



Royal
Geographical
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Very flat, Norfolk

A self-guided walk from Sheringham in North Norfolk



Journey back in time to the Ice Age
Discover how a mighty glacier sculpted the landscape
Enjoy 360 degree views from a lookout tower
Enjoy the abstract beauty of a cliff face

www.discoveringbritain.org

the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





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Cover image: Norfolk Coast Path towards Skelding Hil © Daniel Evans

Very flat, Norfolk

Discover the highs and lows of the North Norfolk coast around Sheringham

You'd be forgiven for thinking that the Norfolk landscape is featureless and flat. You'd also be wrong.

This 8 mile circular walk from the seaside town of Sheringham along the coast and inland to the village of Weybourne reveals a bumpy, undulating landscape of cliffs and hills.



This part of North Norfolk was literally shaped by an extreme Ice Age that covered most of Britain in a huge ice sheet. On this walk you will see the evidence for yourself. Like an Ice Age detective discover how hollows in a farmer's field, a bumpy golf course or a jagged cliff can transport us back 500,000 years.



Ramble along coastline and across rich farmland, through woodlands and heath to discover the riches of this tranquil landscape.

Climb a tower with stunning 360 degree views, walk through wildflower meadows, rest and reflect in a quiet churchyard, enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the Poppy Line steam trains completing the picturesque scene.

Top: Cliff exposure at Sheringham beach Bottom: View over Sheringham golf course © Daniel Evans

Practical information

Location	Sheringham, Norfolk, East Anglia
Getting there	<p>Train - Sheringham is served by direct trains from Norwich (one per hour). Heritage steam trains run to Sheringham on the North Norfolk Railway.</p> <p>Bus - Served by local bus routes running from Norwich, either on Sanders Route and/or Konectbus 2.</p> <p>Car - Easily accessible by the A140 and then A149 from Norwich, the A1082 via A1065 and A148 from Thetford and the A148 then the A1082 from West Norfolk. Parking (Pay and Display) is available in the town.</p> <p>Bicycle - The walk is near Sustrans Regional Route 30 (between Lowestoft and Wighton).</p>
Start point	Stone bridge, The Lees gardens, NR26 8LG
Finish point	Promenade, Sheringham town centre
Directions from station to start of the route	From the station carefully cross over into St Peter's Road opposite. At the end bear left past the church and continue into The Boulevard. When you reach the roundabout, keep the war memorial on your left and take the second right into The Esplanade. The bridge will be straight ahead.
Walk distance	8 miles
Need a shorter route?	There is the opportunity to end the walk at Weybourne railway station (between Stop 11 and 12) and take the train back to Sheringham.
Level	Moderate - Some ascents and an arduous stretch over beach pebbles. Note: there are 131 steps up to the Gazebo (Stop 8).
Terrain	Most of the route is on grass and gravel tracks along the coastline. Part of the route is on a paved path and the final section along a pebbled beach.
Conditions	Some of the paths may be muddy after rain and the Gazebo steps may be slippery. The cliff top paths can be blustery, take care and wrap up warm!

Best time to visit

This walk is best in summer when the flora and fauna are in bloom and you might see Sand martins on the cliffs.

Suitable for

Families - The beach is family-friendly with plenty of nearby activities. Do keep a close eye on children along the cliff paths.

Dogs - Must be kept on a lead within Sheringham Park where cattle are grazing.

Refreshments

There are many cafés, pubs and restaurants along the route in Sheringham and Weybourne including:

- Weybourne Train Station Refreshments (Between Stop 11 and 12)
- The Ship Inn (Stop 12)
- Bun Teas Tearooms (Between Stop 12 and 13)

Toilets

Public toilets are available at Station Approach near Sheringham station, the bridge adjacent to The Lees (Stop 1) and at Weybourne railway station (between Stops 11 and 12).

