

## Norwich Club Site Boudicca

### Way walk

Camping and Caravanning



### Route Summary

A 12.3km/7.7 mile walk through rolling countryside that will take you back in time along part of the Boudicca Way, past a farm being run to enhance the wildlife through to Venta Icenorum, the old Roman town in what is now Caistor St Edmund.

### Route Overview



Category: Walking  
 Rating: Unrated  
 Surface: Moderate  
 Date Published: 21st September 2018  
 Difficulty: Easy  
 Length: 12.490 km / 7.81 mi  
 Last Modified: 21st September 2018

### Description

The area to the south of the Camping and Caravanning Club Site is steeped in history and part of the reason for the location of the magnificent city of Norwich. Just across the River Yare is the remains of a Henge, unfortunately not visible from the ground, that dates to the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (4000BC to 800BC). This was part of an extensive burial system in the area, which extended nearly as far as the old Roman town that is the target for this walk.

The walk joins to Boudicca Way shortly after crossing the river, with a section along the road. The route is named after the Iceni Queen who led a rebellion against Roman rule in 60AD which almost overthrew their rule in Britain. At that time the Iceni were a powerful tribe that lived in the area covered by modern-day east Cambridgeshire, north Suffolk and Norfolk.

Finally you'll get to walk the tranquil paths of the area as you pass around a quarry that has been in use for a considerable number of years, initially for the extraction of chalk and latterly for sands and gravel. The chalk was created towards the end of the Cretaceous Period, approximately 75 million years ago and is a great source of molluscs and sea urchin fossils. The whole area has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is on private land that does not have public access.

The small village of Arminghall is another place steeped in history, although not much of it remains above the surface to view. Arminghall Manor House was a medieval moated house, but all that remains is the moat with the substantial farmstead having been changed many times over subsequent centuries. St Mary's Church is known to have been here since medieval times but was virtually rebuilt in 1876.

High Ash Farm is a haven for wildlife. Having half the farm set aside for wildlife crops has resulted in a wide variety of wildlife establishing healthy populations, including barn owls, skylarks, goldfinches, reed buntings, hares, badgers, deer, foxes, solitary bees, grass snakes, orchids and bluebells. There are permissive paths around the farm that can be taken to enjoy the full experience. Also within the farm is Tatterfly Wildflowers, which grows wildflowers for the consumer market using organic and traditional methods. Visit [www.highashfarm.com](http://www.highashfarm.com) for up-to-date maps of their permissive walks.

The Roman administrative town for the area, Venta Icenorum, is one of only three 'greenfield' Roman regional capitals that were not built over in either medieval or modern times, possibly due to the establishment and development of Norwich. Stone Street is a Roman road that runs from here to the once thriving port of Dunwich on the Suffolk coast.

The current Caistor Old Hall was built in 1612 on the site of a medieval manor, with the house extended in the 1800 and 1900s. The outbuildings have gradually been converted into dwellings, including the Dovecote. Almost across the road is Caistor Hall Hotel, which has connections to the Pettus family who built what is now the Old Hall. This site again seems to date back to medieval times and came under the jurisdiction of Bury St Edmunds Abbey, until the dissolution. The current building was built by the Dashwood family in 1795, during the reign of George III. The Reverend Horatio Dashwood whose body is interred in St Edmunds Church within the site of the Roman town, is possibly the son of the builder of this Georgian Mansion.

## Waypoints

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### 1 Start at Camping and Caravanning Club site Reception

(52.60894; 1.30372)



Leaving the riverside location that is the Camping and Caravanning Club site the first stage will take you over the river and old mill race then along a side road that feeds into the bustling and thriving city that is Norwich. However, it is not

far until you leave this behind and enter the beautiful, gently undulating countryside where your imagination could take you in the steps of Roman soldiers, Iceni warriors, Anglo-Saxon traders, and a whole range of others who have passed this way over the last 6,000 years.

## 2 Towards Caistor St Edmunds Chalk Pit

(52.59943; 1.30685)



Parts of this section may not be suitable for wearing shorts at certain times of the year.

After crossing the A47 road you enter a more tranquil world of rural Norfolk walking over rocks that were laid down under the sea whilst dinosaurs roamed the earth. The small village of Arminghall is past on your left hidden behind trees, with the remains from a more recent history. On reaching Caistor Road you need to decide whether to follow this route or take a small diversion to the right and visit the incredible Highash Farm and their wildlife and flower pathways. There are numerous permissive paths that the farm has created, these can be enjoyed and will give a more pleasant route than over the roads.

## 3 Caistor Road near Highash Farm

(52.58328; 1.31955)



The route continues across countryside passing through a variety of farms as it gradually turns towards the destination of Venta Icenorum. As you travel along the road towards the Tas Valley you will have excellent views north across Norwich and south into the open Norfolk countryside and over the nearby village of Stoke Holy Cross. It was the mill within Stoke Holy Cross where Coleman's Mustard was first created.

#### 4 Caistor St Edmunds Roman Town

(52.58112; 1.29342)



After exploring the old roman town, take a gentle wander through the rest of the village, maybe popping into Caistor Hall Hotel for refreshments before returning to the Camping and Caravanning Club Site. Take the road signed to Poringland before turning left across fields to the earlier path at the top of the Chalk Pit. Then retrace your steps back to the site.

Alternatively, the High Ash Farm permissive routes can be used from almost opposite the car park, which will avoid the busy road. On reaching the small road turn left back towards Caistor then right along Caistor Road to rejoin the plotted route. See details in the Description section of this walk of the website that contains details of these alternative walks.

