

4.5 miles / 7.25 km



Norfolk County Council

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Direction of nearest defibrillator (AED) off map.



Direction of business location off map.



Route.



Start point.



Parking



Heritage point of interest



Interpretation panel



Houghton Hall & Gardens Norfolk



Peddars Way & Norfolk Coast Path



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

Circling one of Norfolk's most important Bronze Age landscapes, this route is a wonderful chance to get off the beaten track and sample high culture in the same day. Houghton Hall offers an array of outdoor sculpture in its gorgeous gardens as well as indoor art exhibitions.

Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister, began the construction of Houghton Hall in 1722. He considered that the existing village was too close to the new building, so he had the entire village moved. Today the new village of Houghton consists of two rows of white cottages that line The Street on the approach to the south gate, and some of the residents still work on the estate.

Walpole built the Hall to impress, and to augment his status with no expense spared. The mansion's grand Aislaby Stone cladding, for example, was quarried in Yorkshire and shipped all the way to Norfolk. Today Houghton Hall is known as one of the finest Palladian houses in England. Walpole, however, was not the first to have an impact on the look of the local landscape.

The estate and countryside surrounding Houghton Hall is peppered with prehistoric earthworks; these Bronze Age burial mounds date back 3300 to 3500 years. Many are not immediately obvious and their sheer abundance only becomes clear when identified on maps. Some appear simply as islands of scrubby woodland, isolated in the middle of fields. Others, however, stand proud of the surrounding ground, presenting themselves as obviously man-made monuments. The area is regarded as one of the most significant Bronze Age landscape sites in Norfolk.

Traditional hedgerows still define the fields surrounding the estate. They are interrupted by numerous oak trees that grow along them at regular intervals. Much of the woodland on the estate itself, however, cannot be referred to as ancient. A notice in one records that it was planted 1964, and is populated by a mix of fast-growing conifers and sycamore as well as some oaks younger than those found elsewhere on the estate.

The farms and estate have provided jobs for generations of locals. A memorial plaque outside the south gate of Houghton Hall is dedicated to the lives of three servicemen from the village who died in the First World War: gamekeeper Arthur Snell, Herbert Ramm and Reginald Callaby who had both worked as farm labourers before they went abroad to fight for their country.

Houghton Hall Circular Walk takes a route from the south gate, out along hedge-lined paths, through agricultural land via Peddars Way - itself an ancient feature of the landscape - and alongside several well-preserved Bronze Age burial mounds, before returning through mixed woodland and parkland.



Getting Started
The route's starting point is on the Peddars Way (TF757285).

Getting There
There is no bus service through Houghton. The nearest bus stop is in West Rudham's Lynn Road stop served by Lynx service 49 – approximately 2.4 miles from the route.
Limited off-road parking in the area.
Houghton Hall is open spring until autumn each year. Car parking at the hall is available only during this time.

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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