Places to visit

The Fishermen's Heritage Centre and **Peter Coke Shell Gallery** are small museums located near the end of the walk on West Cliff, NR26 8JT. Open daily 12pm to 4pm (apart from Sundays when the Heritage Centre is open 2pm to 4pm) from April to September. Free entry but donations welcome. Tel: 01263 824338

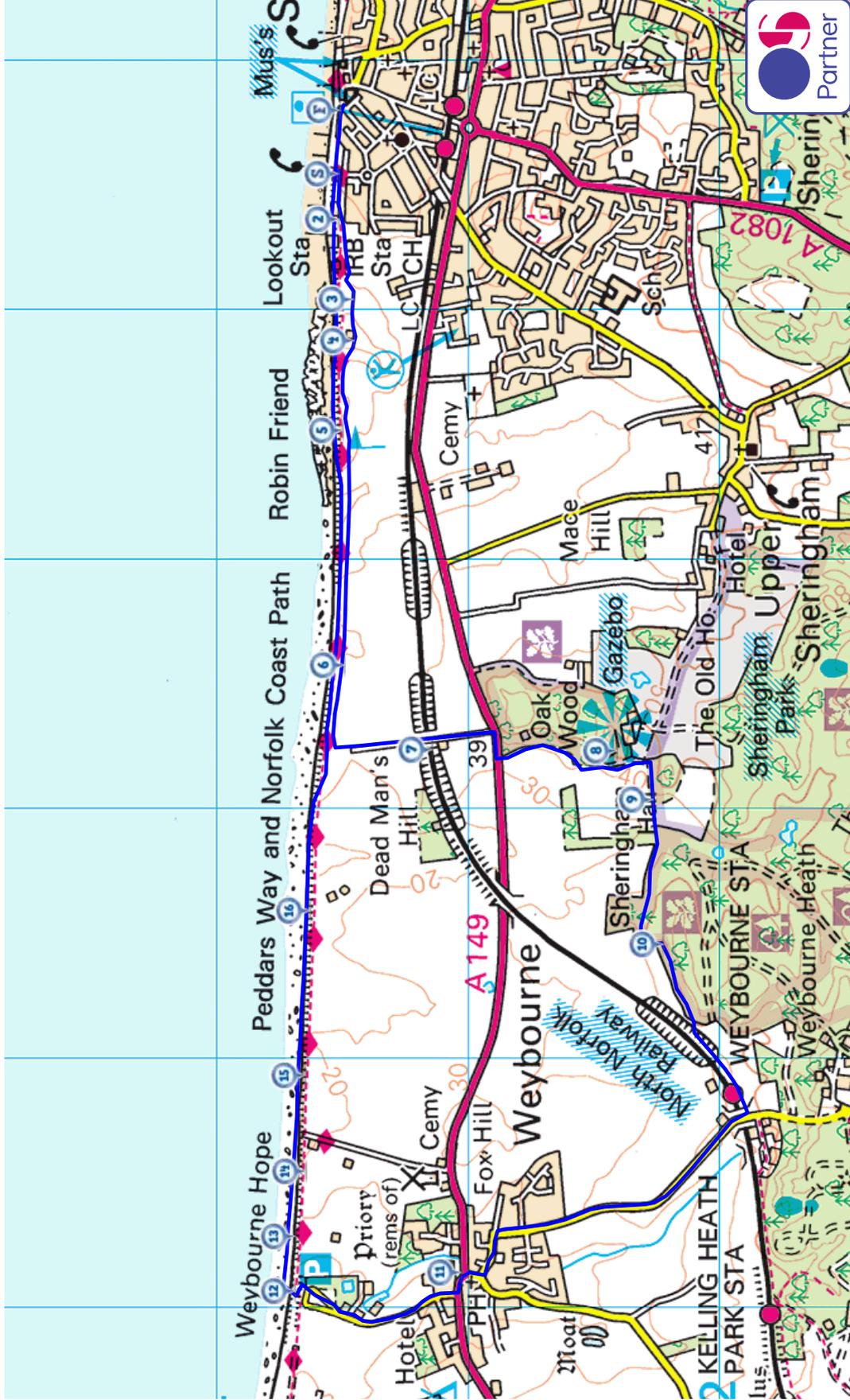
Sheringham Museum (The Mo) is open March to November, 10am to 4:30pm Tuesdays to Saturdays, 12pm to 4pm on Sundays. Open Mondays during the summer. Located at the Lifeboat Plain, NR26 8BG. Tel: 01263 824482 or Email: enquiries@sheringhammuseum.co.uk

