

Southrepps Common and Gunton

This walk begins at the fully restored Gunton Railway station. A relatively short four miles this time on footpaths and roads but takes in a nature reserve, heathland, common land and a school in the tudor gothic style. You may see a Llama, a donkey, pregnant sheep, several dragons, their hall, two flamingos and The Yorkshireman. Muddy in places but suitable for all. A chance to buy braised mutton, Reflect from your Shadow and finish with an (optional) drink at the Suffield Arms.

1. From the car park at Gunton Station descend the slipway and turning right to join the road.
2. Turn left at the next junction down the slope, keeping the woods on your right.
3. After about 200yds there is a path indicated through the woodland- take it and follow the path through the woods
4. After a while you will come to a clearing with the ornate Suffield School directly in front of you. Take the path on the left, back into the woods and not the road
5. Crass a minor road, turning slightly left and then taking the well signposted path on the right into the nature reserve.
6. Follow the zig-zag boardwalk across the varied habitats of Suffield Common until you emerge into a green area with houses ahead.
7. Join the road between the houses, turning right and following the track for about 50yads.
8. Take the path on your left that ascends steeply through pine woods.
9. As you come over the create of the hill the path bears left and then follows a fenced path alongside a house and through the grounds of another.
10. Continue on this path until it reaches the hedge where you follow the track to the right, not the footpath to your left.
11. A little way down the track there is a signposted footpath leading gently uphill to your left; take it and follow it up to the road where you turn left.
12. At Wedge Wood you meet a busy B road leading in to Southrepps you turn left on a country lane slightly downhill.
13. This will lead to another road heading down into Southrepps Common past a small pond. Soon after this, turn right to go along Chapel Road.
14. Where Chapel Road becomes Long Lane, turn left, down hill and return to your starting point near the Suffield Arms.

From the car park at Gunton Station descend the slipway and turning right to join the road.

Gunton Station

Gunton Station was originally built in 1876 to serve the Gunton Park estate owned by Lord Suffield, who built the railway from Norwich to Cromer. At the time, the station building served as a reception area for royal guests arriving and departing from Lord Suffield's estate.

It was also rumoured to be a place for liaisons between the Prince of Wales, later to become Edward VII, who was a regular visitor to Gunton Park, and his mistress, actress Little Langtry.

In 1989, the station building was bought by Mr Stanley Hurn, a member of the Railway Heritage Trust, who has converted the building into a private residence. Mr Hurn has spent an estimated £300,000 on restoration work, and has received numerous conservation plaudits for his work, including a National Railway Heritage craft skills Award. A Plaque commemorating this award has been unveiled by chairman of the awards, John Ellis.

Turn left at the next junction down the slope, keeping the woods on your right.

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After a while you will come to a clearing with the ornate Suffield School directly in front of you. Take the path on the left, back into the woods and not the road

Antingham and Southrepps School

The school was built in 1826 and is an example of an ornate gothic/Tudor building. The large, impressive building is constructed from flint and yellow brick with a slate roof. Gothic porch and windows, angle turrets etcetera. Repair work was undertaken in around 1960 exposed a cellar.

Crass a minor road, turning slightly left and then taking the well signposted path on the right into the nature reserve.

Follow the zig-zag boardwalk across the varied habitats of Suffield Common until you emerge into a green area with houses ahead.

Join the road between the houses, turning right and following the track for about 50yads.

Take the path on your left that ascends steeply through pine woods.

As you come over the create of the hill the path bears left and then follows a fenced path alongside a house and through the grounds of another.

Continue on this path until it reaches the hedge where you follow the track to the right, not the footpath to your left.

A little way down the track there is a signposted footpath leading gently uphill to your left; take it and follow it up to the road where you turn left.

At Wedge Wood you meet a busy B road leading in to Southrepps you turn left on a country lane slightly downhill.

This will lead to another road heading down into Southrepps Common past a small pond. Soon after this, turn right to go along Chapel Road.

Barn at Hill House, Pit Street

A threshing barn from the period 1780-1800, constructed of flint cobbles and brick. A pentise was added around 1820.

The barn is aligned north-northwest to east-southeast, and has a hipped roof of red pantiles which descends as a catslide over pentises which cover the eastern two-thirds of the south wall. Flint footings suggest that these may have once continued to the west. The building is constructed of flint cobbles and random bricks. The north wall has a central cart entrance with brick jambs, which is now blocked. The wall has four ventilation slits in the form of capital I's. To the east of the cart entrance is a stone block with a brick surround, inscribed 'N M 1712.' This date seems unlikely, due to the brickwork and overall form and appearance. The west wall has a dentiled cornice, and the east wall has largely been removed by the insertion of a 20th century sliding door. The barn was clearly designed for threshing, and probably dates from the 1780-1800.

Primitive Methodist Chapel

Primitive Methodist Chapel dated 1864. This is a red brick chapel with gault brick dressings. There is a three bay gabled front with rusticated round-arched openings and a lean-to annexe which is alongside.

Where Chapel Road becomes Long Lane, turn left, down hill and return to your starting point near the Suffield Arms.