



# Burlingham Woodland Walks

Map and Guide



# Introduction

Whatever the season, woodlands possess a magic of their own, ever changing, offering the visitor a source of peace, inspiration and relaxation.

**Give yourself time to escape the ‘hurly burly’ of everyday life to reflect and enjoy the mixed old and new woodlands, orchards and hedgerows. Patiently observe a landscape worked by nature, the elements and the farmer, returning refreshed and in lighter spirit.**

There are a variety of walks to suit all abilities allowing you to choose a short, medium or longer walk, or even circular or linear. They will take you through the quiet hamlet of Burlingham Green, the parishes of Lingwood and Burlingham, Hemblington, South Walsham and the thriving historic market town of Acle. The walks have been developed since the mid nineties and since that time several new woodlands and orchards and a large number of new hedgerows have been planted. Paths have also been established including a number for wheelchair and mobility vehicles.

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## User Information

### What will I find and see?

The landscape is farmland, interspersed with woodland, both old and new and recently planted hedgerows. You will be amazed at the speed at which the new plantings mature. The colours range between lush and green in spring and summer, beautiful reds, browns and yellows during autumn to the stark silvery whites and blacks of winter.

The woodland edges are rich in wildlife, some familiar, others less so of flowers, animals, birds and insects. Typically, according to the season, you are likely to see bluebells, primroses and violets, wild rose, spindle, hips and haws. Dragon and damselflies abound, butterflies flit from tree to tree. Skylarks can be seen hovering in clear blue skies, a tawny or little owl dodging along hedgerows, tree creepers, finches and tits busying themselves in the rich habitat of hedge and tree.

Hares and deer are regularly seen and you may see gnawed hazelnuts indicating the likely presence of the wood mouse. In the warm summer evenings bats dance above your head and the air may be heavy with the scent of a passing fox.

### Where do I start?

We recommend starting from the following locations:

#### **North Burlingham - St Andrew's Church Car Park**

North Burlingham is eight miles east of Norwich and signposted just off the A47. St Andrew's Church car park is reached by a short track off the village high street. From here you will find the entrance to the walks.

#### **Acle - Health Centre / Library Car Park**

If starting at Acle use the Library or Health Centre car park. By returning to the village you will find Mill Lane to begin your walk.

#### **South Walsham - Fairhaven Garden Trust Car Park**

Return to the Acle Road and with great care cross over into Hare Fen Lane to begin your walk.

#### **RIGHT**

LOOKING ACROSS FROM LONG PLANTATION  
TO MILLENIUM WOODS





Alternatively, throughout its route there are access points via the public rights of way network or informally from the public highway. If you need to cross the A47 please ensure you do so with extreme caution as this is a very busy and fast road. See map on page 6.

## Who can use Burlingham Woodland Walks?

Burlingham Woodland Walks consist of paths for the walker and horse rider, with sections specifically designed to give a level, even surface for those who are less mobile or require access with mobility vehicles. Details of these sections are illustrated on the map (page 6) and on interpretation boards throughout the route. Bicycles can be secured at Fairhaven Garden Trust and Acle.

## KEY:

### Burlingham Woodland Walks

### Access for mobility vehicles

### Bridleway routes

### Weavers' Way

Not all routes are public rights of way.

### New Woods



### Old Woods



### Towns / Villages



### The Broads



**Sculpture Trail**



**Parking**

See page 18 for more details on the sculpture trail.

