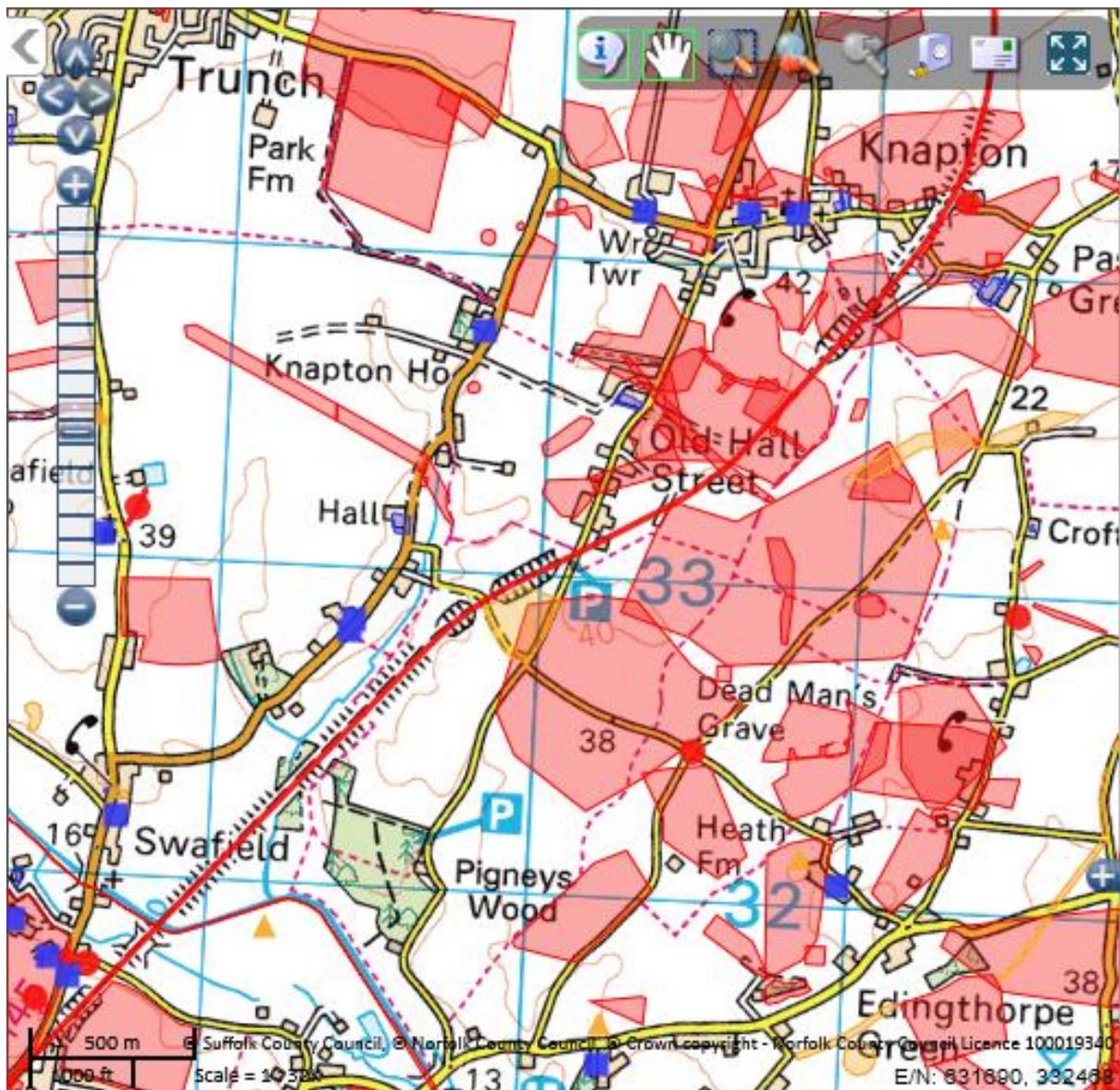


Walk With Angels

Pigneys Wood to Knapton

This walk starts amidst the Autumnal colours of Pigney's Wood, quickly changing to open fields before arriving at a church that is described as "an astonishing experience". Work out the palindrome, count the angels, and generally marvel at one of Norfolk's hidden treasures before making your way back past a Dead Man's Grave (is there any other?) to the starting point. Five miles on mainly country lanes and footpaths. All welcome and dog-friendly, you won't want to miss this one! If you want further information on any of our walks, have ideas for walks, or would like to organise one, let me know! spday2014@btinternet.com



