Waveney Ramblers    Beccles 11    Wade Hall

OS Map: X 231, OL 40      Track: **TM 46119 89343**      GPX for SatNav      5 or 3.5 Miles      Updated: 2018

Park on the old road outside Saint Boltoph's, North Cove next to the Three Horseshoes.

The bus from Norwich and Beccles to Lowestoft, Service X2, passes the starting point at The Three Horseshoes.

From the pub, walk east past the thatched church (which has some medieval wall paintings).
Keep to the shared foot and cycle path all the way to North Cove village.
Continue east on The Street. Go past a post box and a telephone box.
Turn left down Mill Lane a few yards before the Methodist Church and head north.
After 300 metres turn left onto a footpath between two cottages and head NW.
The path bends right and leads to two fields.
Head north keeping the hedge on your left. This path leads towards the moated Wade Hall (on the right).
After the second field, rejoin the tarmac and head briefly north, then west and then north again crossing the railway.
Just before the railway crossing there is a small car park serving the nature reserve.
This leg is often muddy.
Note the turning left into the nature reserve. This is worth a visit. There are hides for bird watchers.
Our track heads roughly north towards the river through woods and later fields.
Before the river, the path kinks left and right through gates and then up onto the raised river bank.
Turn left and follow the river heading west towards Beccles.
After 450 metres, at Cove Staithe, there is a vehicle track used by fishermen.
This is the shorter 3.5 mile route heading south, back to the village.
This becomes a lane and joins the road where a signpost points the way back to North Cove.

The longer route continues west along the river bank for another mile.
Turn off by a small mooring staithe onto a straight hedgeless track heading SW.
Cross the railway into Marsh Lane and continue SW.
The lane bends south and later SE.
Just before the roundabout turn left into the old Lowestoft Road, avoiding the busy new road.
Head SE along the old Lowestoft Road for about three quarters of a mile back to the starting point.

It's possible to extend this walk to six miles, all the way to Beccles via the river bank.
Catch the X2 bus back. There is a bus stop close to Beccles Quay where Fen Lane meets Ravensmere.
Or reverse the route and catch the bus to Beccles.

A similar extended walk east, is possible, using the bus to the Carlton Crown.
Head back to the riverside walk via the golf course.

The Three Horseshoes is ideally placed for refreshments and meals.
The Barnby Swan is about a mile to the east of the starting point.