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Waveney Valley Walks – Carlton Marshes

Carlton Marshes lies at the southern tip of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads and comprises over 100 acres of grazing marsh, fens and peat pools. It is the Broads in miniature.

Flower studded marshes drained by a system of dykes and grazed by cattle in summer, create a paradise for wintering wading birds and birds of prey including the hobby. Water vole may be seen in and around the dykes along with special plants including the rare and protected water soldier. In early summer wet fen meadows around Sprat's Water are bursting with ragged-robin, southern marsh orchid, lesser and greater spearwort and bogbean. Both Sprat's and Round Water are the result of peat digging carried out long ago.

Carlton Marshes is one of the best places in the UK for a range of freshwater snails which reflects the good water quality in the dykes. The reed and sedge beds along the river wall make ideal nesting cover for reed and sedge warblers, bearded tit, Cetti's warbler and marsh harrier. An astounding 15 kinds of dragonfly have been spotted here including the rare Norfolk hawk.

The walk starts from the Visitor Centre across the marshes to the River Waveney and returning along the Angles Way. The management of the Marsh is the responsibility of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who also organise a series of events during the year.

It is also possible to walk into Oulton Broad from the same starting point.



WALKING ROUTE INFORMATION

Car park	Suffolk Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre
Train	Oulton Broad Station
Starting point	Visitor centre car park
Length of walk	3 miles
Type of walk	Easy – family friendly
Terrain	Marshland, tracks and footpaths.
Refreshment stops on walks	None



- 1 The walk starts from the Visitor Centre car park. With the Visitor Centre at your back, head towards the Marsh. Immediately after passing through the gate turn left and cross the stile to follow the gravel footpath. After 300m through gate and then cross stile onto path bordered by reeds on left and woodland on right. Sprat's Water is on your left. Keep following footpath until reaching a junction of footpaths.
- 2 Turn a sharp right and continue to follow the track for approximately 1 mile on the way to the banks of the River Waveney.
- 3 When reaching the river bank turn right and continue for approx 400m to reach steps down on the right.
- 4 Turn right down steps and follow signs for Angles Way. After 800m you will reach stile on the right. Cross the stile and turn immediately left and head through the gates ahead. Continue on the track which will eventually return you to the visitor centre.

● FURTHER INFORMATION

Oulton Broad Trail – 1.5 miles

In addition to the Carlton Marsh walk you can also walk to Oulton Broad from the same car park. With your back to the Visitor Centre take the footpath on your right. Keep following this footpath over several stiles, through the Broadland Holiday Village until eventually reaching Oulton Broad railway station on your right. Keep bearing left into Bridge Street. Opposite the Lady and Lake Public House turn left into Oulton Broad park with a number of visitor facilities. Retrace route back to car park.