1. Begin in the Norfolk Wildlife Trust car park which is found by coming out of North Walsham past the Bluebell public house (road to Edingthorpe) and turning left onto a small lane just after the bridge.
2. From the car park take the path away from the road, through trees and down a hill. The wood soon opens into pastureland.
3. At the bottom of the hill turn right on a path that will eventually lead you on to an embankment **[A]**.
4. Follow the old railway track until you reach a cutting. Ascend the steps at the end and turn left to join Old Hall Street. Pass The Old Hall **[B]**.
5. Pass a hedge in a garden on the left as you follow the road to Knapton, where you turn right by the Old School **[C]** and thence into the main Street. Set back from the road you will pass The New Hall **[D]** before reaching the Church **[E]** on your left.
6. After marvelling at the church, return to the road turn left and then immediately right down the path opposite. Continue on to cross the bridge over the old railway
7. Immediately after crossing the bridge take the path on the right and follow the well marked track straight on, ignoring paths to left and right, until you reach a road. Around here was "Dead Man's Grave" **[F]**.
8. Cross the road and continue straight on until you reach another road. Turn right and this will lead you back to the car park where you started.

[A] Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Railway (Northern Section)

A late 19th and early 20th century railway, from East Runton to North Walsham, via Cromer, Overstrand, Trimmingham, Mundesley, Paston and Knapton. The Cromer to Mundesley section was closed in 1953, with the other sections closed in 1964. Part of the line is still active. Some parts of the line have been built over, while others sections are still used as roads and paths. Paston and Knapton stations and a number of bridges and embankments survive, as does a viaduct at East Runton. Section of trackbed from near Swafield to Old Hall Street now used as Paston Way footpath. Section of cutting infilled, then still open to just north of Knapton; then ploughed away as far as Mundesley.

[B] Old Hall, Old Hall Street

The original part of this brick and flint house was the southeast range, which is of 16th century date. In the 17th century a new service wing, the northeast range, was added with a dairy and kitchen. A rear wing was added later, and in the 20th century, the house was remodelled in the fashionable Arts and Crafts style, but using a mixture of modern and reused timber. Inside can be found wall panelling, a 17th century staircase in a timber framed stairwell and moulded beams in the dining room. Nearby stands a flint and brick barn of about 1700 with later alterations.

[C] Former Knapton School

The original church school was built in 1837 comprising a single room which has since been converted into the village hall (NHER 55670). A new school was built to the south in 1897 in the Tudoresque style comprising two rooms in a L-plan. The building is constructed from brick with a flat

tile roof and brick ornamentation as seen in the remaining triangular brick pediments above some of the windows.

[D] New Hall (Knapton Hall Hotel)

A distinctive two storey rendered and whitewashed house, now a hotel, of about 1800. The façade has three window bays divided by giant pilasters, the outer bays in the form of two storey bow windows. Inside is an ornate staircase with a balustrade that turns to form a gallery.

Stucco façade with row of finials, two bay windows. Sloping glass canopy at first floor level supported on ironwork. Regency style but could be later in date in this area.

[E] SS Peter and Paul's Church, Knapton

This church is mainly 14th century, with 15th century remodelling and a restoration of 1882. The offset west tower is topped with a weather vane based on a drawing by the Norfolk artist John Sell Cotman. This church has one of the most interesting roofs in Norfolk, if not the country. A carpenter's masterpiece dating to 1504, this double hammerbeam roof is seventy feet long and over thirty feet wide, adorned with 138 carved and painted angels. Also worthy of note are a 13th century raised octagonal font with an inscribed cover of 1704, a partly restored 15th century screen with 16th century gates and a pulpit in 18th century style that actually dates to the 1882 restoration. Early medieval coffin slabs can be seen at the west end, and there is a reader's table made up of bits and pieces of medieval and Jacobean wood.

The 13th century octagonal font with cover dated 1704 bearing Greek palindrome inscription NIYON ANOMHMA MH MONAN OYIN (Wash thou, not only my face, but my transgression).

[F] Dead Man's Grave

At a crossroads, the possible site of a burial. The name probably comes from the old practice of burying suicides, witches and unclaimed bodies at such locations.