



walk 4: Rush Meadow and Quebec wood – 7 miles, allow 3 hours

The walk can be shortened to 3, 5 or 6¼ miles (1¼, 2 or 2½ hours)



Before starting this walk, please read the general leaflet

1 From the town centre, go past the market area (used for short term car parking on non market days), keeping the cinema on your right, and turn right down Church Street. Just before *St Nicholas' Church*, go left to pass *Bishop Bonner's Cottage*, then right down Washbridge.

2 At the bottom of Washbridge, cross the stream and immediately turn right off the cycle and pedestrian path to follow a narrow path (**Scarning Footpath 6**) alongside a ditch. Where this emerges on to Church Farm Lane, turn right and follow it to and across Dereham Road into Rushmeadow Road. Follow this road for ½ mile, turning right (shortly before reaching a left turn) on to a minor road.

3 This road is also **Scarning Footpath 9**: follow it to the sewage works (not as bad as it sounds, and worth it to get to Rush Meadow!). Take **Footpath 34** which runs next to the stream to the left of the works, then



across Rush Meadow. After ¼ mile, go through a gate, across a bridge and on to a boardwalk. After the end of the boardwalk, the path meanders through the woods to meet **Footpath 18** at a junction of paths: bear left rather than right and follow it up to Sandy Lane. *To shorten the walk, turn right to return to the town.*

4 Turn left down Sandy Lane, part of the Dereham link to the **Wensum Way** (a Norfolk Trail), to reach Gressenhall Road. *A right turn here will bring you near to point 7 as a short cut.* Turn left on Gressenhall Road (note the pink waymarks used here to identify the **Wensum Way**) and follow this for almost ¾ mile, passing Dillington Hall then 5 Dillington Cottages. **! Take care along Gressenhall Road - it is bendy and narrow.**

5 As the road swings left, bear right on to **Footpath 19** - it is called *Mill Lane* though it carries no name sign - which starts as the track leading to Drift Farm, then turns right to climb to a meeting with **Footpath 20** and Hoe Footpath 6. *A left turn here would take you further along Footpath 19, which crosses the parish boundary to become Hoe Footpath 1, finally emerging on to Fakenham Road (opposite a small car park giving access*



*to Norfolk Wildlife Trust's **Hoe Rough**). Continuing ahead would take you along Hoe Footpath 6 to Holt Road and ultimately to Hoe and Swanton Morley. Both of these paths are part of the **Wensum Way**.*

6 Take Footpath 20, the track on the right, forming part of the Dereham link to the **Wensum Way**. At the edge of the woodland there is a choice. (1) Turn left to reach the road, and cross **! with care** to **Bridleway 21**. (2) Go through the woodland, then turn left to cross the main road **! with care** and walk left for 100 yards to reach **Bridleway 21** on your right. *The walk can also be shortened here by going down Quebec Road into the town (or follow the **Wensum Way** signs for an alternative route).*