### Please observe the Countryside Code:

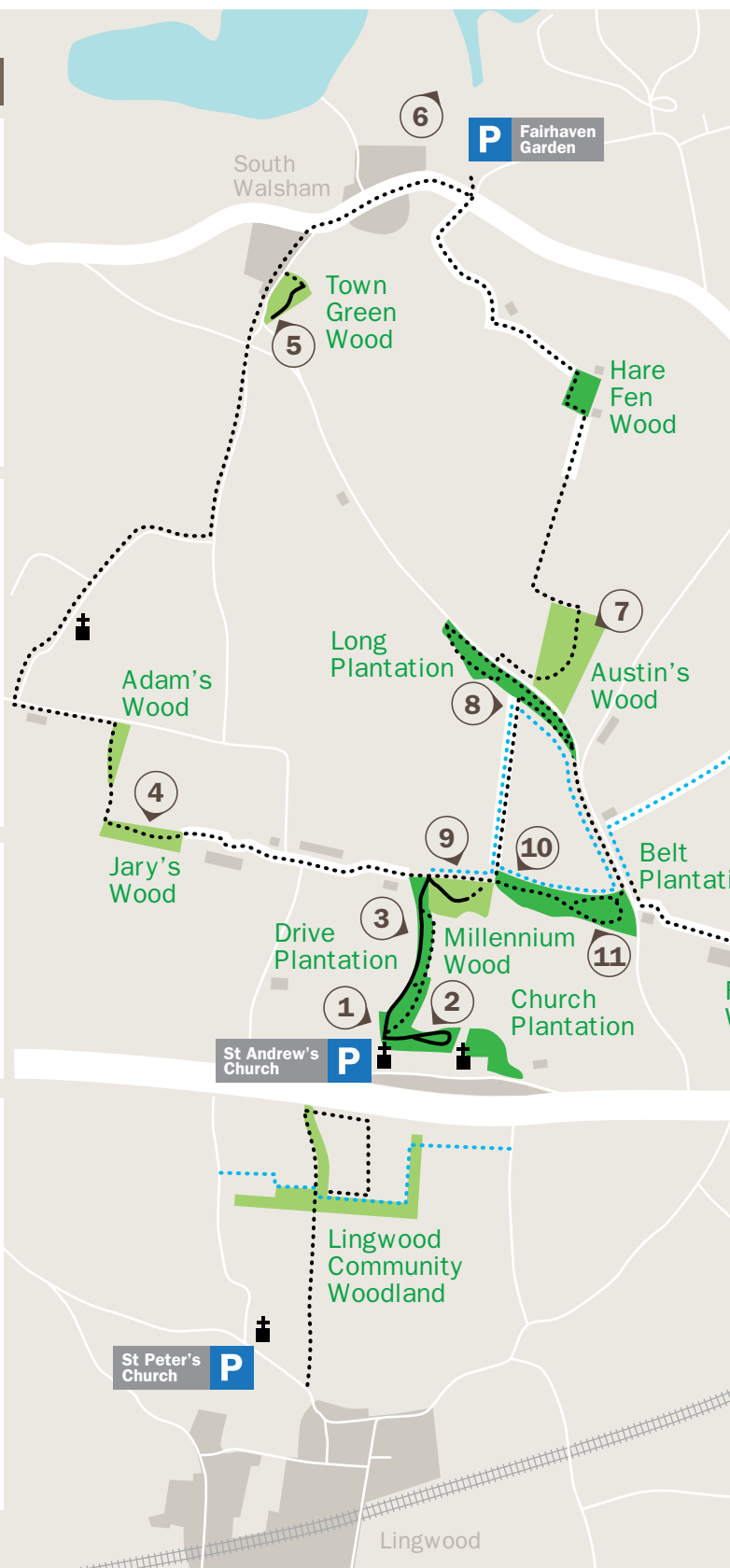
Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

