

## Kessingland Club Site Village and surrounds walk



### Route Summary

A short walk of about five miles, through the village, along cliffs and beach, then back next to an ancient estuary used by Romans and Anglo-Saxons. Binoculars would be an advantage. This walk has been created by Skye Strolls Ltd.

### Route Overview



Category: Walking  
 Rating: Unrated  
 Surface: Smooth  
 Date Published: 24th April 2018  
 Difficulty: Easy  
 Length: 8.350 km / 5.22 mi  
 Last Modified: 27th April 2018

### Description

Departing through Kessingland Camping and Caravanning Club Site surrounded by the sights and sounds of exotic African wildlife, you will pass through the comparatively new village of Kessingland. Although archaeological finds show that man has lived in the area since the stone age, the 'old' village and hamlet of Kessingland beach were only joined together during the developments of the 1960s.

Kessingland is the most easterly village in the UK, although it now does not reflect it's history at the time of the Norman Conquest when it was one of the richest coastal towns in Suffolk. The port that had seen Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman visitors had to close after the estuary of The Hundred River was blocked by shingle.

On arrival at the cliff tops, enjoy the views across towards Lowestoft and the huge wind turbine, Goliath, that was the tallest in the country at time of building, standing at the harbour mouth. The ground you are standing on is relatively modern as it was only laid down less than 700,000 years ago as fresh water deposits. It is this factor that makes the area so susceptible to coastal erosion – the coast just south of Kessingland is being eroded faster than anywhere else in the UK.

Enjoy the beach and cliff environment, possibly looking for fossils of sabre tooth cat, rhinoceros, mammoth or hippopotamus all of which have been found in this level of sedimentation. However, do not play too close to the cliffs

as they are very unstable. Some of the marram grasses found growing along the base of the cliffs were originally planted by the writer H. Rider Haggard an early experiment in conservation.

After leaving the beach the walk takes you along the edge of the marshes that now comprise the old Hundred River estuary. Keep your eyes open for marsh harriers soaring over the area. Lapwings and golden plover may also be spotted. If the wind is in the right quarter you could be enjoying this view while listening to the big cats roaring back at Africa Alive – quite a contrast!

## Waypoints

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### 1 Start at Reception

(52.41545; 1.70178)



Leave Kessingland Camping and Caravanning Club Site via the main drive passing reception and the amenities block. Continue along the drive to Whites Lane, where you turn right towards the village.

### 2 St Edmund's Church Hall

(52.41626; 1.71469)



On reaching St Edmund's Church Hall on your left, take the footpath to the right of the hall and go through the housing

estate. When you get to Field Lane, turn right for a short distance until finding Clare Road. Turn left and leave the village along the footpath into the fields. Follow the paths to the track near the cliff top, which you follow for a short distance back towards the village.

### 3 Path and steps to beach

(52.41902; 1.72650)



Take the obvious path to the left that leads to a flight of steps down to the dunes and marram grass. The view along the coast from these steps is excellent, with the large wind turbine at Lowestoft standing out. It is this area that the author Sir H. Rider Haggard experimented with the cultivation of marram grass, and the success is obvious. At the end of Beach Road turn right along the road until finding the Beach Car Park.

### 4 Path / Lane near Beach Car Park

(52.41479; 1.72331)



On the far side of the car park a footpath sign shows the way along a track, so follow this track around in a large arc. After passing the water treatment works you enter the area bordering the ancient estuary. Take a moment to distinguish where old shore lines may have been. Also linger a moment or two to watch the skies for marsh harriers, or owls quartering the marshy meadows. On reaching the road turn left and make your way back to Kessingland



Camping and Caravanning Club Site.

