

Sandringham Club Site

woodland & country park walk

Camping and Caravanning



Route Summary

This is a gentle walk of 6.4km/4 miles through woods and country park to Sandringham House Visitor Centre. A visit to the grounds and around the house can be taken in prior to re-joining the walk back through woodlands.

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Smooth

Date Published: 21st September 2018

Difficulty: Easy

Length: 5.170 km / 3.23 mi

Last Modified: 21st September 2018

Description

There has been a house standing on this location since 1296, but it was not until Queen Victoria's son Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, (destined to become King Edward VII) purchased the premises in 1862 that it was developed. The house was purchased with the surrounding 2,800 hectares of land, which has been increased substantially since those times with approximately 6,400 hectares now making up the surrounding farmland.

King Edward VII opened the gardens to the public in 1908, and the Country Park was designed and opened in 1968. At that time it was 142 hectares, but it has subsequently been enlarged to 243 hectares, all of which are open to the public every day free of charge. All planting has been done in a sympathetic way to help the varied birds and animals as well as the plants that live beneath the canopy. The main trees you will see are Corsican and Scots Pine mixed with oak, birch and sweet chestnut.

This route will take you along estate designated routes for vehicles as well as the nature trail and a sculpture trail that can be completed as an optional extra. Much of the area has changed considerably since 1862, with trees being planted to add privacy. Since the accession of Elizabeth II, more trees have been cultivated to supply the Estate's own sawmill and sell its products. More recently even more trees have been planted for the benefit of the environment and conservation reasons. In the years since the Crown took ownership of the House in 1952, over two million trees and 40km of hedgerow have been planted.

The Sandringham Estate Visitor Centre has a restaurant and coffee shop, with many of the menu items using fruit and vegetables grown within the old walled garden as well as other produce from the extensive farming estate. Orchards originally started by King George VI produce fruits, some of which are converted into juice that is served at Buckingham Palace Garden Parties and can be purchased at The Visitor Centre. Try a drink of Ribena, either here or when you get home, as 40 hectares of blackcurrants are grown on the estate farms.

Having taken refreshments, shopped, and visited the gardens and house it is time to head back to the Club Site. Go through the car park and pick up the yellow Nature Trail signs.

Waypoints

1 Start at Camping and Caravanning Club site Reception

(52.81696; 0.49473)



Leave the Sandringham Camping and Caravanning Club site via the reception, taking the small pathway from opposite the Visitor Car Park area. Turn right then left onto Double Lodge Lane where a small parking area will be found just beyond the crossroads. Take the pathway that forks to the left going through the trees, between Brick Kiln and Folly Coverts.

2 Wolferton to Sandringham Road

(52.81918; 0.49368)



When you reach the road go straight over and follow the Scenic Drive, along Princess's Drive, taking advantage of the view point on the left. Where the road splits take the left turn away from the Scenic Drive, continuing to walk through the picnic areas. At a sharp left turn in the road keep to the road, not on the footpath that cuts straight to the Visitor Centre. After a short distance take the roadway that goes to the car parks, which should be on your right. Part way along this road way you will find the Sculpture Trail on your left.

3 Sculpture Trail

(52.83138; 0.50754)



Enjoy the short walk around these impressive sculptures then head across the car park to the Visitor Centre where well-earned refreshments can be obtained, and retail therapy undertaken. The entrance to House, Gardens and Museum are on the opposite side of the road. After enjoying the experience head back through the Visitor Centre and turn left along the pathway in front of the squirrel sculpture.

4 Small Car park near Donkey Pond Hill Road

(52.82914; 0.50587)



Just before you reach the road, after the coach turning point, a small pathway will be found on the right. Follow the path through the woods until reaching the road junction where you walk a short distance along the cleared avenue between the trees until finding the path on your left. Take this until you reach the small parking area, close to the Camping and Caravanning Club Site, that you passed through earlier.

