

WALK 4 (5.3 miles/8.5 kilometres, about 2 hours)

This is a nice walk that takes you through woodland, along hedgerows, across fields and heathland.

Advice: Please respect the countryside and shut any gates that you pass through as although you may not see them there may be animals which could escape if gates are left open. If you are taking dogs with you please keep them under control at all times. Please make sure you have 'poo bags' with you. Should you have forgotten them Reception can help. Please wear suitable walking boots or shoes and clothes appropriate for the weather conditions, even in summer there may be muddy areas to walk through. If it is hot please take some water with you as there is nowhere to obtain any on the walk.

Directions

From Congham Hall entrance cross the road to the opposite side of the road and turn right. Walk along the footpath until it ends and then re-cross the road to the footpath on the Congham Hall side of the road. Keep going along the footpath past the 'Three Horseshoes' pub until you come to a village green. Keep heading straight until you reach Low Road. Walk down to the end of Low Road, you will reach a T junction with Station Road.



The footpath at the end of Low Road

You will see a 'Public Footpath' sign on the opposite side of the road slightly to your right.

Cross the road and follow this footpath until it divides. Take the right-hand path which will bring you out next to a large building on your right. Go through the gate at the end of the building and go slightly diagonally towards another gate (Approximately 330yards/302metres). Go through this gate and turn left. (There may be ponies or cattle grazing here so please shut the gates properly).

Bear right keeping 'Oak Cottage' on your left and follow the footpath, which is signposted, until you come to Hall Lane.



Turn left and walk along Hall Lane past 'Hall Farm' on your left until you come to a fork in the road opposite 'Keepers Cottage'. You will see a sign for 'Hall Farm Dental Surgery' on the grass verge in front of you. Turn left and walk down the path, shortly you will see a footpath sign on your right, opposite an old farm building.

Turn right onto the track that the footpath sign is indicating and continue along this track until you come to a junction. Take the left-hand track, you will now have woodland to your left and farm land on your right. The track starts to go up what, in Norfolk is classed as a hill but other parts of the country would be a mere incline.

In August and September when you reach the top of this 'hill' you have a good view to your left of the Heather in bloom on the heathland. Continue along the track which turns right through the hedge from one field to another. You now have a small wood on your right and the hedge on your left. After a short distance the track turns right but you need to go straight ahead on the grass footpath along the edge of a field.



The heather in bloom on the heathland

Continue along this path towards the thin belt of pine trees that you can see ahead of you. Walk through to the other side of the trees and turn left. Walk down the edge of the trees until you reach the road. Turn right at the road and walk along the grassy bank along the side of the road for about 70 yards until you see a public footpath sign on the opposite side of the road. (Take care along this road as the traffic is usually travelling at some speed along it).

Carefully cross the road and go through the gate that the footpath sign is indicating. Turn left and you will be heading towards a small car park. Walk past the information sign and towards the right hand side of the car park, and bear right. Walk towards the woods, taking the path that runs alongside the fencing on your left.

Follow this track through the woodland and through a gate next to a cattle grid. Carry on until you come to a point on the track where another track goes off to the left across the heathland, indicated by an arrow on a post. Turn left onto this track and follow it across the heathland. This is Roydon Common nature reserve.



The track going off to the left across the heathland

Go all the way across the common until you reach a gate with a track on the other side. Go through the gate and turn left. The area on your right is Grimston Warren. Follow the track until you reach a white house named 'Railway Gatehouse' (Approximately 750yards/ 685metres). Just past this house you will see a gate on your left. Go through this gate, you will be on a wide grassy straight path, which is the old railway line. Walk along the old railway line for about 500 yards/458metres and you will see a gate slightly to your right. Go through this gate onto a track. Follow this track for about one mile until you come to Chapel Road. Carefully cross the road into Chequers Road.



The Railway Gatehouse

Walk along Chequers Road until you come to a junction with Lynn Road. Cross Lynn Road and turn right along the footpath, you have now completed a circle. Continue along the footpath, until it ends. Cross the road to the footpath on the opposite side and turn left. Continue along this path until you are opposite the entrance to Congham Hall Hotel. Cross the road and walk down the drive back to the hotel.