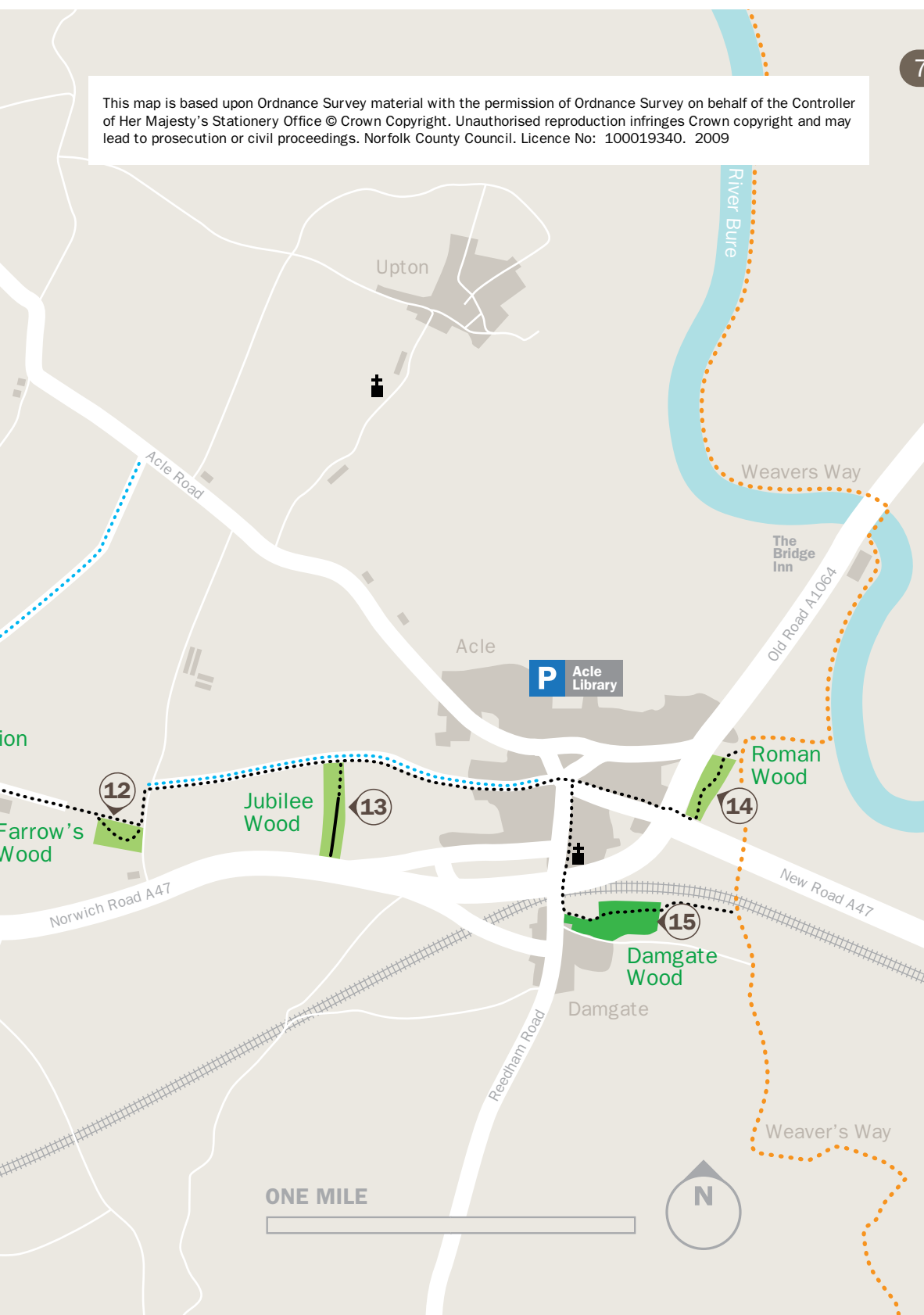
Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.

Keep dogs under close control.

Consider other people.



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## Belt Plantation

The wood was designated as a planted area, and by 1838 formed the northern border to the park. The western area contained larch which was cleared in 1989 and replanted with oak and chestnut. The eastern area was replanted with ash and other hardwoods in 1938-39 and the site is today managed by selective thinning.

The Hall's East Drive ran through what is the centre of the Belt today and the old East Lodge can still be glimpsed from the trail at the eastern end of the wood. The parish boundary also runs through the centre of the Belt and the bank which marks this is still clearly visible. The hedge and bank on the wood's southern boundary marks the Park's northern limit.

### Management

The hedge on the south side of the Belt bordered the old Park and so a 'laid' hedge was necessary to exclude grazing cattle from the plantation.

Using a bill-hook, the stems of the hedge would be chopped half-way through and bent over at an angle of about 50 degrees. As the stem was only partly severed, the shrub will continue to grow. Upright stakes known as 'heathers' would be interwoven through the bent over branches (known as plashers) so helping to hold them down as hawthorn and blackthorn are naturally springy. If the hedge is 'well laid' the branches will 'tiller-out', especially at the bottom, so making the hedge stock-proof. The western part of the plantation was replanted in the early 1990s.

LEFT

BELT PLANTATION (SOUTH  
SIDE LOOKING WEST)



## Drive Plantation

The gates at the entrance to the wood close across what was once the South Drive. A lodge once stood to the west of the gates, but was demolished along with the Hall in the 1950s.

An easy access path and a seperate wood-chip path winds its way north through a tall, airy ash and poplar wood which progresses to a large area of hazel coppice.

