

# Swanton Morley (Carrick Estate)



[www.norfolktrails.co.uk](http://www.norfolktrails.co.uk)



Start point	Park Farm (Hunter's Hall) Grid reference TG028166 • Postcode NR20 4JU
Parking	Free – large gravelled parking area at Hunter's Hall
Distance	3.25 miles
Details	Minor gradients, 80% soft 

## Walk instructions

### Shorter option...

You can shorten this walk to **1.4 miles** although unfortunately it doesn't take in the stunning river views. At instruction #2 below, turn right on to Elsing Road instead of crossing it and walk for just under half a mile. After crossing a small bridge, turn right through a gate in to a field where there is a permissive access signboard showing your position. Walk straight on for a little under 100 yards and then pick up instruction #7 below.

1. Starting at Park Farm (Hunter's Hall), walk north along the drive towards Elsing Road.
2. Cross Elsing road and continue along the lane to Castle Farm. As you approach Castle farm, turn right through a large gap in the hedge to the field. There is a Natural England permissive access sign here which shows the line of the permissive path. Walk to the far left hand corner of the field to a gate.
3. Go through the gate and walk straight on, crossing a track and then a drain before approaching the River Wensum. You will see a permissive access board in front of you. Turn right following the path along the river bank.
4. Continue along the path which follows the course of the river for just over a mile. You will pass through several gates en route.

5. You will come to a point where Penny Spot Beck meets the River Wensum. There is a pumping station here. Turn right around the sluice gate and go through a gate to your left. Follow Penny Spot Beck which will be on your left, for just over half a mile, through the Penny Spot Plantation and back to Elsing Road. You will pass through another gate as you approach the road.
6. Cross the road and go through the gate (there is a permissive access sign board by the gate showing your position). Walk straight on for a little under 100 yards.
7. Go through the gap in the hedge and turn right following the course of the drain. Continue following the drain through the next field and at the end of this field, turn left following the field edge.
8. Go through a gate and turn right, again following the field edge. Turn right on to the track and follow this back to Park Farm. Walk round the left of the farm back to the car park at the front of the buildings.

You can also start this walk from All Saints Church, North of the village. Follow way marking to join the circular route. **Note this adds about 2 miles total to the walk, if returning to the church.**



# Swanton Morley (Carrick Estate)

A stunning and invigorating walk with spectacular views as you follow the course of the River Wensum through a traditional Norfolk farming landscape.



• Kingfisher  
Photograph by John Harding

## Look out for...

- White Park cattle grazing from May to October
- Small white butterflies during July and August in hedgerows and wildflower meadows
- Swans, Canadian geese, ducks, tufted ducks and kingfishers on and around the River Wensum
- Deer and pheasant in marshy land around the river
- Lapwings over the farmland
- Barn owls and herons



## Key

- Walk
  - Short cut
  - Parking
  - Church
- 0 1/2 km  
1/4 mile

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# Swanton Morley (Carrick Estate)

## The Carrick Farm ▼

The 720 acre Carrick Estate comprises of two farms, Castle Farm situated by the River Wensum and Park Farm (pictured below) as well as a number of diversifications such as Hunter's Hall, Carrick's Guesthouse, a secluded 8 acre caravan and campsite, Carrick Farm Butchers and Darby's Freehouse.



Both the farms were once part of the 7500 acre Bylaugh estate which was sold in 1919. Castle farm was bought by the Carrick family in 1929 and was probably named after an earlier moated house positioned in the bend of the river. Park farm was added in 1946 bringing the estate to its 720 acres.

The farm produces combinable crops such as wheat, barley, oilseed rape and beans on 400 acres of the arable land and a 100-strong suckler herd, including a small pedigree herd of rare White Park cattle which graze the low-lying meadowland. The White Park cattle are of ancient lineage, dating back more than two thousand years

The farm has entered into a Higher Level Stewardship scheme funded by DEFRA and administered by Natural England which helps protect the environment and enhances biodiversity, encouraging wildlife to stay and thrive on the farm. Examples include planting grass and wildflower margins around fields, managing water levels and leaving areas exclusively for wildlife conservation. Wild bird seed plots for farmland birds as well as lapwing plots and hedgerow establishment are also methods of biodiversity enhancement. Natural England monitor the scheme and environmental benefits.



A network of permissive paths has also been created to give walkers access to the estate enabling them to experience both the diversity of the farmland and the beauty of the Wensum Valley.

Visit the website and follow the links for more information about the Carrick Estate: [www.carricksatcastlefarm.co.uk](http://www.carricksatcastlefarm.co.uk)

## Deer Park at Swanton Morley

This walk crosses an old deer park. There were over 60 medieval deer parks in Norfolk, their existence often indicated by Park or Lodge Farms, or field names such Old Park Piece or The Lounds. Two parks are known to have existed in Swanton Morley – first recorded in the early fourteenth century.

In 1395 William Curson, with other evildoers broke the park at Swanton, and hunted in park and warren without leave, taking deer, hares, coneys, pheasants and partridges.

## Hunter's Hall

Hunters Hall is an exclusive Norfolk barn wedding venue and farmhouse bed and breakfast. Visit the website for more information: [www.huntershall.com](http://www.huntershall.com)