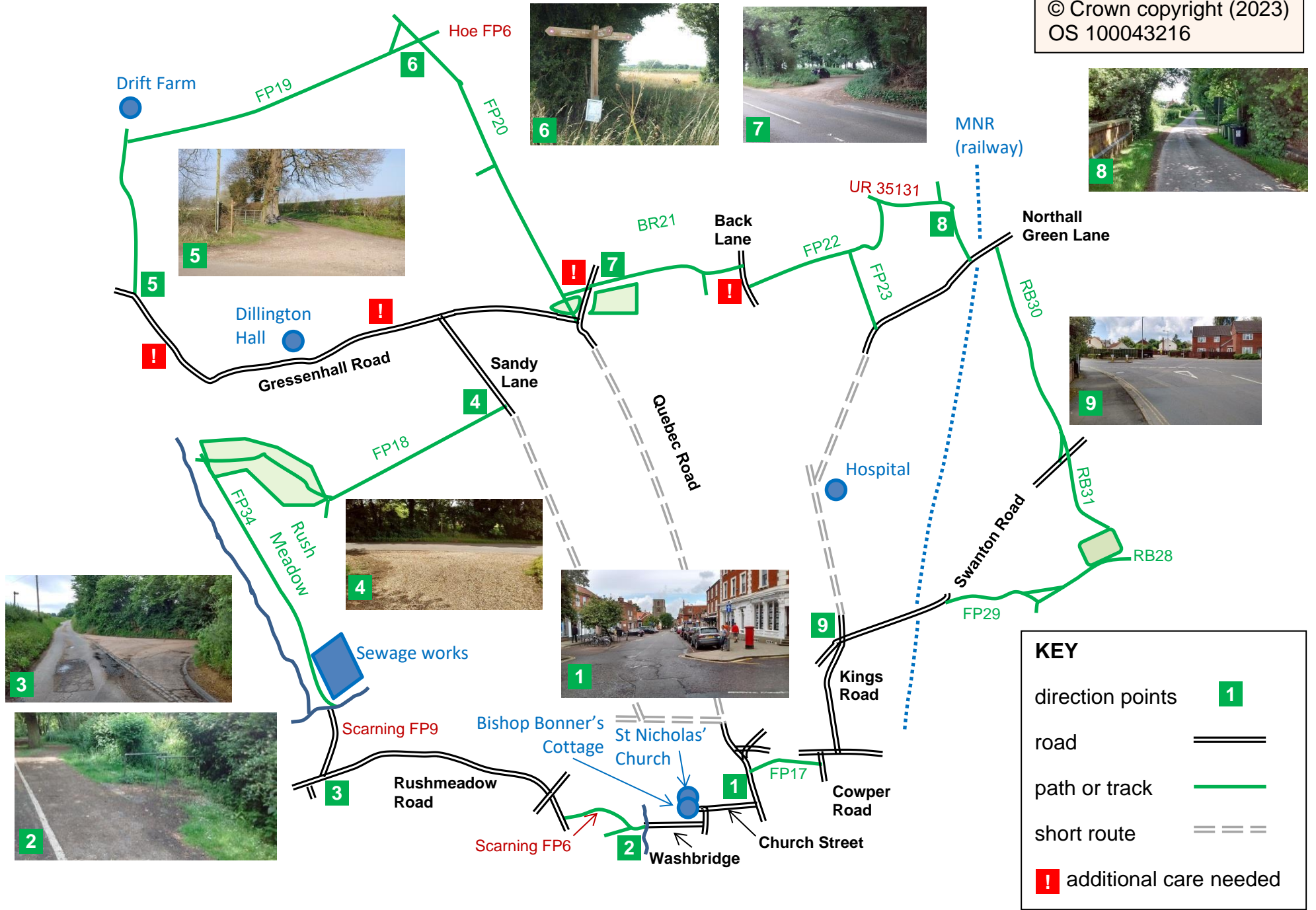
7 Bridleway 21 starts as a track but some way down continues ahead as a much narrower path. At the end, turn right then left across Back Lane to **Footpath 22** **! with care: traffic moves fast here**. After a few minutes, a junction is reached with **Footpath 23** on the right. Again, there is a choice. (1) Continue ahead and across the parish boundary into Hoe to meet **Unclassified Road 35131**. Turn right, and follow this track round to the right and down to Northall Green Lane; turn left. (2) Turn right down Footpath 23 to Northall Green Lane; turn left. *There is another 'escape route' into town here: turn right and follow the road past the hospital and on to Northgate and Cemetery Road; past the cemetery, go ahead at the crossroads at point 9.*

8 Cross the railway bridge (check with the **Mid-Norfolk Railway** to see if trains are running up to Worthing) and turn immediately right down **Restricted Byway 30**. After its first few yards as a track, this path runs through a narrow belt of trees and hedges. At its end, cross Swanton Road and continue on **Restricted Byway 31** (which can also be overgrown) until it meets **Restricted Byway 28**. Turn right and walk beyond the end of the trees before you turn right on to the track which is **Footpath 29** (or take the short cut which forks right at the end of the trees). This path joins Swanton Road close to the **Mid-Norfolk Railway** level crossing. Cross the line and go ahead to the road junction.



9 Turn left down Kings Road. Where it meets Neatherd Road, cross right then left into Cowper Road, and then, just a few yards down, turn right into **Footpath 17**. Follow this into the Market Square to complete the walk.

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KEY	
direction points	1
road	====
path or track	————
short route	====
!	additional care needed