

Huff & Puff Trail

An adventurous day out combining 6.5 miles of cycling (mostly on tracks) with a trip on the North Norfolk Railway from Sheringham to Holt. (The distance cycled does not include detour options).

Your fun starts with a cycle ride from Kelling Heath to visit the National Trust's Sheringham Park (and its gazebo viewing tower), the village of Upper Sheringham, and the seaside town of Sheringham... then a train journey from Sheringham Station to Holt Station, before getting back on the bike to visit the Georgian market town of Holt (optional) and returning to Kelling Heath.

Distance: Around 6.5 miles.

Conditions: An easy ride that's mostly downhill or on the flat. The train takes the uphill struggle!

PLEASE TAKE CARE TO LOOK AHEAD FOR OBSTACLES WHEN RIDING ON TRAILS - AND ADVISE THOSE WHO ARE BEHIND YOU

With the cycle hire centre at your back turn right onto the road, then left at the junction. Follow this road to the main entrance to the Kelling Heath Holiday Park. At the road junction **CARE** turn right for a couple of hundred yards.

Go through the gate entrance to Weybourne Forest Lodges, then immediately right through another gate onto the track (marked 'public footpath').

IMPORTANT: If these gates are closed please shut them again once you have passed through. This part of the route is a permissive track kindly made available by the owners of Weybourne Forest Lodges. Please do not stray off this track - and pass any horse-riders or walkers at a **SLOW PACE**. Your co-operation is appreciated and is important to our continued enjoyment of this route.

Stay on the track for a short distance until you reach a parting of the ways where you take the left curve down the hill **CARE ON THIS DOWNHILL SECTION** (especially with child seats or tag cycles) and **NOTE THAT PART WAY DOWN THERE IS A BARRIER ACROSS THIS TRACK** which you will have to negotiate. (This barrier marks the end of the permissive track).

Continue down this track until you reach the bottom of the hill (ignoring any tracks off to your right, even if they are signposted to Sheringham Park).

At the bottom of the hill ignore the wide track to your left and continue straight on for a few hundred yards until you reach a track going off to the right (indicated by red and black arrows on a post, and which turns virtually back on itself). Take this track until you reach another barrier (those with tag cycles attached may need to angle their cycles sideways to pass under - individual cycles will be able to negotiate the gate). Continue on this track, emerging into open countryside.

At this point you are approaching Sheringham Park and the track may be busy with other people, so please ride slowly. When you reach the gate which marks a back entrance to Sheringham Park (a National Trust property that was designed by the famous landscape gardener Humphry Repton)



DETOUR you can turn left for a short detour to visit the gazebo (signed) - a 40-foot tall tower on a 250-foot rise with great views. (If you visit the gazebo lock your cycles on the trail while you walk up the path to the viewing tower. Please do not leave your cycles in the way of other track users and lock them up please).

Return to the park gate and pass through. Continue straight on to where the path becomes tarmac. To your left is Sheringham Hall (this is a private property so please do not approach it).

DETOUR The path rising upwards to your right is the famous Rhododendron Drive (full flower in late May and early June) and at the top is a visitor centre and tearoom (seasonal). It is a steady climb and please be aware that this part of the park is the most popular with people out for a stroll). There is also a cattle grid halfway up this climb.

If you ignore the climb continue straight on along the tarmac path (there is a large pond in the grassland to your left - and ahead on the hill is Thomas Upcher's Temple - and a cattle grid - the whole area is great for a picnic). As you leave the park across another cattle grid you join a quiet lane leading into the village of Upper Sheringham.

At the road junction with the 'Give Way' sign continue straight on but first, if you wish...

DETOUR you can turn right on to the B1157 for a couple of hundred yards to the Dales Hotel - a welcoming (and children-friendly) country hotel in attractive grounds. It is open to non-residents for drinks and snacks. If you are in the mood for a challenge continue along this road for a short but stiff climb **CARE** (when you reach the top you will see the main entrance to Sheringham Park, so this another way to reach the toilets and tearoom).

If you do not visit the Dales Hotel continue straight on. On your right is All Saints Church (and a telephone box) - it's here that you can search the pews for the cat with the kitten. Note the water feature which once supplied the village. The road (Sheringham Road) bends sharply to the left **CARE** and you follow this for one mile into Sheringham (there is a pavement running for much of its length).