## Management

Coppicing involves the periodic cutting back of trees to ground level (4 - 12 years for hazel), causing them to send up multiple stems from the cut 'stools'. The regular removal of these stems effectively lengthens the life of the tree. Coppice is often cut in rotation with new coups being cut each year until returning to the first compartment.

Newly cut areas allow such species as primrose, germander speedwell and common twayblade to flourish. Birds such as blackcap and nightingale nest in thick coppice and butterflies abound. The path continues through more mature woodland of ash, chestnut, oak, cherry and beech.

The hedge to the east of the wood shows past management in which laying has been carried out, which involves the bending and interweaving of the hedge-stems to form a stock-proof barrier. The path continues through a line of beech trees to a newly planted area which was known as the 'Carpenters Yard', once containing a workshop within a clearing. Some 500 oak and chestnut saplings replace a block of larch largely blown down by the 1991 storm. The footpath and glade in this area are bordered by smaller trees and shrubs such as rowan, birch, hazel and field maple. In spring snowdrops are plentiful and in the damper hollows, tussocks of rush are present.





## Millennium Wood

This 2.9 hectare (7.25 acre) amenity woodland has been planted by local people for the benefit of the local community. The wood is planted with trees and shrubs native to the locality. The main species is English oak, with ash, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, birch and small-leaved lime. The three oak trees in the glade at the eastern end of this plantation were in a very poor state due to the ploughing of the roots. The trees have generally recovered well. Two orchards are also present in this wood.

## Jary's and Adam's Wood

These two new woodlands were planted in 2006 and include open glades to allow the sunlight into the woodland.





## Town Green Wood

Town Green Wood was planted in the 2006-07 planting season by local volunteers, including pupils from Fairhaven School. The rides have been sown with a wildflower mixture, and the restored pond adds an extra dimension to the site.

## Church Plantation

Church Plantation is largely an extension of Drive Plantation. The woodland contains some fine sweet chestnut trees and the entrance is marked by a small grove of yew trees.



**ABOVE**  
ST ANDREWS CHURCH  
BURLINGHAM

**RIGHT**  
NEW PLANTATION IN  
FARROW'S WOOD











## Long Plantation

The Long Plantation was created in the early 19th Century, its western boundary following an older one, being that of an open field furlong called 'Apps Wong' in the 17th Century. The western half of the wood was replanted between 1945-50 with sweet chestnut, ash and sycamore. The eastern part of the wood was mainly ash together with oak, sweet chestnut, sycamore and elm. A good time to visit is in early May when the woodland floor provides a stunning show of bluebells.

The Hall's third gate-lodge was situated here. Built in the 19th Century, It was demolished in 1966.

### Management

Healthy woodlands, skilfully managed, provide a sustainable resource of timber and wood products which can be sold or used on the farm. Attractive woodlands enhance the appearance of the countryside and play an important role in wildlife conservation. Positive woodland management also creates opportunities for rural employment.

Long Plantation requires selective thinning in order to meet the various management objectives in this woodland. This process is a vital agricultural tool which allows 'stands' to be improved.

By removing the poorer tree specimens (rather like weeding a garden) conditions are improved for the best trees.

The site will be thinned periodically to enable the maximum potential of the site to be realized.

#### LEFT

LONG PLANTATION (SOUTH  
SIDE LOOKING SOUTH EAST)



## Austin's Wood

Austin's Wood was planted in February 2008 and creates a link between Burlingham and South Walsham. The site has been planted with native species and a small orchard has been established in the glade at the centre of the woodland. In addition, 2000 downy oak have been planted – a species which is thought will be suitable to the area as climate change progresses.



## Farrow's Wood

This woodland, planted in 2005, is on an area once occupied by open field strips before the process of enclosure. By the beginning of the 19th Century open fields had almost completely disappeared. There is an orchard in the glade.



## Roman Wood

Only two feet beneath your feet is pure sand! This was Acle beach 2,000 years ago. The high ground was covered with trees. The marshland was the North Sea and a sand spit was visible at low tide where Great Yarmouth is now built.

