



walk 3: The windmill and The Neatherd - 8½ miles, allow 3½ hours

The walk can be shortened to 5½ or 7 miles (2¼ or 3 hours)

TESCO
Bags of Help

Before starting this walk, please read the general leaflet

1 Leave the town centre by the bus stop outside NatWest Bank, to follow **Footpath 17** past the public toilets and out to Cowper Road. Turn left to cross to and then turn right along Wellington Road (which changes its name to Neatherd Road), over the level crossing for the **Mid-Norfolk Railway** line and on to the new play area and car park for Neatherd Moor.

2 Where the road bends right, go ahead, past the small pond and on to the edge of Neatherd Moor. Continue to the end of the road/track, leaving the small car park by turning right through the cycle barriers and into **Footpath 10**. This runs to Norwich Road, next to Neatherd High School. Cross and turn left along Norwich Road to reach the unsurfaced Cherry Lane on the right. Pass **Dereham Windmill and Coffee Shop**. The land beyond is earmarked for housing, hence the security fence around it, but the route, which has been claimed as a Restricted Byway, has been safeguarded. Follow the path round the edge and up to the bridge.



3 The path ahead forms a route - also claimed as a Restricted Byway - back into town via Greens Road. Your route goes across the bridge over the A47. The track to the right (yet another claimed as a Restricted Byway) leads down to the offices of Breckland District Council and Tesco. Turn left and follow the track (Hall Lane), passing **Footpath 25** on your right (it runs down the line of trees), to reach Cherry Tree Cottage at a crossroads of tracks. Continue ahead (now called Cherry Lane), ignoring a right turning track. Where the track turns right to enter an S-bend, bear left. After 50-60 paces, you will reach **Footpath 2** on your left.

4 This path crosses the field, running at right angles to the track - aim a bit to the left of the tree you can see across the field - see photo overleaf. The path crosses the field, then runs along a field margin (keep left of the hedge) to reach Mattishall Road. Turn left then right to join **Footpath 1a**.



This path too runs across a field, slightly to the left of the pole, to reach a gap through the narrow band of trees where you can climb the A47 embankment to cross: the central barriers are arranged to allow the road to be crossed one carriageway at a time.

!! Take care crossing this fast and busy road.

The path continues as **Footpath 1** a little to your right. Descend the embankment, turning right then left across a stile: go ahead to reach a farm track. Turn left and follow the track to the end of the buildings on your left.

There are several ways to shorten the route. The shortest is described here, but others are marked on the map. Turn immediately left on to **Footpath 5**, passing the **Lecture Room** and the houses to join the access track up to Etling Green road. Cross the road and walk up **Footpath 6** to the houses. Turn left at the houses on to **Restricted Byway 32**; shortly after this green lane leaves the trees, turn right on to **Restricted Byway 33** on your right, then turn left to join **Restricted Byway 28** at **6**.

5 Continue ahead and turn right along Etling Green road (use the grass verge on the right) to pass Tollgate Cottage, then turn left along Elsing Lane to reach Mowles Road: turn left. **!! The road can be fast and busy, and has many bends.** (There is soon a field margin on the opposite side of the road, though it is not a right of way). Follow the road to turn left just before Gooch's Cottages on to **Restricted Byway 28**. After a bit over ¼ mile, pass the cow shed and continue ahead, passing **Footpath 7** on the left (*this joins on to Footpath 6 which runs to Etling Green*). Further on, turn left from the farm drive along a green lane. Continue past **Footpath 8**, until the path emerges from the trees and is joined by **Restricted Byway 33** from the left.

