

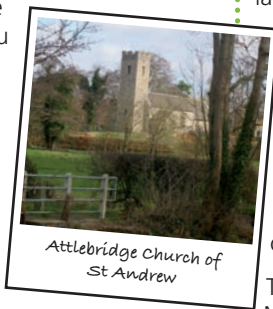
# Around the Ringland Area

## 13 mile cycle tour



Marriott's Way runs for 21 miles from Norwich to Aylsham along the former line of the Midland and Great Northern Railway and is named after the railway's Chief Engineer.

Attlebridge is a small village on the east side of the River Wensum. It was known as Atlebruge at the time of the Domesday Book and lies on the old pilgrims way from Norwich to the Shrine of Our Lady at Little Walsingham. As you come into the village, the Attlebridge Church of St Andrew is on your right. The church dates from the 13th Century although some restoration was undertaken in 1864. There are a few brasses in the church including one to William, son and heir of William Ely, Baron of the Exchequer, of around 1520.



Attlebridge Church of St Andrew

A hermitage and chapel existed between these bridges. It was used as a stopping place for pilgrims on their way to Little Walsingham. Legend has it that when Cromwell's men approached, two silver bells were removed from the chapel and buried in a river bank. They have not yet been found!

Weston Longville is a scattered parish with much agricultural land. During the Second World War there was a large airfield here used by the USAAF Second Air Division 466 Bombardment Group who flew many missions for Norfolk.

Ringland was known as Remingalnd at the time of the Domesday Book. As you come into the village you will see the Parish Church of St Peter standing on the high ground on the right. The church dates from the 14th Century and is noted for its fine hammerbeam roof

and very fine stained glass.

The tower contains 6 bells and inside the tower arch is a portrait of Parson Woodforde,

author of 'A diary of a Country Parson' who was Rector here from 1776 to 1803. His writings have become famous and give an insight into late 18th Century life in Norfolk. There are two fine wall paintings and a beautifully painted 15th Century rood screen showing the Apostles. The church is open all day for visitors.

To the east is Morton Hall, originally built by Thomas Southwell who died in 1609. A later Georgian house was built to replace the original.

A feature of the parish is its gently rolling hills, formed at the end of the Ice Age. As the glacier melted, gravel was deposited here leaving the undulating landscape described by Sir Alfred Munnings as 'one of our loveliest districts of all in this pleasant country.'

Taverham Hall was built by the Micklethwait family in about 1858 after fire destroyed the original house. Major George Nathaniel Micklethwait was often asked why there was no 'e' at the end of his name. His reply was always 'the name is too long already!' The estate was sold by his nephew, Colonel Sir John Mills, in 1919 and it became a private school in 1920.

The history of Taverham dates back to at least Roman times as pottery and coins have been found here that were struck during Hadrians reign in about 100AD. The first recorded landowner in the parish was Harold, son of Edward the Confessor, before the Norman Conquest. At the time of the Domesday Book, it was called Tauresham until 1200 when Nicholas de Taverham became Lord of the Manor and the Parish adopted his name.

At the Dissolution, The Manor came under the control of the Crown and Henry VIII granted in to 'dean and prebendaries'! In 1564 Henry Richers of Swannington was given a 99 year lease on the Manor. Fifteen years earlier it was Henry Richers who took custody of Robert Kett, leader of the peasants revolt in Norfolk.

In1623 the Manor was offered to Augustin Sotherton who was involved in local government and politics and was knighted just one year after coming to Taverham. Descendants of the Sothertons remained as Lords of the Manor for almost 300 years although this was through female succession.

St Edmund was the King of East Anglia

from 855 to 870AD and was killed by an arrow when he refused to denounce Christianity. Tradition has it that the tree against which he was martyred



Ringland Common

stood in a nearby field. It fell under its own weight in August 1848, and the arrow is reputed to have been found embedded in its trunk. The church is of the 14th and 15th century with a round tower that has a Saxon window and the doorway is Norman. There is a medieval screen and parts of the communion rail came from the screen at Booton Church to the north west of Taverham.

Near the church is the entrance to the former Taverham Paper Mill. The Mill operated from around 1700 and produced high quality paper which was used for bank notes and The Times Newspaper. The Mill closed in 1899 and was later demolished.

The Taverham village sign stands on the corner and shows St.Walstan who lived in Taverham and died in 1016. It is said that on his death bed he requested his body be put in a cart drawn by oxen, pased in Costessey and then continued to Bawburgh where St.Walstan is laid to rest.

On the left is the Taverham Garden Centre. It has a large selection of craft workshops where skilled workers can be seen at work. They are well worth a visit.

## 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](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

[www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.uk)

[www.nationalcyclingstrategy.org.uk](http://www.nationalcyclingstrategy.org.uk)

[www.rospace.co.uk](http://www.rospace.co.uk)

[www.heeron.nhs.uk](http://www.heeron.nhs.uk)



St Peter's Church Ringland

# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

## DIRECTIONS

This tour of beautiful Broadland will take you through attractive villages and picturesque countryside. It is suitable only by bicycle or on foot as some of the small tracks and lanes are not open to vehicles. The tour also covers some of the slightly hilly areas which may not be suitable for the less fit. There are many interesting churches and other attractions on the way which are well worth a visit. Although the tour begins in Taverham it is designed so that it can be joined at any point.

From the Norwich outer Ring Road take the Reepham Road north west of the city. After 4 1/2 miles turn left signed Taverham into Fir Covert Road. Immediately on the right is a car park and this is where the tour begins.

- 8** At the next crossroads turn left signed Easton. Stay on this road for almost a mile enjoying the picturesque views of the surrounding countryside. At the end of the road turn left.
- 9** At the end of this road turn left again. This road takes you back into Ringland and over the river Wensum.
- 10** Follow the road uphill passing the entrance to Taverham Hall school on the right. Stay on this road going up hill and down with the Hall School grounds on the right.

- 1** From the car park turn left and left again along the Reepham Road toward Attlebridge from about a mile.
- 2** Take the left signed Attlebridge. Go over the railway bridge, crossing Marriott's Way long distance path. Follow the road downhill into Attlebridge.
- 3** Take the lane opposite the church and go over two bridges crossing the river Wensum.
- 4** Follow the path to the right and continue straight ahead into Morton-on-the-Hill.
- 5** At the main road go almost straight ahead into Marl Hill. Follow the road uphill for about a mile into the parish of Weston Longville.
- 6** Turn left in front of the church onto Church Street and then right again into Ringland lane. At the end of this road turn right. Continue along this pretty lane for about 1 1/2 miles into the parish of Ringland. As you come into the village the parish church St Peter is on the right.
- 7** At the crossroads turn right and then immediately left signed Honingham. Follow this road through fields and into a wooded area.

- 11** At the mini roundabout, the Taverham Parish Church of St Edmund is on the right. Turn left into Sandy Lane signed Felthorpe and at its end turn left.
- 12** At the next crossroads turn right into Fir Covert Road. Continue to the end of the road and back to the start of the tour.



Ringland village sign



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence No. 10022319.