DETOUR: if you prefer not to use the direct road into Sheringham and don't mind adding an extra mile to your trip, at the sharp left hand bend go straight across **CARE** into Cranfield Road. After a few yards (opposite Ivy Farm) take the track to your left. Continue on this track (this is a footpath so give way to walkers) until you reach the gate by the main road **CARE**. **CAUTION** - this track has a good surface but at times may be very overgrown!!!!

Cross over the main road **EXTREME CARE** into Beech Avenue (passing the Sherry N Ham public house and a general stores). Follow the road up the short rise to the t-junction, then turn left. Crest the final rise and follow this road downhill (it bears round to the left). Turn left into The Rise (by the post box) and at the end of this road turn right **CARE** to drop downhill (passing the YHA on your right). At the t-junction with the main road **EXTREME CARE** turn left to the roundabout (there is a wide pavement here) - at which point you will see Sheringham Station.

If you do not take the track detour stay on the Sheringham Road, passing Sheringham High School (on your right), until you reach the t-junction with the main coast road.

Cross straight over the main road **EXTREME CARE** into Church Street. Cross the railway bridge and turn right into Station Approach. North Norfolk's Sheringham Station and its friendly platform cafe is on your right. There are public toilets next to the station.



Take time to explore the many attractions of Sheringham which range from pitch and putt to the town museum (call in at the tourist information centre next to the station). Market day is Saturday. For attractive sea views take a very short ride to the area of the boating lake (the biggest in East Anglia). Instead of turning into Station Approach continue straight on, turning left into The Boulevard. At the war memorial roundabout cross straight over. The sea is ahead of you and the boating lake is up to your left.

Return to the station for your train trip to Holt (please do not take cycles through the booking office, but use the gate entrance to the left - near to the public toilets).

HAND IN YOUR CYCLE HIRE TICKET to the booking office staff. Please approach the train guard before loading any cycles (and please ensure two people load tag cycles to avoid damage).

IMPORTANT: Trains are subject to availability (there may be a wait for cycle carrying capacity at busy times, but the trains are frequent).

Leave the train at Holt station (the end of the line). Note the model railway display. At this point you are just a 20-minute gentle ride away from Kelling Heath Holiday Park... so you can choose either to return now, or try the following detour:

DETOUR If you have energy left you can visit to the Georgian market town of Holt (1.5 miles each way). Turn right **CARE** out of the station car park, then next left into Grove Lane, following this road round to the right (the large buildings to your right are part of the private Gresham's School whose famous 'old boys' include the poet WH Auden and the actor Stephen Fry). Continue straight on to the t-junction opposite Gresham's Preparatory School. Turn left **CARE** and follow this road to the next t-junction (opposite Holburn Tyres). Turn right **CARE** into the centre of Holt.

Holt is a delightful place to simply wander around with several good pubs, antiques shops, and Byfords cafe and Jambos cafe (the latter, tucked away in the small shopping precinct leading to Budgens supermarket, offers indoor and outdoor seating - ask the locals for directions).

When you have finished exploring retrace your route to Holt Station.

If you do not wish to visit Holt turn left out of the station car park **CARE** and almost immediately left again into the Old Cromer Road (signposted Kelling Hospital). At the wood-built Post Office and stores (telephone) continue along the cycle path that runs alongside the main road (**CAUTION** if you have young riders make sure they stay well away from the road).

Continue on this path for a couple of hundred yards, taking the first turning on the left **CARE** into Bridge Road. Continue straight along this road, over the railway bridge and up to the cross roads. Turn right. This road can be busy at times, please watch younger riders. Continue along this road past Emcy Garden Centre. After a short distance, on your right you will see a vehicle width track with a public footpath signpost pointing right. Turn right. Keeping right follow this path until you reach the white railway crossing gate next to a cottage. Cross the track taking care and always looking for trains. Please shut the gates on either side as you cross. Continue straight ahead along the track until you reach the bottom of the site. Continue straight on the tarmac road until you reach the village centre.

And give yourselves a pat on the back! Huffed... but hopefully chuffed!!!

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