The Romans arrived in AD43 and parts of this woodland were cleared for farming. The 5th Century saw the arrival of the Saxons and the great estuary became salt marsh. Water was evaporated to leave a residue of salt, which was used for food preservation. During the 14th and 15th Centuries the rivers were embanked and the marshes drained to allow for grazing. Peat was dug for fuel and the diggings flooded, thereby creating the Broads.



**ABOVE**  
JUBILEE WOOD (PATH  
LEADING TO SUNDIAL)



## Damgate Wood

The small stream known as Coleman's Drain is fed by natural springs and water courses west of the village. 2000 years ago it was a small river, probably tidal and the marshland formed a great estuary named by the Romans as 'Gariensis'. The Domesday Book of AD 1086 mentions Acle Water Mill which was in this area.

The draining of the marshes and the embankment of the rivers in the 14th/15th Centuries encouraged this area to form an Alder Carr.

In 1995 volunteers from Acle Lands Trust and the surrounding area created access to Damgate Wood by building a boardwalk and bridge. The pond was built by members of the Princes Trust Volunteers.

## Jubilee Wood

This new community woodland was planted to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. It establishes a link around the west of Acle, allowing a circular walk to take in Roman Wood. Damgate Wood and Jubilee Wood as well as forming part of the Burlingham Woodland Walks. The wood is 3.5 hectares (8.7 acres) and is composed of species native to the area, notably pedunculate oak. This reflects the origin of the place name Acle; Old English for oak is 'ac', 'leah' is wood. A glade in the centre of the woodland provides views across Acle and over the marshes beyond and is the location of the sundial and wildflower meadow, best enjoyed during early to mid June. The wood has been planted by volunteers from Acle and surrounding villages.

## Town Green Wood

This small community woodland was planted by children from the local school. The wildflower meadow can be reached by a path suitable for buggies.





## Interactions

The Burlingham-Acle walks are used for a number of art projects. A sculpture trail consisting of fifteen bronze plaques has been installed.

**Each plaque represents a local scene or event and a rubbing can be taken from each. See map on page 6 for locations of all fifteen plaques.**

### 1 Saint Andrew Angel

The extant church of North Burlingham is dedicated to Saint Andrew. On this plaque we see the angel, holding the 'Saltire' cross of Saint Andrew, drawn from the angels supporting the roof inside the church.

### 2 Iceni Horse

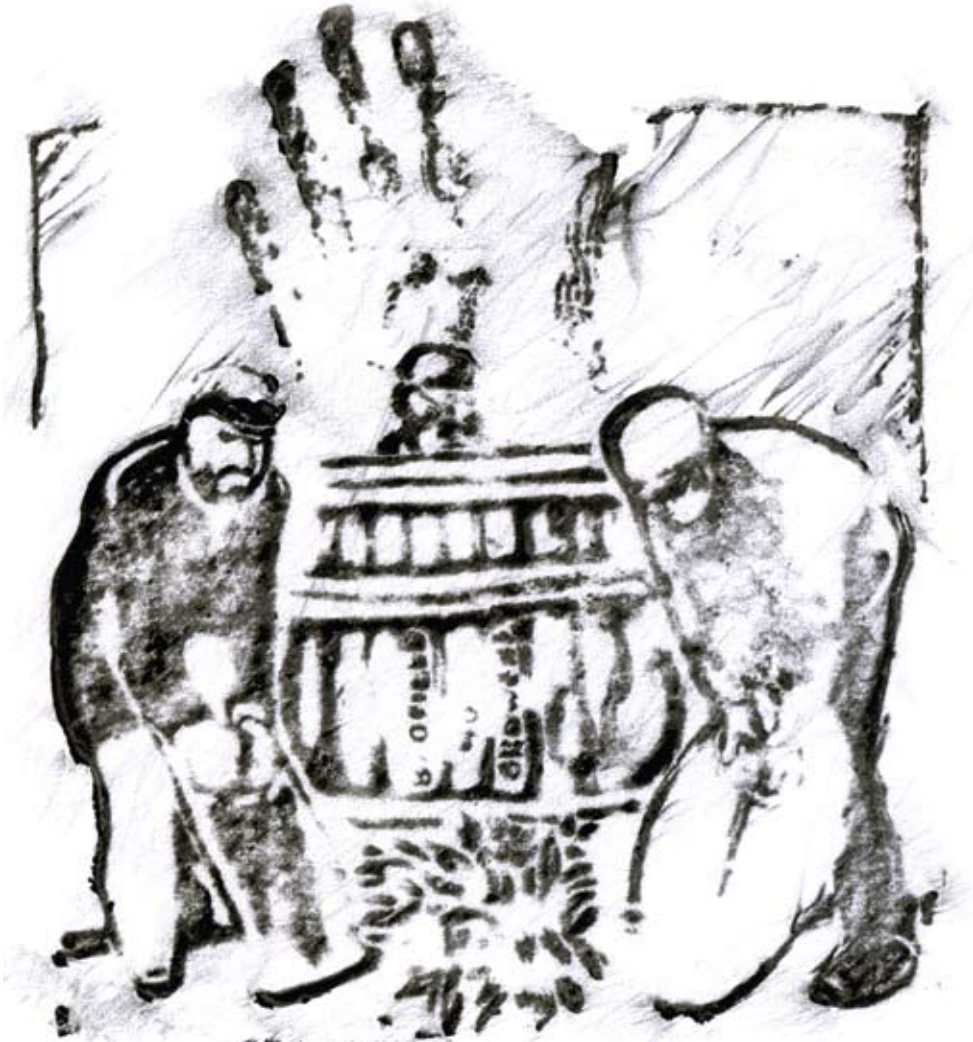
The Iceni, a Britonic pre-Roman tribe, are the earliest recorded people of Norfolk. An Iceni coin was found locally and bears this image of a stallion, shown breathing fire. Of course this is how any warrior would want others to think of his horse. The wheel is also a common motif of coins of this sort, as are pelleted decorations. The Celts are known to have worshipped the horse as a symbol of strength and fertility. There was still a blacksmith's forge in the village within living memory about 250 yards from this post.

