

Sandringham Club Site

Wolferton Woods walk

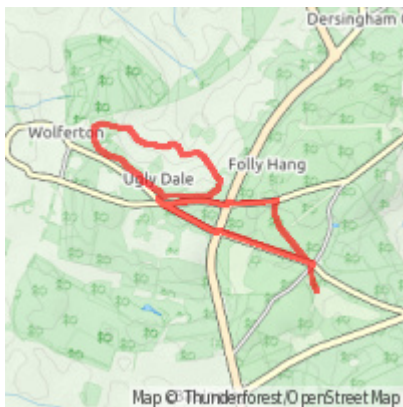
Camping and Caravanning



Route Summary

A gentle walk of approximately 8.7km/5.5 miles through woodland to an ancient bog that is now heathland with the opportunity to stand on a sea cliff that's now nearly 3km / 2 miles inland. The route also passes through woodlands created by our current and previous monarchs.

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Moderate

Date Published: 21st September 2018

Difficulty: Easy

Length: 6.570 km / 4.11 mi

Last Modified: 21st September 2018

Description

From the moment you leave the Camping and Caravanning Club Site you will be at the hospitality of the Monarch as you enjoy the extensive grounds that surround Sandringham House. The estate is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has a Site of Special Scientific Interest, namely Dersingham Bog.

Since the purchase of the house in 1862 by the then Prince of Wales (later to become King Edward VII), through to the present day, the estate has been enlarged and many trees planted. The latter for varied reasons such as increasing privacy, economic as well as for conservation of wildlife. Since 1952 over two million trees have been planted, some of which you'll pass on this walk.

After crossing the North Norfolk coastal road, you are entering an area known as The Wolferton Triangle, one of the best places in the county to see Golden Pheasants, but please do not enter the woods as this part of the Royal Estate is private.

Dersingham Bog is a fascinating place and a remnant of the old coastline around the eastern fringes of the wash from King's Lynn through to Heacham. It is one of the last and largest remaining lowland heathland habitats in Britain and is important for the plants and wildlife that live in the Bog. The low-lying area is dominated by sphagnum moss, so could

be extremely wet, while the upper areas consist of sandy soils that make walking the paths around the reserve relatively easy. However, there are a few steep slopes that need to be negotiated.

The longevity and uniqueness of this habitat meant this area has become home to some rare insects and birds. Dragonflies can be found across the reserve, including the Black Darter which will be flying around from June through to October in the heathland areas. The Light Knot Grass moth and its caterpillars may well be found in the wetter parts, the caterpillars enjoy Bog Myrtle and Bilberry, while adults can be spotted sunning themselves on fence posts or stones.

The birdlife across the various habitats is also abundant so keep your eyes and ears open for some of the following that are known to live in or frequent the area – Redpoll, Crossbill, Long Eared Owl, Sparrowhawk, Nightjar, Woodlark, Grasshopper Warbler, Tree Pipit and Stonechat.

A short detour from the waymarked walk around Dersingham Bog will take you to the medieval hamlet of Wolferton. Although now one of the smallest settlements, its is also amongst the oldest. Earthworks, field boundaries and ditches from days gone by can still be identified from aerial photographs. Above ground two homesteads, or tofts, can still be seen, but many buildings were built or modernised after Sandringham House was purchased by the Prince of Wales/King Edward VII.

The railway station at Wolferton is certainly worthy of a visit, with the platform being open each afternoon, but the buildings are now a private residence. The King's Lynn to Hunstanton line opened in 1862, allowing the Royal Train access to Wolferton, the nearest station to Sandringham. The buildings were designed in a 'tudoresque' style to complement existing buildings within the estate, causing Sir John Betjeman to comment "It is different to all other stations in England". The line and station closed in 1969, but the buildings have been listed due to their unique history and occupants.

Waypoints

1 Start at Camping and Caravanning Club site Reception

(52.81690; 0.49482)



Leave the Camping and Caravanning Club Site via the main entrance and enjoy the Rhododendron lined roads

through the woods. A majority of the tree planting on the estate has been coniferous. As these get felled they are gradually being replaced with indigenous deciduous species. This change will help to bring a wider variety of wildlife to the area. Although the lanes are small and usually reasonably quite they can get busy, fortunately there are reasonably wide and well-kept verges on which you can walk. Please take great care as you cross the A 149 North Norfolk coast road.

2 Scissors Car Park

(52.82404; 0.47441)



On reaching the small hardstanding / car park just after the crossroad, turn into Sandringham Warren and follow the walks there is a short flight of steps marked Heathland Ramble and Wolferton Car Park just inside the boundary fence. There are a number of way-marked routes around the Nature Reserve; you need to follow those marked – Heathland Ramble, Cliff Top Stroll and Le Hair's Hike.

3 Wolferton Car Park

(52.82801; 0.46677)



On reaching Wolferton car park and just before the Cliff Top Stroll, it is well worth a short detour to look at the beautiful setting of Wolferton Station and Signal Box. Return to the walk and continue along the old sea cliff top to enjoy spectacular views of Dersingham Bog prior to joining the sandy track that takes you around the eastern edge.

4 Le Hair's Hike

(52.82767; 0.47949)



Part way along this track follow the sign that indicates the Le Hair's Hike to the right, up a slope. It is possible to continue further along the lower track, but there are no exit points at the far end.

5 Scissors Car Park - again

(52.82425; 0.47490)

On return to Scissors car park turn left at the road junction, rather than along the road you walked previously. At the junction of the A149 road go straight across – a brown traffic sign for Sandringham 1¼ miles shows you the way.

6 Country Park Scenic Drive

(52.82394; 0.48958)



On reaching the point where two tracks join the road from opposite directions, the one to the left is signed Country Park Scenic Drive, but you will need to take the smaller one to your right. This track will take you through woodland back towards the Camping and Caravanning Club Site.

