

West Runton Sheringham Park walk

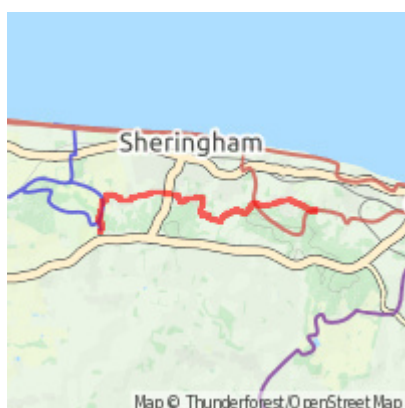
Camping and Caravanning



Route Summary

A linear walk from our Club Site to The National Trust Sheringham Park, approximately 7km/4.4 miles in one direction. The route takes in rolling hills with views across the sea, heaths and commons to parkland designed in 1812 and still breathtaking today.

Route Overview



Category: Walking
Rating: Unrated
Surface: Moderate
Date Published: 9th July 2018
Difficulty: Easy
Length: 7.000 km / 4.38 mi
Last Modified: 9th July 2018

Description

This route offers undulating countryside with superb seascapes as well as glimpses of beautiful natural habitats containing native species of flora and fauna. This landscape was sculpted by an ancient industry that no longer exists in the area but was vital to our ancestors. Sheringham Park itself is landscaped with stunning displays of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, mature woodlands and other exotic trees and shrubs that have been collected over 100 years.

The initial section of the walk takes you over ancient common land, grazed regularly until the end of the 19th Century. After becoming overgrown the land is now grazed again by horses and cattle, alongside the ever-present rabbits. This has allowed more open areas to develop in which wildflowers flourish along with ground-nesting and feeding birds.

The ridgeline from Beacon Hill to Stone Hill is marked with small circular pits that are the remains of Saxon iron workings. The ore would have been dug directly from the glacial deposits forming the hill ridge and then mixed with charcoal from nearby trees. If you're lucky it's still possible to find some slag, the remains of smelted iron ore.

Although the route only touches a small corner, it's well worth exploring Sheringham Common. This area is a mix of grassland, heath, marsh, fen and woodland, and due to the variety of habitats it creates diverse places for flora and

fauna. Over 400 different flowering plants have been recorded and 26 species of butterflies. Just like the other commons along this route, there is the possibility of seeing slow-worms, grass snakes, lizards and adders.

The small and quaint village of Upper Sheringham is a pleasure to walk through with its flint walls and red tiled roofs, it really has been missed by all that happened on the coast nearby. A visit to All Saint's Church is worthwhile to see the 15th Century bench ends, one of which is a mermaid. In the churchyard is a mausoleum of the Upcher family, previous owners of Sheringham Hall and Park. The church, as with many across East Anglia, is far bigger than you'd expect in a village of this size. Reflecting the past when the region was rich with the wool industry and political connections to the Crown.

Waypoints

1 Start at Camping and Caravanning Club Site Reception

(52.92968; 1.25506)



Leave the West Runton Camping and Caravanning Club Site via the Reception and main drive, soon to be heading downhill towards the village, enjoying glimpses of the sea as you descend. After crossing the road, a green lane will take you part the way along further woodland heathland, then rising to the summit of Stone Hill. Here a cairn and benches mark the high point, worthy of a few moments rest to enjoy the open views before you.

2 Summit cairn of Stone Hill

(52.92977; 1.22772)



After a steep descent from the lofty heights (this is Norfolk!), take care along the road as you pass the quarry. Take the track opposite marked Sheringwood, to eventually lead you to Sheringham Common, another area of natural beauty. Take care to follow the designated route as other footpaths have been closed. Again, worthy of a few moments to explore the delights of this nature reserve, either now or on the return trip.

3 Sheringham Common / Woodland Rise

(52.93217; 1.21489)



Leave the common via the exit onto Woodland Rise. The next section skirts around the southern end of Sheringham town, the path starting by the dog waste bin just before the sign for Sheringham. On reaching Upper Sheringham take a few moments to enjoy the atmosphere of this small tranquil spot and visit All Saint's Church to look for a mermaid.

After leaving the church take the road junction marked Weybourne and Welling, not Lodge Road. Then follow the no through road into Sheringham Park. The shop and Visitor Centre can be found by turning left along the blue waymarked route.