The North Norfolk Railway runs a frequent steam heritage service. Open between April and October. For times and ticket prices, Tel: 01263 820800 or Email: enquiries@nnrailway.co.uk

Tourist information

Sheringham Tourist Information Centre is at Station Approach, NR26 8RA. Open between March and early November. Opening hours from 10am, closing times vary throughout the year. Tel: 01263 824329 Email: sheringhaminfo@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Route map



First section of the route



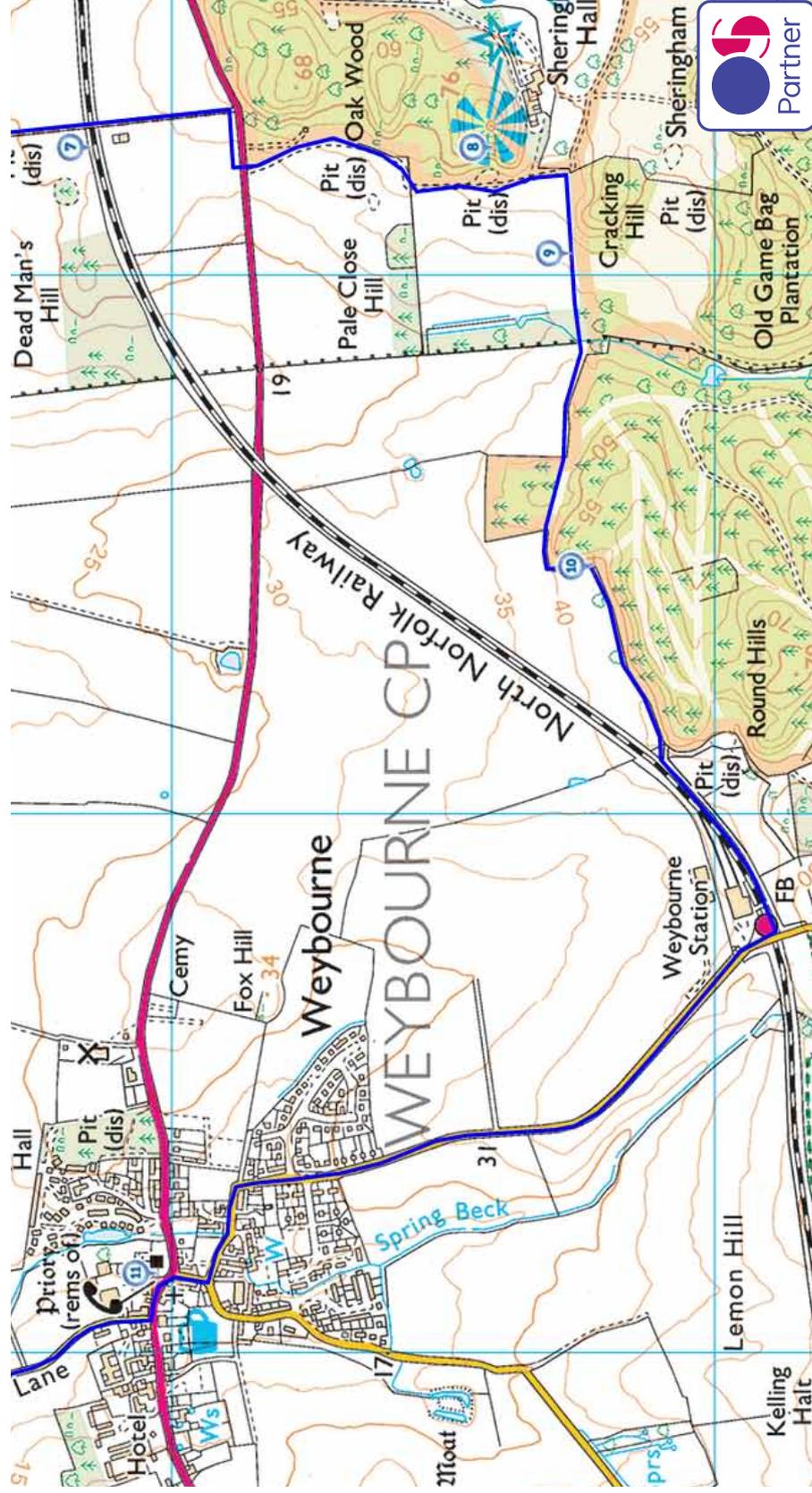
Stopping points

- Start.** Stone bridge, The Lees gardens
- 2.** Norfolk Coast path sign, near boating pond
- 3.** Skelding Hill signpost, Sheringham golf course
- 4.** Coastguard hut, Skelding Hill
- 5.** Exposed cliff face past the Coastguard hut
- 6.** National Trust sign, the Old Hithe

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Finish. The Promenade, Sheringham town centre

Second section of the route



Stopping points

- 7.** Railway bridge
- 8.** Sheringham Park gazebo tower
- 9.** Bench overlooking Sheringham Park
- 10.** Weybourne Heath
- 11.** All Saints Church, Weybourne village

Third section of the route



Stopping points

- 11.** All Saints Church, Weybourne village
- 12.** Shingle beach near Beach Lane car park
- 13.** Cliff base, Weybourne
- 14.** Beach caves between Weybourne and Sheringham
- 15.** Scree between Weybourne and Sheringham
- 16.** Circular holes, cliffs between Weybourne and Sheringham

Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Sheringham

Stone bridge, The Lees gardens

Directions 1

From the bridge go down the steps and continue past a model boating pond on the left. As the concrete promenade shortly turns into a gravel path, stop at the wooden sign to Weybourne on your right. Look down at the shoreline. Listen to Track 2.

2. Back to the Cretaceous

Norfolk Coast Path sign, near the boating pond

Directions 2

