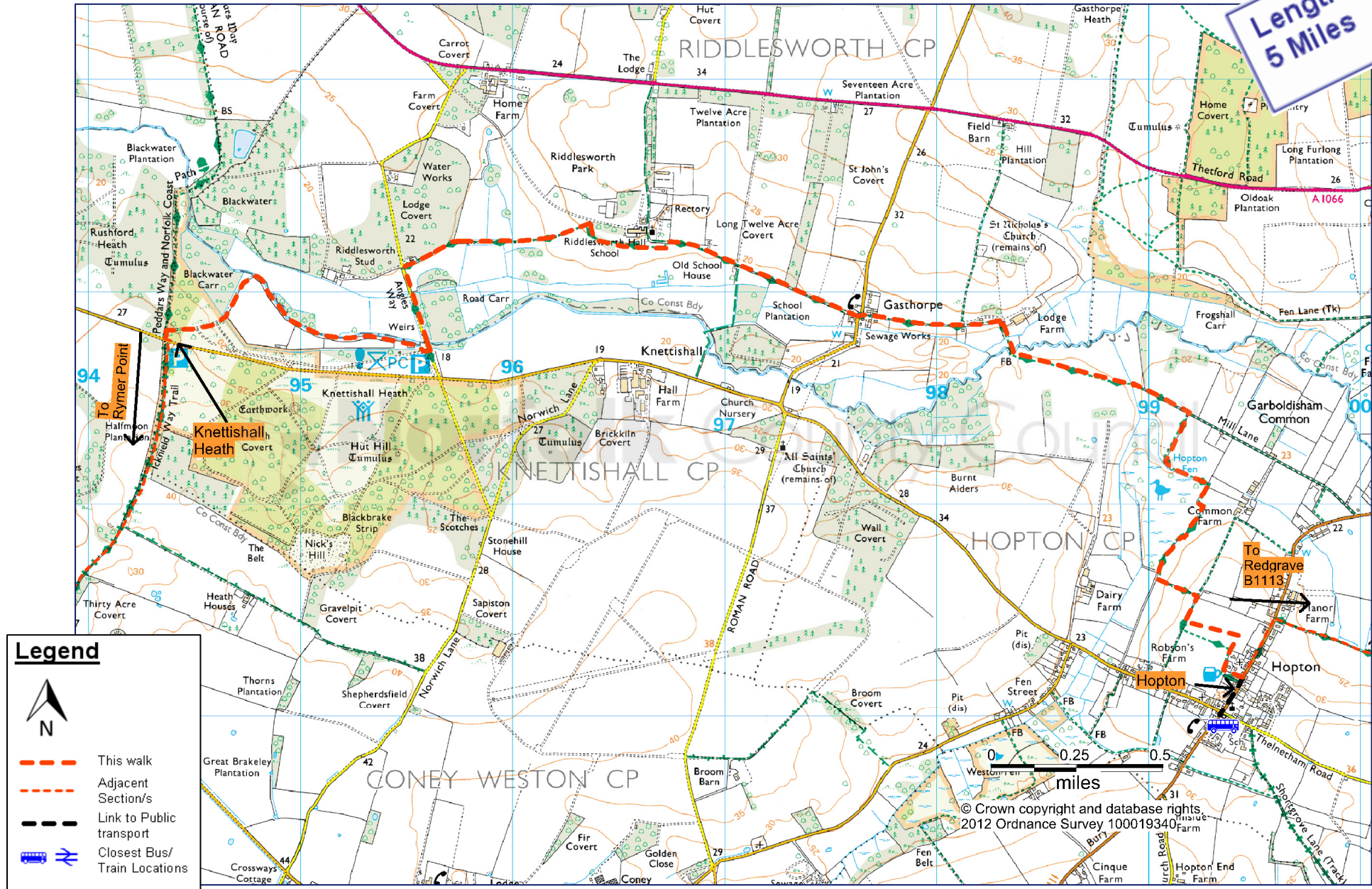


# S16

## Angles Way Short Section 16 (of 18) Hopton to Knettishall Heath

Length:  
5 Miles



## Along the way

Between Hopton and Knettishall Heath Angles Way passes Riddlesworth Hall. The first building on the site burnt down in 1589 and was rebuilt as a manor house. This was demolished in 1789, only to be burnt down again in 1899. The current hall dating from 1900 is now used as a school.

The historic parkland was laid out around the hall in 1792, although reduced in size by 1840 by which time it had extensive woodland. The river to the south had been widened to form a long thin boating lake. Since World War Two most of the park has reverted to agriculture with clumps of trees reduced and the lake drained, although some exotic trees remain. The kitchen gardens, some distance from the hall, are now used as a play area and to house school buildings.

The open landscape of Knettishall Heath was created about four thousand years ago when our Bronze Age ancestors cleared the forest for cultivation and grazing livestock. Since then the land has been used for sheep and rabbit grazing.

In 1950 there would have been virtually no woodland. When myxomatosis virtually wiped out the rabbit population in 1953 and following the decline of sheep grazing in the 1960s, tree seedlings invaded the open heathland and developed into the mature woodland you walk through. The grassland is now managed by grazing Exmoor ponies, Black sheep and Jersey cattle.

## Walk summary

Ramble along this 5 mile section of Angles Way between Hopton and Knettishall Heath through the undulating countryside above the Little Ouse River.

## Getting started

This section is between Hopton Post Office, High Street. Hopton, (TL994791) and Knettishall Heath (TL943807) Thetford Road, the junction of three long distance paths; Angles Way, Peddars Way and the Icknield Way.

## Getting there

**Bus services** Simonds 338 service (for Hopton)

**Bus stops** Hopton Post Office, High Street, Hopton,

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33.

[www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk)

For Knettishall Heath, use the Suffolk Link Brecks dial-a-ride service between Knettishall Heath and Thetford bus or train station. Telephone 01638 664304 to book your journey up to a week in advance.

## Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map Diss and Harleston 230 available from Ordnance Survey shop [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite)

## Facilities

### Pub at Hopton

Parking and toilets at Knettishall Heath