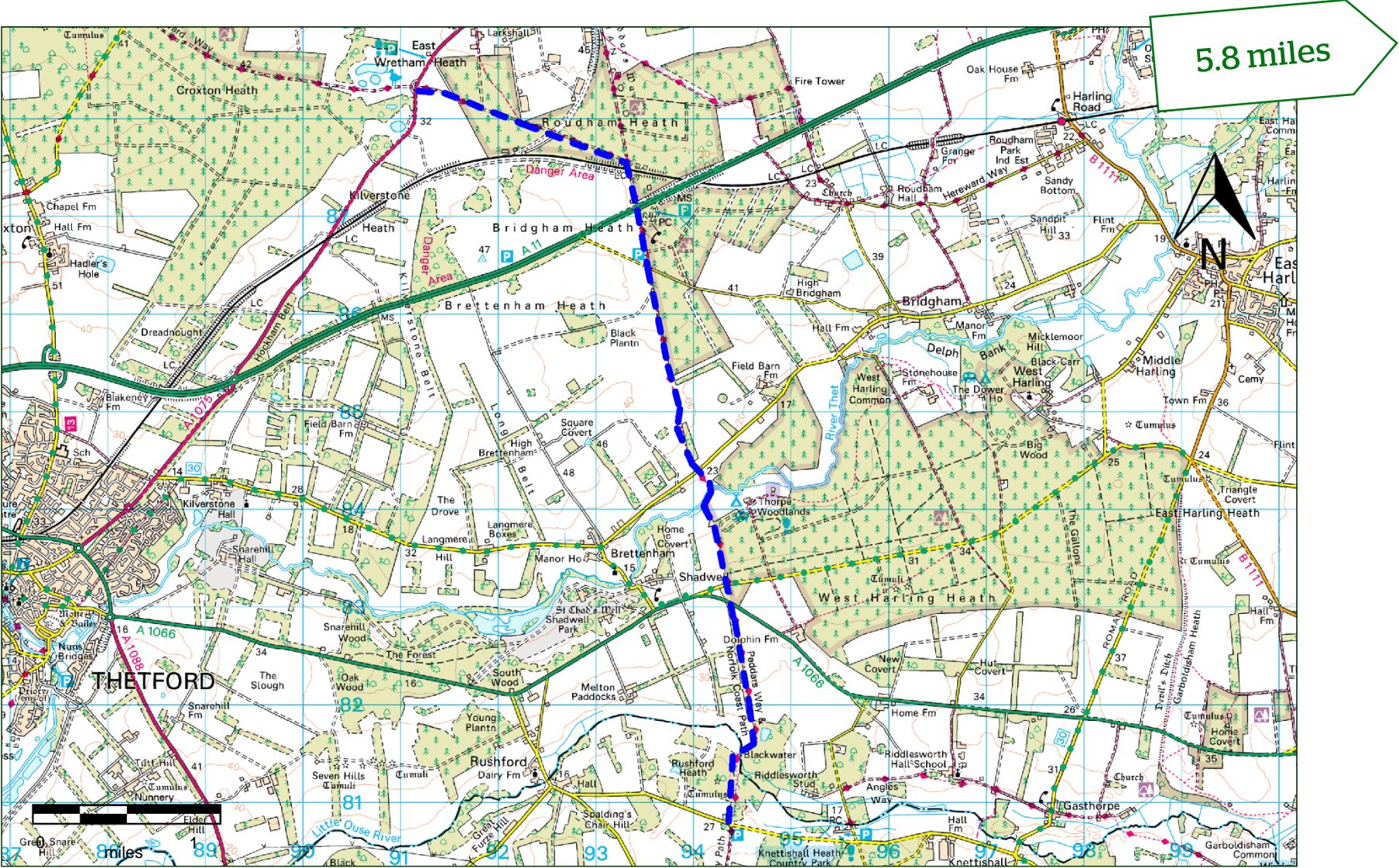


Linear Walk

The Heathland Trail, Knettishall



Along the way

Lowland heath is essentially a man-made landscape created by woodland clearance and the grazing of livestock. A large percentage was lost to forestry and agriculture but fragments survive today and are protected for their wildlife interest.

From Knettishall Heath the trail crosses the Little Ouse and heads north to the valley of the River Thet. The section adjacent to the River Thet is particularly special with the raised boardwalk offering a perfect vantage point to watch damselflies and dragonflies darting to and fro.

Leaving the Peddars Way at Shadwell Crossing the trail runs adjacent to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserve of East Wretham Heath, home to a variety of scarce and specialised heathland wildlife. Once an important Second World War airfield, stop to imagine this area bristling with military activity, as planes carried out their regular bombing missions to Germany.

Walk summary

The majority of this linear trail follows the ancient Peddars Way Roman road and explores various aspects of the heathland landscape.

Getting started: This linear trail starts at the car park south of Rushford Road (TL9437 8076) or from the A1075 layby adjacent to East Wretham Heath (TL9114 8830).

Getting there: Free parking is available at the start points with additional parking at Knettishall Heath (charges/donations may apply).

Maps and guides: Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 229, Thetford Forest in The Brecks and Explorer Map 230, Diss and Harleston.

What to expect: Forest tracks, boardwalk and unsurfaced footpaths.

THIS ROUTE CROSSES BUSY A-ROADS INCLUDING THE A11 TRUNK ROAD. PLEASE TAKE CARE ON ALL ROAD CROSSINGS.

Facilities: A shop, café and toilets are available at Forest Retreat in Thorpe Woodlands (signed from the Peddars Way). There are toilets at Knettishall Heath, plus an outdoor tap to replenish your water bottle on a hot day.