Continue along the track with the sea on your right. The track runs alongside the perimeter of the golf course. As this path steadily bears right, look out for an elevated flat platform of turf on your left and a sign reading: 'Number 4 Skelding Hill'; stop here. Listen to Track 3.

3. "Very flat, Norfolk" (Noel Coward)

Skelding Hill signpost, Sheringham golf course

Directions 3

Continue up a relatively steep hill until you arrive at the Coastguard hut. Take a seat at one of the many benches up here. Listen to Track 4.

4. Ice Age margin

Coastguard hut, Skelding Hill

Directions 4

Descend Skelding Hill and continue along the coastal path. Further on, a series of wooden posts separate this path from the golf course. Count 8 wooden posts and stop to look at the exposed cliff face. Listen to Track 5.

5. Ice-age detective

Exposed cliff face past the Coastguard hut

Directions 5

Continue along the coastal path to the very end of the golf course. Stop at a white National Trust sign on your left introducing Sheringham Park. Listen to Track 6.

6. Butterflies and bees

National Trust sign, the Old Hithe

Directions 6

Continue along this path, passing a red arrow marker on your left. Soon, this path will divide into two; take the path to the right and continue following the route along the cliff-top. Eventually, you will approach a T-junction. Turn left onto a narrow path leading up towards a cluster of trees in the distance. Stop on the railway bridge and look over to the right of the train tracks to spot a hollow of trees in the field. Listen to Track 7.

7. Sleepy hollow

Railway bridge, the Old Hithe

Directions 7

Continue over the bridge and along the track towards a large wooden gate. Rather than going through this, bear right down the side of a field, keeping parallel to the road on your left. At the end of this track, carefully cross the road and go through a small wooden gate to enter Sheringham Park.

Follow the path alongside a couple of arable fields, pass a redbrick lookout then stop at a bench on your left, with some steps behind it. There are 131 steps to reach the gazebo viewing tower. Climb the steps to overlook the park then listen to Track 8.



