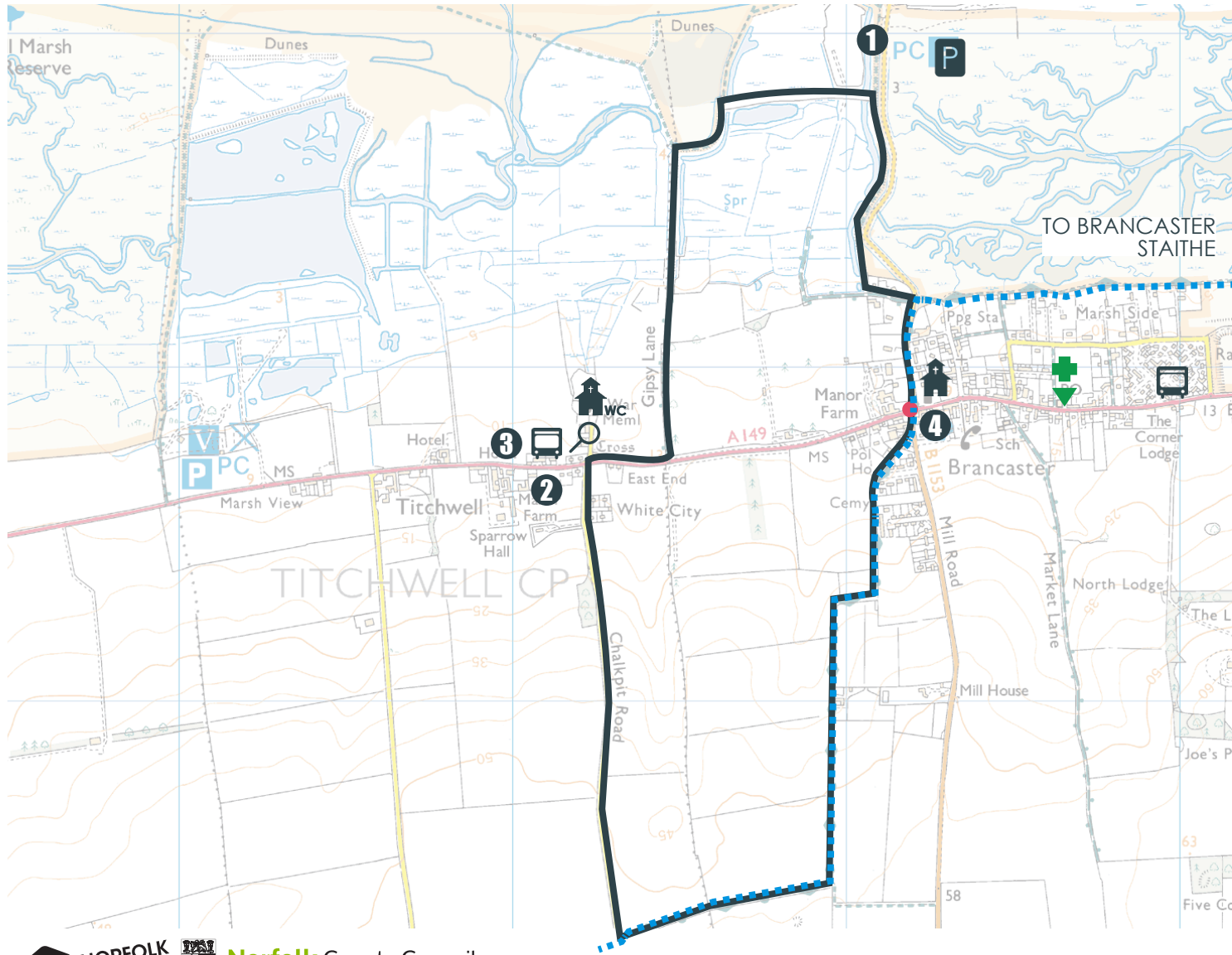


BRANCASTER

4.5 miles / 7.25 km



- Defibrillator (AED) map location.
- Business location.
- Route link.
- Route.
- Start point.
- Bus Stop
- Parking
- Church with toilet facilities
- Point of heritage interest
- Brancaster Beach Kiosk
- Titchwell Manor
- Briarfields Hotel
- The Ship Hotel
- Peddars Way & Norfolk Coast Path

Business open times may vary.
Please check with venue if you look to use their facilities & services.

Modern Brancaster is a sleepy coastal village, albeit one with a vibrant sailing scene. This circular walk offers a rich and varied past for the heritage explorer to delve into. Why not finish the walk at one of the local pubs, which have a history all of their own?

When the numerous ports of north-west Norfolk's coast were still busy with trading ships, smuggling and piracy were also commonplace. Shipwrecks provided coastal communities with unexpected, and often irresistible, opportunities to obtain valuable goods.

In September 1833 such an opportunity arose at Brancaster. The packet ship *Earl of Wemyss*, en-route from London to Edinburgh, became stranded on a sandbank during a storm. The male passengers and crew got ashore and were accommodated at the Ship Hotel, but eleven passengers were left behind, the women and children told by the crew to stay in their cabin. As they waited for rescue though, the waves crashed in through an open skylight and tragically they all drowned.

The Lord of the Manor sent his son-in-law, Joseph Newman Reeve, to supervise salvage efforts. When the bodies of the deceased were laid out in St. Mary's Church they had already been searched and their clothes and valuables removed. On 26 March 1834, Newman Reeve went on trial in Norwich charged with stealing the property of the deceased, but he was eventually found 'not guilty' of the crime.

Two of the victims, Miss Susanna Roche and four-year-old Alexander Roche, share a grave in the churchyard of St. Mary's in Brancaster. The worn inscription on their headstone laments that 'their persons were stripped of every valuable and their property plundered'. The grave of Joseph Newman Reeve is just a short distance away.

St. Mary's Church also displays the only service board of the Brancaster lifeboats, which operated between 1874 and 1935. The first chairman of their committee was the son of Joseph Newman Reeve.

The Brancaster Circular Walk passes the Ship Hotel and St. Mary's Church. It continues toward the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club, built near the site of the old lifeboat house. Returning inland, it passes the round-towered church of St. Mary's at Titchwell, and the medieval village cross. Titchwell chalk pit is also accessible from the trail. Once used as a dump, it has now been transformed into a mini nature reserve.



Getting Started

The route's starting point is on Mill Road opposite St. Mary's Church, Brancaster (TF771438).

Getting There

There are bus stops near the route's starting point served by Lynx Coastliner service 36.

Limited car parking along A149 Main Road. Parking at Brancaster Beach Car Park, Broad Lane, PE31 8AX. Car parking fees may apply. Please check Brancaster tide times: high tides can flood the road leading to the car park.

.....

FEEDBACK FORM

How many people are in your party? (including yourself) Please write in number

Male Under 18 18-35 36-60 Over 60

Female Under 18 18-35 36-60 Over 60

Are you: Walking Dog Walking Cycling Other

Which ONE of the following BEST describes your visit to this Trail?

SHORT visit (less than 1 hour) PART-day visit (1-4 hours)

FULL-day visit (5 or more hours) LONG DISTANCE trip (more than 1 day)

Where is your permanent residence? (This is just to help us monitor where visitors come from)

Did you use a website to find out information about the route before your visit to this Trail? YES NO **if YES which website?**

During your visit to this Trail, approximately how much have you spent on the following, per person, per day and where? Please write in £

Accommodation [£] Food and drink [£]

Where:..... Where:.....

Is this your first visit to this Trail? YES NO

Returned forms can be posted to Norfolk Trails, Floor 6, County Hall, NR1 2DH