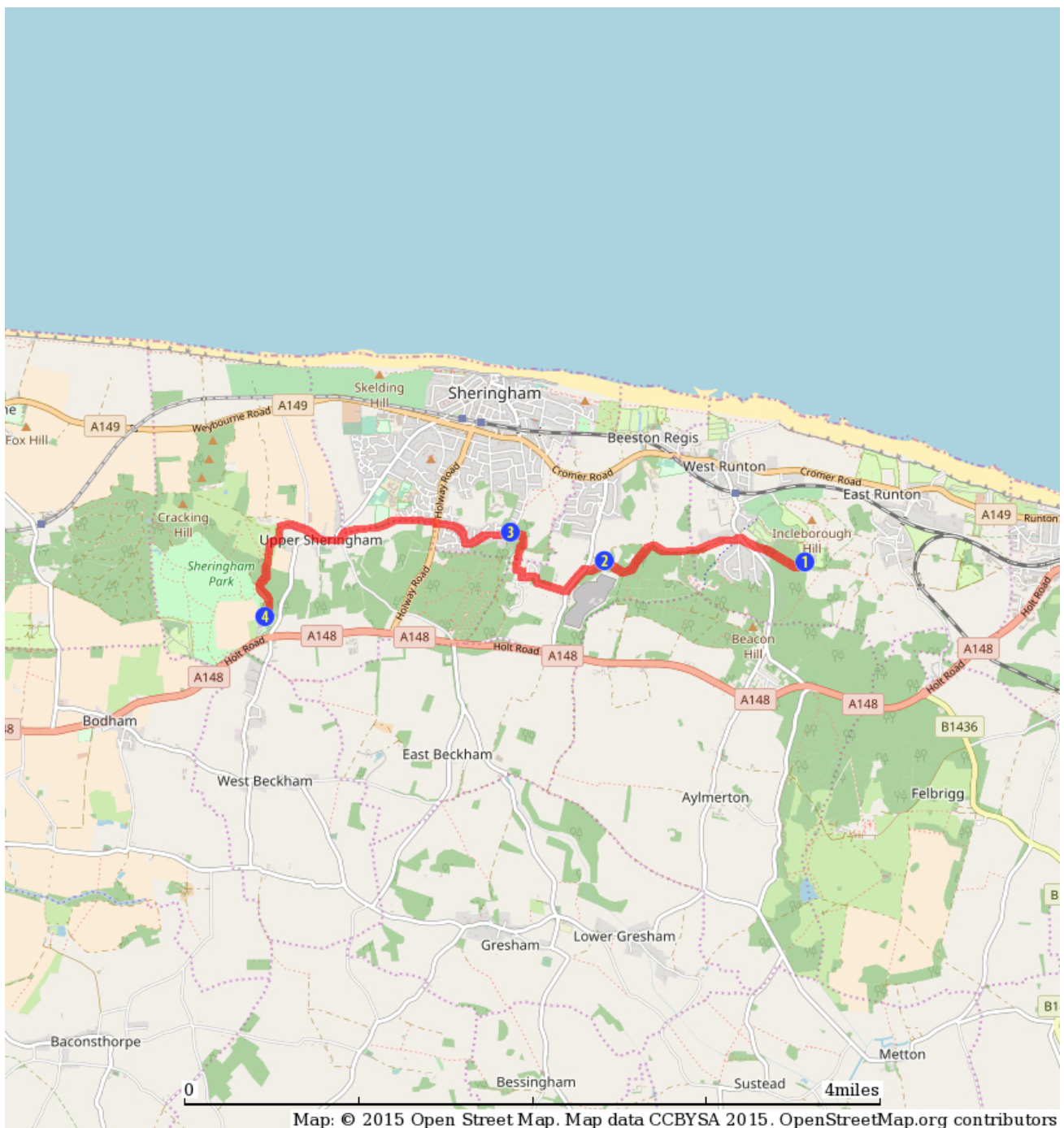
4 Sheringham Park

(52.92516; 1.18112)



The National Trust property of Sheringham Park provides splendid grounds and views for all to enjoy

To return to the Camping and Caravanning Club Site, simply retrace your steps, following the route in reverse.



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