

National Trust Explorer

A great day out visiting two National Trust properties at Sheringham Park and Felbrigg Hall (both with tearooms), churches, a pub, a country pottery, and an ancient stone cross.

DISTANCE: A circular ride that ranges from 16 to 18 miles.

CONDITIONS: Quiet lanes and a fairly easy riding off-road stretch (with a lanes alternative). One stiff but short climb.

Leave Kelling Heath Holiday Park by its main exit, turning right **CARE** on to the road. Take the next lane on the left (beside the garage) and follow this to the main Holt to Cromer road. Cross straight over **EXTREME CARE** as **visibility here is not good** into The Street.

Continue straight on, passing the Red Hart public house and the village store.

If you wish to visit Sheringham Park turn left at the staggered crossroads, signed Sheringham. Follow this road for about three-quarters of a mile to its junction with the main road. Cross straight over **GREAT CARE** into the grounds of Sheringham Park. Explore the environmentally-friendly visitor centre and tearoom (call 01263 820550 for opening times) and try one of the walks if you wish (the famous Rhododendron Drive is usually in bloom in May and June).

Retrace your route to the staggered crossroads and turn left, signposted Gresham/Bessingham.

If you wish only to visit Felbrigg Hall continue straight on at the staggered crossroads, signposted Gresham/Bessingham.

Continue on, passing The Wheatsheaf public house (well worth a visit - telephone 01263 822110) on your left. At the next turning bear left (with St Helen and All Saints Church on your right), signposted E. Beckham. Follow this lane to the t-junction, turn left **CARE**.

Be ready to turn right at the bottom of this short hill, then right again at the next junction to head into the hamlet of East Beckham. Shortly this lane bears to the right, but you can continue straight on if you wish to a wide and long stretch of off-road track (**OFF-ROAD TIP:** At all times keep as far away as possible from any hedgerows - newly cut hedgerows can mean punctures!).

(NOTE: There is an alternative road route here, or your party can choose to split for a while to meet up again at the end of the track. If you opt for the road continue following the lane to its t-junction in the village of Gresham. Note the church. Turn left, passing the school on your right. You are now on the Norfolk Coast Cycleway which runs for 59 miles from Cromer to King's Lynn. Continue along this road until you reach an ancient stone cross which marks the far end of the earlier off-road track... now follow the original directions below as if you have emerged from the track).

Keep following the off-road track (ignoring all turnings) until you reach another lane. Cross straight over the lane (passing an ancient cross once used for religious gatherings and rumoured to cover a subterranean passage!) to take the lane opposite and continue straight on.

Take the next lane left. Follow this and where the lane bears left at a junction turn right (effectively straight on). Continue until you reach a building on your right which is a gatehouse marking the back entrance to the National Trust's Felbrigg Hall. Pass through the arch and follow the path to the hall and its tearoom (call 01263 837444 for opening times).



After exploring the hall (Felbrigg Church is tucked away in the parkland) retrace your route, turning left at the gatehouse, and continuing straight on at the next junction. (By now you may have noticed Blue 30 signs which mark the Norfolk Coast Cycleway). As you return to the next t-junction cross straight over on to the grassy track (a Public Bridleway).

Follow this track to its end (and as you pass through Common Farm keep an eye out for the distinctive pottery shop of A&J Young). At the road turn right.

Follow this road to the village of Gresham, and turn left at the junction to rejoin the Norfolk Coast Cycleway. Continue following this road for some way, ignoring all turnings off (it features a reasonably stiff climb out of Gresham).

After the top of the climb continue past the staggered crossroads (signposted Sheringham and Matlaske) to take the next narrow lane on the left at the end of the hedgerow (hidden in the trees here is Beckham Palace, a ruin and a former workhouse).

At the next junction continue straight on signposted Bodham. Ignore all turnings off to pass a church that eventually you will see ahead of you. Continue on, following the signs for Holt and Kelling.

Eventually you will arrive at the main Holt to Cromer road. Cross straight over **GREAT CARE** into Bridge Road Road. 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.

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