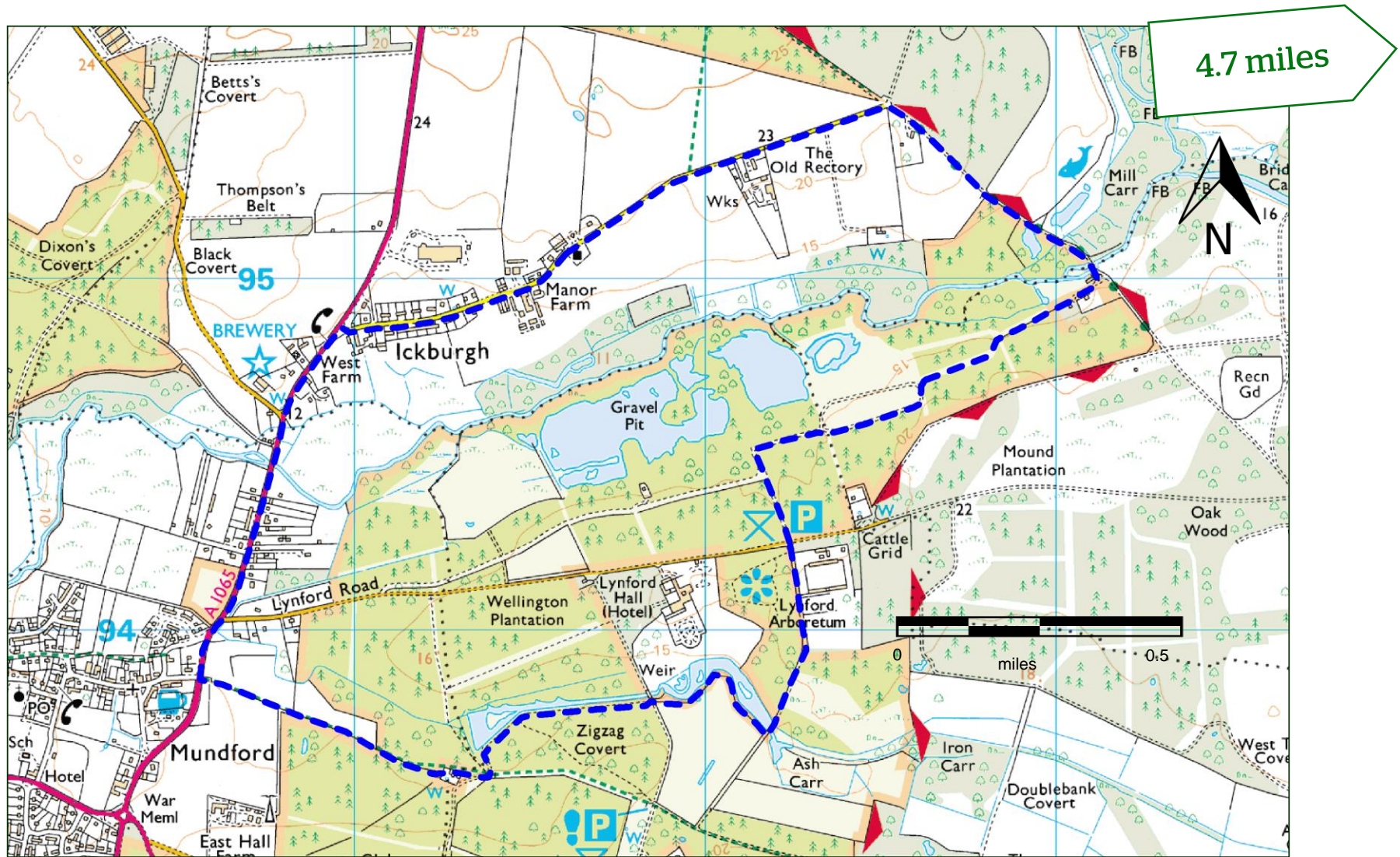


Circular Walk

The Great Estates Trail, Lynford



Along the way

After the First World War, three fine estates: Buckenham Tofts Hall, Didlington Hall and Lynford Hall fell into decline with the Forestry Commission acquiring and afforesting much of the land and the remainder included within the MoD's Stanford Training Area.

Lynford Water, former gravel pits, is now an important refuge for wildlife. During gravel extraction the remains of woolly mammoths and other animals alongside Paleolithic tools were found confirming its importance as a Neanderthal hunting ground, dating back c.65,000 years.

The splendid flint church of St Peter at Ickburgh dates from the 14th century and the stained glass depicting agricultural subjects is to be admired. Opposite the church is a charming row of almshouses dating from 1887. Heading east from Mundford you will see fine views of Lynford Hall Hotel (several BBC TV shows were filmed on location at Lynford including wartime favourites 'Allo 'Allo and Dad's Army), before passing through the diverse tree collection of Lynford Arboretum, which is definitely worth returning to enjoy at any time of year.

Please Note: The land to the east of Ickburgh forms part of Stanford Military Training Area. Due to the risks associated with live firing and the presence of legacy munitions on site, public access to Stanford Military Training Area is strictly prohibited. Warning signs are in place to highlight the boundary of the ranges.

Walk summary

This varied trail crosses land once owned by three of the finest estates in East Anglia, namely Buckenham Tofts Hall, Didlington Hall and Lynford Hall.

Getting started: This trail starts at Lynford Arboretum car park (TL8226 9427). Alternatively you can join the walk at Mundford (TL8056 9385).

Getting there: Coach Services Nos 12 and 40 operate in the area stopping at Mundford. Parking is free at the start point.

Maps and guides: Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 229, Thetford Forest in The Brecks.

What to expect: Unsurfaced paths, forest tracks, with some surfaced roads and pavements. Two stiles are located on the route at Mundford.

Facilities: Mundford has good facilities with shops, a post office and a pub (The Crown).