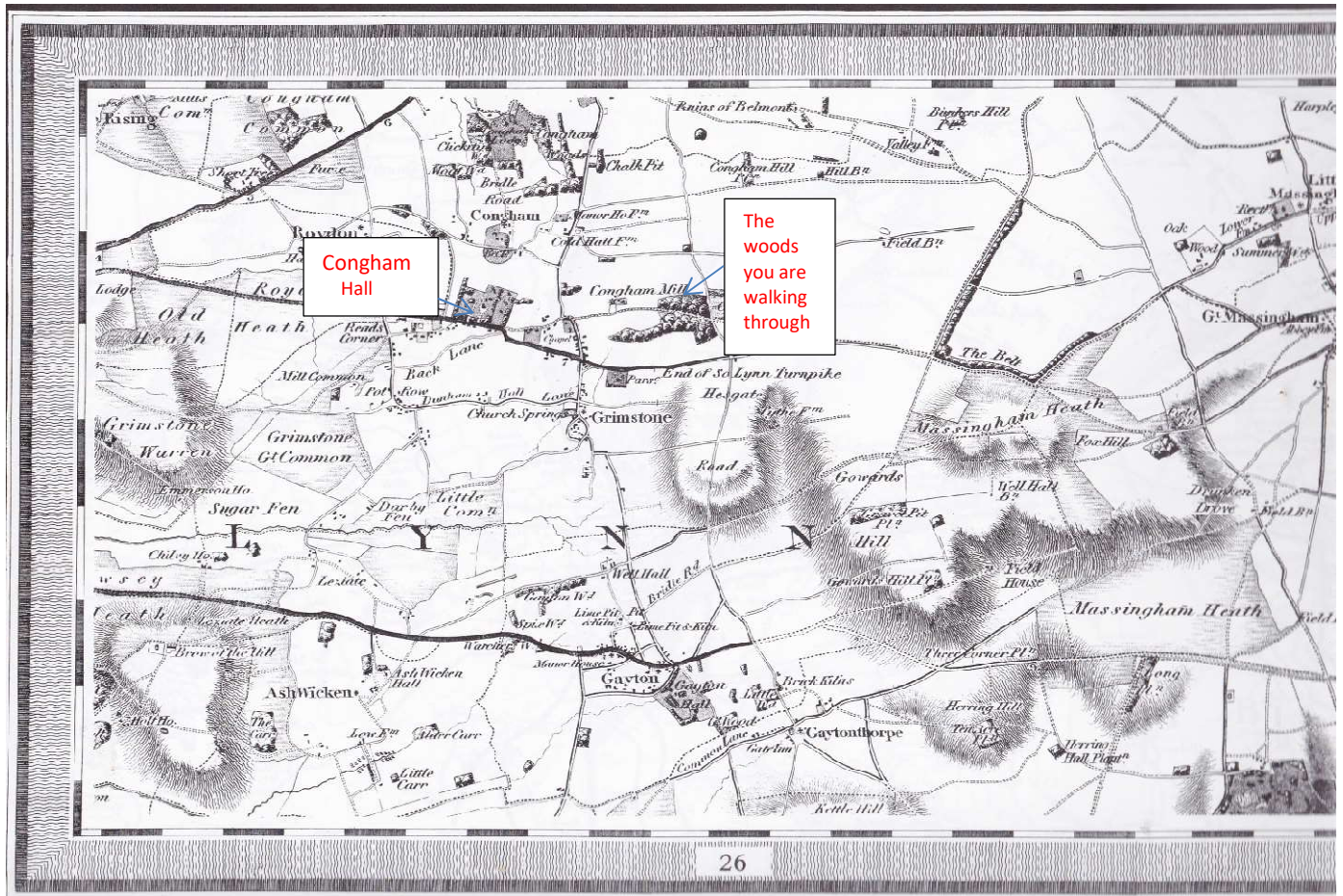


The telephone box, post box and noticeboard

Turn left onto a public footpath follow this along the edge of fields [4] until you come to a gap in the hedge (about 700 yards/640 metres). Go through the hedge and you are in Congham Hall Hotel overspill car park. Cross this and you are back at the hotel.

NOTES FOR WALK 2

[1] When you crossed the road you went from Congham into Grimston as at this point the road is the boundary between the two parishes.



Bryant's 1826 map of Norfolk

[2] Although there has obviously been replanting of trees within these woods there are woods marked in approximately the same shape on Bryant's 1826 map of Norfolk.

[3] Congham was the birth place of the noted 17th century antiquary and historian Sir Henry Spelman (1563-1641). He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and was member of parliament for nearby Castle Rising in 1593 and 1597-98. Then in 1625 he was member for Worcester. Although he moved to London in about 1612 he always referred to himself as, "of Congham". He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

[4] The land that you are walking across was once part of the Congham Hall estate. Corn grown on it would be taken back to the threshing barn, which is now part of the Congham Hall Hotel complex. The side of the barn which faces the herb garden had large doors to allow the loaded wagons in to be unloaded. The other side which faces the courtyard had a small doorway as it only had to allow empty wagon's to pass through.



The large doors on the back of the barn