### 3 Woad Working

Blofield parish lies immediately west of North Burlingham. According to scholars it derives its name from the fact that woad was a major crop superseded by chemical dyes like Prussian blue. The figures in this image are balling woad. At their feet is woad and they are stacking balls of woad into the cask. In the background is a hand holding processed woad.

#### 4 Lunar Crescents and Stars

This shows a pattern of three crescent moons wheeling through a starry sky, mimicking a stylized glade of wild flowers, or a bunch of mistletoe. The design comes from a coin of the Iceni. Their coins, something to hold in the hand, can be our most immediate avenue of contact with them. The coins bear designs, which signify things that had symbolic meaning for their people. In Britain for the time of the Iceni, coins were not currency but were distributed as gifts by chiefs and kings. The Norwich Castle Museum holds many coins of the Iron Age Celts.



ABOVE  
RUBBING NO.3 FROM ONE OF  
THE 15 POSTS ALONG ROUTE

## 5 Clouded Yellow \*

This fast-flying butterfly is a migratory species, occasionally having mass migrations and subsequent breeding. They congregate in flowery places.

## 6 The Oak \*

This ancient oak was once regularly pollarded. These beautiful trees are heritage sites as well as being valuable wildlife habitats.

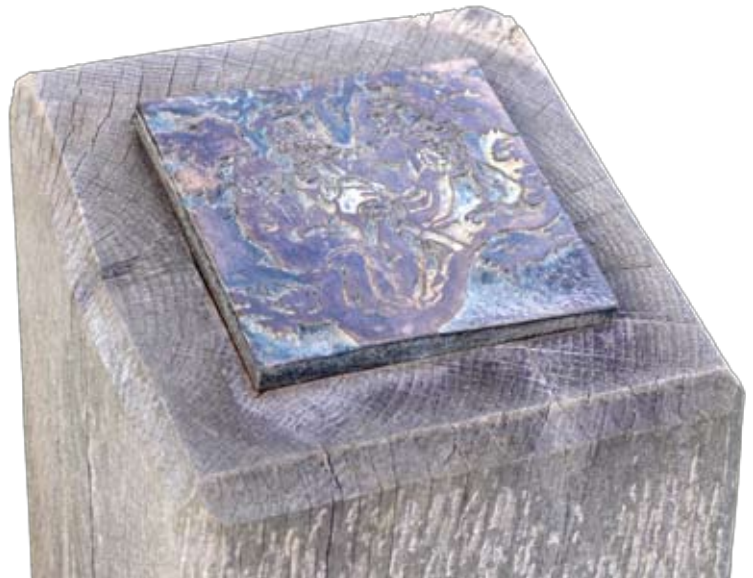


## 7 First Edition OS \*

The first edition maps of the Ordnance Survey produced in the late 19th Century were some of the most beautiful and accurate maps ever produced. Every tree was marked and you can see how many trees there were at that time.

