

# OUT & ABOUT BROADLAND

Walk no:



6

## Marsham

A six-mile scenic walk



This six mile walk is around the lanes and fields of the pretty village of Marsham. The walk starts from the Old Norwich Road just beside the A140. Cars may be parked here, although there are no dedicated areas so please park so that your car is not a nuisance to other road users. Marsham is just off the A140, approximately ten miles north of Norwich. You may encounter livestock on this walk and some paths may be muddy due to animals and farm traffic.

### Directions

From the parking area head in a northerly direction along the Old Norwich Road towards Aylsham. As the road ends, continue along the path. Immediately after the Plough Inn, turn left along Fengate passing houses to the left and fields to the right. Where Fengate bends to the right, turn left keeping Cranes bungalow on your right. A little further on, take the public footpath to the right along a wide track. This path gives extensive views of the countryside with Aylsham Church in the distance.

The path changes from a wide track to a field edge path, and continues straight ahead. The path then veers to the right over the brow of the hill and into the valley. Where the path bends right, turn left through the field. At the bottom of the hill, turn right and cross the wooden bridge over the Mermaid following the path straight ahead through a meadow. Cross a concrete bridge over a stream, climb a stile and walk directly across the field ahead. The path passes through a gap in the bank and emerges on to Spa Lane.

Here turn left and head towards the chicken sheds. As the road bends to the right take the left fork keeping the sheds on your right. Continue along this track for some distance as it bends to the right and passes a farm on your left. Beware of farm traffic. Follow the track to the road and turn left. Beware of traffic, as this is a busy road.

Follow the road downhill, crossing a stream, and just over the brow of the hill, turn left along a wide track, opposite Lorne Cottage. After a short distance, turn right where a public bridleway sign directs and head towards a house. Where the path meets a track, continue straight ahead and at a roadway veer right and immediately left, with a complex of buildings on your right. Eventually the path veers to the left and heads downhill. A thatched boathouse and lake can be seen to the right. Rhododendrons line this path during May and early June.

Cross a wide track and follow the path into woodland. Stay on this main path ignoring all minor paths and at a wide track, turn right. This track veers to the left and at a junction of tracks take a right fork along another wide track. There is a rifle range to the right and you may hear the sound of gun shots. At the next path junction, opposite the entrance to a small car park, turn left along smaller path through heathland.

Follow this track. Turn left on to a concrete path which then turns to a track and continue ignoring turns off. At the end of the track turn left passing a small cottage on the left. At a track junction continue straight ahead eventually emerging from the woodland and continuing through fields. The track passes a farm to the right, then emerges on to a road. Follow straight ahead along this road to Marsham village. On approaching the main part of the village, turn right along Croft Lane, along a wide grass track just before the Methodist Church. The track turns left and heads towards Marsham Church, which can be seen in the distance. At the end of the grass track veer right along further track, then turn right in front of The Rectory with the village cemetery on your right. Turn left through a gateway into the churchyard of All Saints Church, Marsham. The parish church dates from the 13th century and has a fine 15th century single hammerbeam roof and the remains of a 15th century screen showing sixteen painted saints. Pass through the churchyard and gate and go straight ahead, passing Church Cottage on the left. As you exit Church Lane, turn left and continue straight ahead along Old Norwich Road back to the start of the walk.