8. Room with a view

Sheringham Park gazebo tower

Directions 8

Descend the gazebo back to the bench and turn left to continue along the path through the park. At the wooden gate signposted to Weybourne station, veer right and stop at the bench on the left below the wood. Listen to Track 9.

9. Parkscape

Bench overlooking Sheringham Park

Directions 9

Continue along the path towards woodland, and eventually through a gate with a sign for Weybourne Heath. Pass a bench on your right and continue through the woods until the path divides into two. Take the path to your right, and follow the track alongside the heathland, until you see a wooden bench on your left overlooking arable fields; stop here and listen to Track 10.

10. Sensing the heath

Weybourne Heath

Directions 10

Walk along an obvious path alongside a steep hill to your left and an arable field to your right. Continue down some steps towards Weybourne station. If the gate is open, make your way to the platform and cross the bridge. Follow the signs towards the exit, cut through the car park, and walk along the road ahead into Weybourne village. (If the platform gate is locked, continue up to Sandy Hill Road and walk across the bridge.)

When you get to the village, continue along the road until you reach a T-junction. Turn right down Church Street to stop at the entrance of the church. Listen to Track 11.

11. Meet the flintstones

All Saints Church, Weybourne village

Directions 11

Walk through the graveyard towards the church porch and then left to exit. Pass the bus shelter on your right and The Ship Inn on your left, before turning right down Beach Lane. Continue down this road, walk through the beach car park towards the shore and scramble up a steep shingle bank. Stop here and listen to Track 12.

12. Where two views meet

Shingle beach near Beach Lane car park

Directions 12

Facing the sea, turn right to walk towards Sheringham along the beach. Walk about 200 metres and stop at a series of small caves that appear at the base of the cliffs. Listen here to Track 12.

13. Layers and swirls

Cliff base, Weybourne

Directions 13

Walk about 10 metres to explore more of the caves along this stretch of coastline. Stop at the next cave you see; it won't be too far away. Listen to Track 14.

14. Green caves

Beach caves between Weybourne and Sheringham

Directions 14

Walk for some distance along the beach. Look out for fan-shaped deposits of materials which have slid down from the cliff on to the beach. Stop when you see them. Listen to Track 15.

15. Landslide!

Scree between Weybourne and Sheringham

Directions 15

Continue along the beach. When the cliffs are at their lowest point and it is possible to step off the beach and back onto the coastal path, walk just past this point and look up to find a series of circular holes in the cliff face. Listen here to Stop 16.

16. Holes and homes

Circular holes, cliff between Weybourne and Sheringham

Directions 16

Step off the beach and up to the coastal path. Walk back up and over Skelding Hill and towards Sheringham town centre. Stop past The Lees gardens when you reach a road called the Promenade. Listen here to Stop 17.

17. Carved by water

Promenade, Sheringham town centre

Directions 17

From the Promenade you can easily return to Sheringham beach or explore the town centre and visit the museums. Turn right at the end of the Promenade to join Sheringham High Street. You can continue onto Station Road and Railway Approach to visit the tourist information centre and the Poppy Line steam railway.

Further information

Sheringham Park

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sheringham-park

Sheringham Museum (The Mo)

www.sheringhammuseum.co.uk

The Sheringham Society (for the Fishermen's Heritage Centre and Peter Coke Shell Gallery)

<http://sheringhamsociety.com>

Weybourne Guide

www.weybourne.net

North Norfolk Railway

www.nnrailway.co.uk

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

Daniel Evans for creating the walk, providing photographs and the audio commentary

Caroline Millar for editing the walk resources and audio files

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Aiwok, Mauricio Antón, Marc Crane, Louise Docker, Mick Lobb, Taco Meeuwsen and Bob Peterson for additional images reproduced under Creative Commons Licenses

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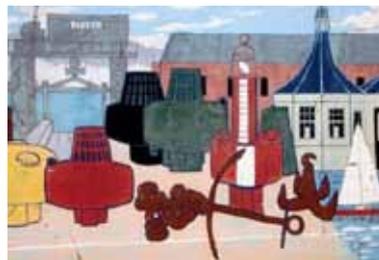
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