## 8 Bluebells \*

Bluebells capture the spirit of springtime. The intensely coloured carpets of colour are a sight to light the spirit. Nearly half of the bluebells in the world grow in Britain.



## 9 Tree Sitters

Two hundred years ago the tenants and farm workers of Burlingham Hall Estate rose in protest, demanding better conditions. The Estate's owner called upon his neighbours to gather at the hall with their guns to repel the workers. In a field nearby, very close to where the halls once stood, ancient bullets are frequently found. In this bronze we see men sitting in a tree debating rights, from a 17th Century woodcut.



## 10 Cernunnos

Cernunnos is the very powerful antlered god, or horned god of the forest. He was worshipped across the realms of the Celts, including the Iceni who produced coins bearing his image, from one of which this design is drawn. The Romans effectively eradicated worship of the native gods by the Celts, replacing them with Roman gods like Mithras.

## 11 Wolf

Throughout Britain, wolves were a living presence, the top predator, until hunted to extinction in about the 15th Century. This plaque takes its design from a very small engraved Anglo-Saxon ornament, which is probably a piece of a mount from an early Anglian bishop's crozier. It is kept at Norwich Castle Museum. It illustrates something of the place the wolf had in the respect and imagination of its contemporaries – a powerful beast abroad in the land.



## 12 Open Field System \*

This was the common system of agriculture before the progress of enclosure. By the beginning of the 19th Century open fields had almost entirely disappeared.

## 13 Oak Branch and Nuthatch

As well as being such a presence in our countryside, oak trees are a diverse 'micro-countryside'. They are a habitat for hundreds of species of insects and larger wildlife. Many of the smaller are hunted among the nooks and crannies by creatures we might not immediately think of as predators. Among these is the nuthatch, which hunts for earwigs, beetles and small caterpillars. The nuthatch also wedges acorns and nuts in the crevices of bark to split open with its 'hatchet' beak. It is the only native bird that can regularly climb down trees head first.

## 14 Roman Helmet of The Saxon Shore

East Anglia's coastline, known by the Romans as the "Saxon shore", was once very different. The rivers Bure, Yare and Waveney all flowed together in the 'great estuary', starting at Acle, where the Romans built landings. In their time there was not even land where Great Yarmouth stands now. The Roman forts of Burgh Castle and Caister-on-Sea faced each other across the mouth of the estuary.

They regulated shipping and stood guard against the probings of the Angles, Jutes, and other North-German peoples seeking new territories. This plaque depicts a helmet once worn by a Roman auxiliary who was a cavalryman of the Stablesi tribe in what is now Holland. It was found during excavations at Burgh Castle and is now in the Time and Tide Museum at Great Yarmouth. In this image, super-imposed on the helmet is a design of a Saxon ship, from an Anglo-Saxon penny now at Norwich Castle. It conveys what would have been on the minds of those Roman garrisons.

## 15 Kingfisher \*

The brilliant, bright, plumage of the kingfisher makes it unmistakable. The back and tail are iridescent blue and the underparts and cheek a bright orange. They are often seen darting along the dyke.



ABOVE  
FARROW'S WOOD  
LOOKING NORTH

## Sundial at Jubilee Wood

**In Jubilee Wood you will find a human analemmatic horizontal sundial. Time has not always been available from a glance at the wrist. This sundial takes you back to an age when time was measured more organically by the passage of the sun and phases of the moon.**

Horizontal sundials became fashionable in the 16th Century as garden ornaments. They are simple to read and were used by their owners for the serious business of checking their household clocks and watches.

The observer stands (as a human gnomon) on a central date scale and their shadow will indicate the time in relation to the nearest hour mark. The two semi-circles of hour markers give the time in Greenwich Mean Time (outer ring) and British Summer Time (inner ring).



