

## Heritage Walk 3

### Refreshments:

#### Hemblington

All Saints Church, Hemblington: DIY tea and coffee

#### Ranworth

Ranworth Church Visitors Centre Light refreshments.

#### Ranworth Staithe

Granary Stores and Tearooms,  
The Maltsters Public House,

### Toilet facilities:

All Saints Church, Hemblington

St Helen's Church, Ranworth.

Public toilets, Ranworth Staithe

For more information see :-

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

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



### Hemblington, Ranworth, Panxworth and Pedham circular walk with optional shorter routes

Walking 3 hours - add extra time to visit  
churches or Ranworth Wildlife Centre

Approximately 7½ miles/12kms  
(or shortest route 4½ miles/7.5 km)

#### Start : All Saints Church, Hemblington

This is a humble church with a round tower which contains an important 15<sup>th</sup> century wall painting depicting the life of St Christopher (a good starting point for any journey!) and an octagonal font carved with 16 saints and martyrs.

The fields around the church provide a hunting ground for marsh harriers, buzzards, and barn owls. Brown hares are often seen dashing across the fields and deer are also seen. In summer listen out for yellow-hammers, skylarks and turtle doves.

Turn right out of the churchyard and walk down the hill. At the junction turn left. Just before the lay-by and the farm entrance turn right and walk uphill on a track. The farm over to the left of the track is Wood Farm, and contains the old tithe barn. Look out for alpacas in the fields.

Walk on past Jary's meadow and the hide at Walsham Fen. Turn left along the road through Panxworth. Take care as this is quite a busy road. Continue on past Panxworth Ironworks 1869 (now a home) Before reaching the road junction, turn right down the drive of Cottenham Barn.

*SHORTCUT* If you do not want to visit Ranworth, follow the footpath between the barns on your left and the pond on your right. Pass behind the buildings and follow the footpath to Panxworth Church. Rejoin route instructions again from Panxworth Church.

To continue to Ranworth. Turn right before reaching the buildings, keeping the pond on your left and following the footpath sign to cross a stile and across fields to a second stile. Follow the footpath straight ahead (NB the woods to the right are private)

The path emerges on a road bend. Take the road left for 20 metres

*(For a shorter route, keep to the road uphill before descending to Ranworth Staithe- 1.3km shorter)*

Otherwise take a track straight ahead and follow this lane which turns into a wooded path with glimpses to the right of South Walsham Broad. Emerge onto a lane and follow the lane left, now with glimpses of Ranworth Broad to the right to reach Ranworth Staithe.

Use the boarded path straight ahead before turning right along Broad Road. Pass boat moorings to reach Ranworth's floating Broads Wildlife Centre. There is free entry to this Norfolk Wildlife Trust nature reserve. It is reached via a boardwalk through reedbeds and has a panoramic vista across the water and a great spot for bird watching. It is also possible to see swallowtail butterflies, Norfolk hawker dragonflies, marsh harriers and even otters. Return to the road and turn right. Continue past the village hall to reach the church.

### **St Helen's Church, Ranworth.**

Sometimes known as "The Cathedral of The Broads" St Helen's has rare Antiphoner, an illuminated manuscript dating back to the 15th century. There is also a wonderful rood screen. For those prepared to climb the tower, the best view in the Broads awaits.

At the crossroads, go straight on towards Panxworth. Follow this usually quiet road carrying straight on at Priory Road crossroads to reach the church.

### **All Saints Church, Panxworth**

The history of this ruin is quite interesting. Renovated lavishly in the Victorian era, the congregation was too small to maintain it and in the 1970s it was declared redundant.

All that remained was a pretty 14<sup>th</sup> Century tower, which after being struck by lightning in 2006, has been sensitively repaired.

At the T junction, turn left and then immediately right onto a main road. **Extreme care** is required as this is a busy road. Follow this main road for 200m using the grass verges to walk on where possible. At a bend, take a quiet road to Pedham.

Follow this road to reach Pedham Dam, the site of a watermill, which took its water supply from the 10 acre Pedham lake. It is shown as Peaty Mill on 1836 O.S map.

Turn left off the road onto a track opposite the dam into woods and then between fields with views to the left of Walsham Wood and Hemblington to the right.

Emerge onto a road and turn right. Take a footpath on the left bordering a field boundary. Emerge onto a lane and turn left. Continue straight ahead onto a track. There are elevated views of Hemblington Church and surrounding area.

Turn left onto a road and then turn right into Hemblington Hall Road at the crossroads.

Turn left to return to Hemblington Church.