

Around the Reedham Area 12 mile cycle tour



This tour of beautiful Broadland will take you through attractive villages and picturesque countryside. The tour is not suitable for cars as some of the railway crossings are closed to vehicles. There are many interesting churches and other attractions on the way which are well worth a visit. Please take great care when crossing the railway lines. Although the tour begins at Reedham Quay it is designed so that it can be joined at any point.

Reedham, called Redaham in the Domesday Book, lies on the bank of the River Yare.

It is thought to have been a Roman military station and later the seat of Edmund, King of the East Angles, 855AD to 870AD, who was murdered by the Danes for refusing to reject Christianity. It became a port defended by a castle, traces of which survive as part of a farmhouse. A ferry is still in operation and is the only crossing place for cars on the river between Great Yarmouth and Norwich. There is also a railway swing bridge which was built in 1846 to carry trains between Norwich and Lowestoft.

At the end of Church Dam, the Reedham Parish church of St John the Baptist is on the right. There has been a church on this site since Saxon times and the present church dates from the 14th and 15th century. In 1981, the

thatched roof was destroyed by fire and much damage was done to the church.

Pettitts Animal Adventure Park is home

to workshops that create flower arrangements, bouquets, pictures and intricate table top designs all using feathers. There is also a candle

workshop and selection of birds and animals to see. The park opens from Easter to October but is closed all day Saturday.

Humpty Dumpty Brewery has been producing and selling cask and bottle conditioned ales since 1998 using finest local malt. Shop open daily, April-October, 12-5pm. November-March weekends only.

The Wickhampton church of St Andrew dates from 13th and 14th century with some restoration in 1883. Inside are effigies of a Knight and his Lady. According to local legend these were really two brothers named Hampton who tore out each others hearts after a dispute over land boundaries. God turned them to stone and they were put in the church as a warning against quarrelling. There are some extremely good wall paintings in the church.

Beside the church is a track which leads through the marshes to Berney Arms mill and public house. The mill was built about 1865 by Edward Stolworthy and replaced an earlier mill belonging to Thomas Trench Berney. The Reedham Cement Company used the mill for grinding cement and later around 1883 the mill was used for drainage. The pub was built for the workers of the mill and is only accessible on foot, by rail or river and is open through the summer months.

Halvergate is believed to have been a port before a great sandspit was formed on which nearby Great Yarmouth now stands. The sign shows one side with the Domesday Book names of Halfriate and Tunestalle and the other side with Halvergate and its hamlet Tunstall, the names they are known by today.

The Halvergate church of St Peter and St Paul is on the right behind a row of lime trees. This 15th century church was restored in 1857. It holds a palimpsest brass showing on one side the head and shoulders of a Franciscan Friar of Great Yarmouth, "Friar Wilms Jernmy" and on the other, Alice, wife of Robert Swane of about 1540.

The mill was built in 1866 by Jacob Crane but was destroyed by a disastrous fire in

the spring of 1935. The village people were in a barn at nearby Wickhampton celebrating the Jubilee of King George V when gale force winds turned the sails backwards causing the brake to overheat. A fire started but sadly the people could not get back in time to save the mill. It is said that the fire could be seen from great distance like a giant Catherine Wheel in the night.

Freethorpe Parish Church of All Saints has a Norman round tower. The church was restored in 1850 by the Walpole family who have been Lords of the Manor for many years. Just past the church on the left are the Walpole's Almshouses which have a plaque that reads 'Erected by Richard Henry and Harriet Vade Walpole, for the use of 6 poor widows of the parish of Freethorpe, AD 1871'. Further on to the right is the old pump house also built by the Walpoles.

Built in 1912 by Dutchman, Van Rossum, Cantley Sugar Beet Factory processes 21,000 tonnes of beet every three days.

There is a local legend that says a headless horseman rides at midnight in the Parish of Cantley and another that tells of a pot of gold at the bottom of a dark pool guarded by an evil presence. Needless to say this has never been found!

Useful telephone numbers

Aylsham Tourist Information Centre
01263 733903

Easter – 30 September open daily
10am-4.30pm.

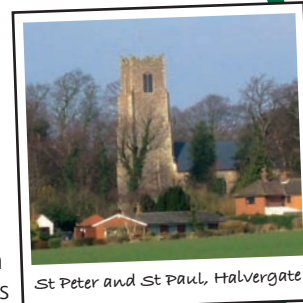
October – Easter 10am-2pm (closed
Wednesday & Saturday).

Broadland District Council
01603 431133

Local Police (non-emergency number)
0845 456 4567

Useful websites

www.sustrans.org.uk
www.ctc.org.uk
www.nationalcyclingstrategy.org.uk
www.rospace.co.uk
www.heron.nhs.uk



St Peter and St Paul, Halvergate



Reedham ferry



Wickhampton Village Sign

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

DIRECTIONS

This 12 mile tour around part of beautiful Broadland begins in Reedham approximately 12 miles south east of Norwich. Reedham Quay is beside the river to the south of the village. As you enter Reedham turn left at Station Road signed Reedham Village centre. Follow the road eventually turning right at the war memorial signed 'riverside,' follow the road to Reedham Quay, this is where our tour begins.

- 1 From the Quay, continue along Mill Road, around the left hand bend and uphill.
- 2 Turn right into Holly Farm Road and continue over the railway bridge enjoying picturesque views of the river and marshes to the right.
- 3 Pass Holly Farm on the left and follow the road along this quiet lane to the railway line. Cross the line with extreme caution into Church Dam. At the end of Church Dam the Reedham Parish church of St John the Baptist is on the right.
- 4 At the end of Church Dam follow the road on the left (towards Pettitts and Humpty Dumpty Brewery) Continue along this road for 1½ miles eventually turning right into Low Road signed Wickhampton. Follow the road into the village of Wickhampton, a small hamlet in the Parish of Freethorpe.
- 5 Continue through the village and if you wish to visit the church or take a walk to Berney Arms windmill turn right on the left hand bend as you leave the village signed Marshes only. (Windmill approx 2 miles along the path)
- 6 Continue around the left hand bend and take the next right turn. Follow this road for about a mile into the Parish of Halvergate
- 7 Take the next left turn into 'The Street' passing the village sign on the right. Go straight ahead at the village sign towards Freethorpe. The Halvergate church of St Peter and St Paul is on the right behind a row of lime trees.
- 8 Follow the road signed Freethorpe and where the road bends to the right the derelict windmill can be seen on the left
- 9 At the end of this road turn left signed Reedham into the Parish of Freethorpe on the right is the Freethorpe parish church of all saints.
- 10 Turn right at the crossroads signed Southwood into the Common.
- 11 Take the second left signed Limpenhoe. Follow this road for ¾ mile where to the right Cantley sugar beet factory can be seen.
- 12 At the end of this road turn right and then turn left onto Reedham Road.

- 13 Follow the road downhill and at the next junction veer left. Follow the road uphill and past the Primitive Methodist Chapel of 1877.
- 14 At the next junction bear right to Reedham and then almost immediately left. This is Limpenhoe Hill from which are breathtaking views of the river valley and marshes.
- 15 At the end of this road turn right signed Reedham and then left signed Church.
- 16 Take the next right turn signed Witton Green and follow the road over the railway bridge turning immediately right.
- 17 At the end of this road turn left and follow the road eventually turning right at the war memorial signed 'To the river' and back to Reedham Quay, the start of the tour.

THE BROADS



Reedham Marshes



Reedham Quay

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