**ABOVE**  
HUMAN SUNDIAL  
IN JUBILEE WOOD

**RIGHT**  
WILD FLOWERS  
AT JUBILEE WOOD







## Arts Project by Acle High School

If you go down to the woods today  
you're in for a big surprise!

**An area within Drive Plantation is used to display natural form artwork created by local students as part of their GSCEs.**

Each year at Christmas, Acle High School Arts Department create new sculptures using both inspiration from nature and natural materials. Previously, these have included the decorating of tree trunks with insect sculptures, willow hangings representing seed pods and plaster mushrooms. As with most land art, they will change and decay with time - birds may nest in them and animals, insects and the weather will change their appearance.



**ABOVE**  
HUMAN SUNDIAL  
IN JUBILEE WOOD

# Fairhaven Garden

The sensory garden is the first thing you'll see as you walk in to Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden.

It has a gently sloping path which winds through many different plants that have been specially chosen for their strong aromas, textured foliage and bright colours. Fairhaven has three miles of peaceful walks and boat trips are available on our private broad and the public South Walsham Broad from Easter to the end of October.

## Opening Times

10am – 5pm (March – end of November)

10am – 4pm (December to end of February)

Closed on Christmas Day

Evening opening until 9pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays during May, June, July and August. For current information please telephone 01603 270449 or see our website [www.fairhavengarden.co.uk](http://www.fairhavengarden.co.uk)

## Facilities

90% wheelchair accessible garden, fully accessible Tearoom, Gift shop, Plant sales, Sensory Garden, Bird Hide and free parking (all open to non garden visitors).



ABOVE  
FAIRHAVEN GARDEN,  
SOUTH WALSHAM

# Further Information

## User Information

### All Users

Burlingham Woodland Walks are not all public rights of way, however, members of the public are invited to use it as a footpath or bridleway. Users may experience adverse surface conditions according to the season. Please note: motor vehicles, motorcycles, shooting and camping by the general public is not permitted.

### Dog Walkers

Burlingham Woodland Walks is a wonderful place to exercise dogs. Please ensure your dog is not a danger or nuisance to other users, nearby farm animals or wildlife. Remember to clear up after your dog and where provided use on-site bins or alternatively take any waste home for disposal.

### Horse Riders

Please show regard for other users and take care not to damage the surface of the paths or by riding over the mobility sections.

## Management and Maintenance

In order to offer their fullest potential to wildlife a certain amount of management is required. Burlingham Woodlands form part of the Burlingham Estate which is owned by Norfolk County Council. After some years of neglect management was resumed in the early 1990's, the objective of this management was to open the woods for public access, to grow quality hardwoods and to enhance the wildlife value. Coppice rotations have been re-introduced and the more established stands are managed by selective thinning. Should you have any queries concerning management of the woodlands please contact Norfolk County Council on 01603 222769 or email: [environment@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@norfolk.gov.uk)



## Useful Websites and Contacts

Norfolk County Council:  
[www.countrysideaccess.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.norfolk.gov.uk)

Acle Lands Trust:  
[www.acle-village.info/landstrust](http://www.acle-village.info/landstrust)

Blofield and District Conservation Group:  
 Email: [antonymckie@onetel.com](mailto:antonymckie@onetel.com)

Peter Mallett:  
[www.wildnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.wildnorfolk.co.uk)

## Refreshments and Toilets

Food, drink and toilet facilities are available at various establishments in Acle and at South Walsham.

## Public Transport

Train Services run between Norwich, Lingwood and Acle as do bus services with the addition of South Walsham. For the latest up to date information please contact Traveline East Anglia on 0871 200 2233.

## Car Parking

There are three main car parks (see map on page 6). Ensure that you are parked safely and that all valuables are secured and hidden from view.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the success of Burlingham Woodland Walks and in producing this booklet: BADCOG, John Behm, Acle Lands Trust, Fairhaven Garden Trust, and Acle High School.

Location



 <p><b>IN TRAN</b> communication for all</p>	<p><b>If you would like this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us on 01603 222769, minicom 01603 223833 or <a href="mailto:environment@norfolk.gov.uk">environment@norfolk.gov.uk</a></b></p>
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Image: Peter Mallett

## Further information available from

Department of Planning and Transportation  
Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane  
Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2SG

Telephone: 01603 222769

Email: [environment@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@norfolk.gov.uk)