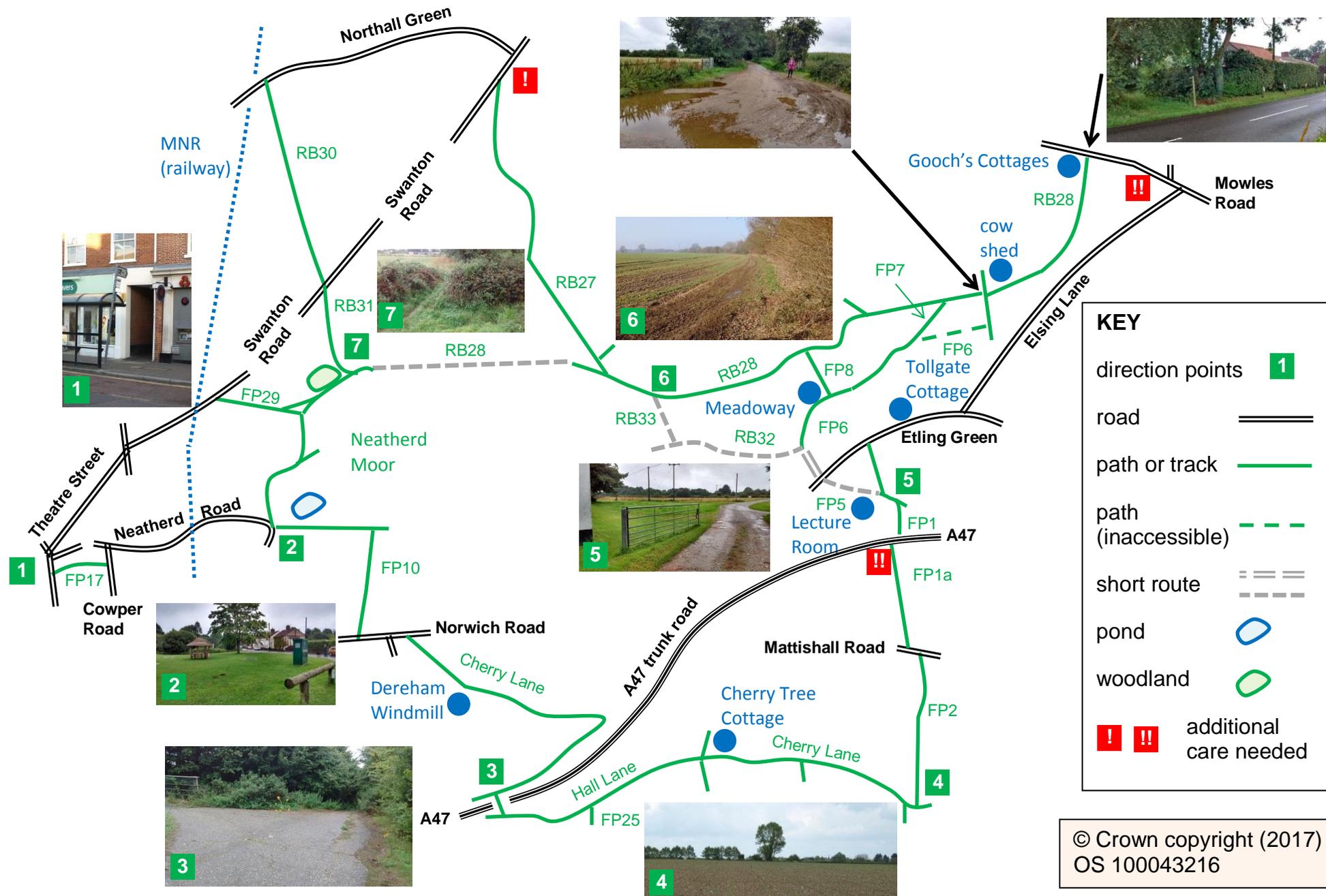
6 Go ahead about 200 yards to **Restricted Byway 27** on your right. For the shortest walk, go ahead along **Restricted Byway 28** to point **7**.



Turn right up **Restricted Byway 27**. This goes for a few yards through woodland, then emerges on to a farm track: go ahead to Swanton Road. Turn right **!! taking care along this busy road**, then left along Northall Green. Follow this to turn left just before the railway bridge on to **Restricted Byway 30**. After its first few yards as a track, this path continues

as a green lane. At its end, cross Swanton Road and continue on **Restricted Byway 31** until it meets **Restricted Byway 28**.

7 Turn right and walk well out of the woodland before turning right on to **Footpath 29** (there is a 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 and follow to the road junction, then go ahead down Theatre Street and back to the town centre.



KEY

direction points	1
road	====
path or track	———
path (inaccessible)	- - - -
short route	≡≡≡
pond	⬭
woodland	⬭
! !!	additional care needed

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