

Walk 1: Potters Fen and Water Meadows - 3 miles, allow 1¼ hours

Before starting this walk, please read the general leaflet

1 Leave the town centre by passing the cinema on the right, to walk down High Street (under the Dereham sign). Pass the library on your left, and take the right fork along Baxter Row. Pass the *Royal Standard* and just beyond a block of flats set back behind a lawn, turn right down a short street closed to traffic by bollards: this is **Footpath 16**. Turn left on to Littlefields (which forms **Footpath 12**) and walk to where the road swings round to the right. Here, continue ahead along the footpath on the left - this is still Footpath 12.



2 Continue ahead with the wall on your left and the fence of CENOR on your right (see photo), to cross Moorgate, then bear left to join Route 13 of the National Cycle Network, which shares Footpath 12. The path continues past allotments and the Town Council's new play area, to go under the A47, emerging on the other side as **Footpath 12a**. *[Note: Technically, the section under the A47 is no longer a public right of way, having been taken over by what is now Highways England, when Dereham bypass was built.]*



The path continues ahead, crossing first Middlemarch Road and then Tipton Close, to come out on to Farmway. The path here is on the road again for a short way, so turn left along Farmway, then right on to Old Hall Road. After a few yards, turn left between the houses, but then, just before the stream, turn right onto the green space, and follow it back to Old Hall Road. *[Note: Footpath 12a itself runs through to Shipdham Road.]*

3 The walk continues along Old Hall Road. At the end, turn left across the stream and go on until you reach Chapel Lane: take the footpath opposite, and follow this across Lilac Close. Then turn right to cross the stream, and left to follow its course through *Potters Fen*. There are many informal paths in this area, but stay on the one next to the stream until it



meets **Footpath 14a**.

*[Note: Ahead of you is **Scarning Fen**: to gain access, turn left and go down the footpath to a stile on your right. Continuing along the footpath past the stile takes you to Stone Road.]*

4 Turn right and soon cross the A47 slightly to the right. **!! Take care, traffic can move very quickly on this road.** Once across the road, the path (now **Footpath 14**) used to go more or less ahead, but has become overgrown, so follow the path on the ground round to the left, then back right to meet the end of Waples Way. The path follows the roads here - along Waples Way, then down the second left (Johnson Close). At the end, bear right to follow the path across the track bed of the former *Lynn and Dereham Railway* line.

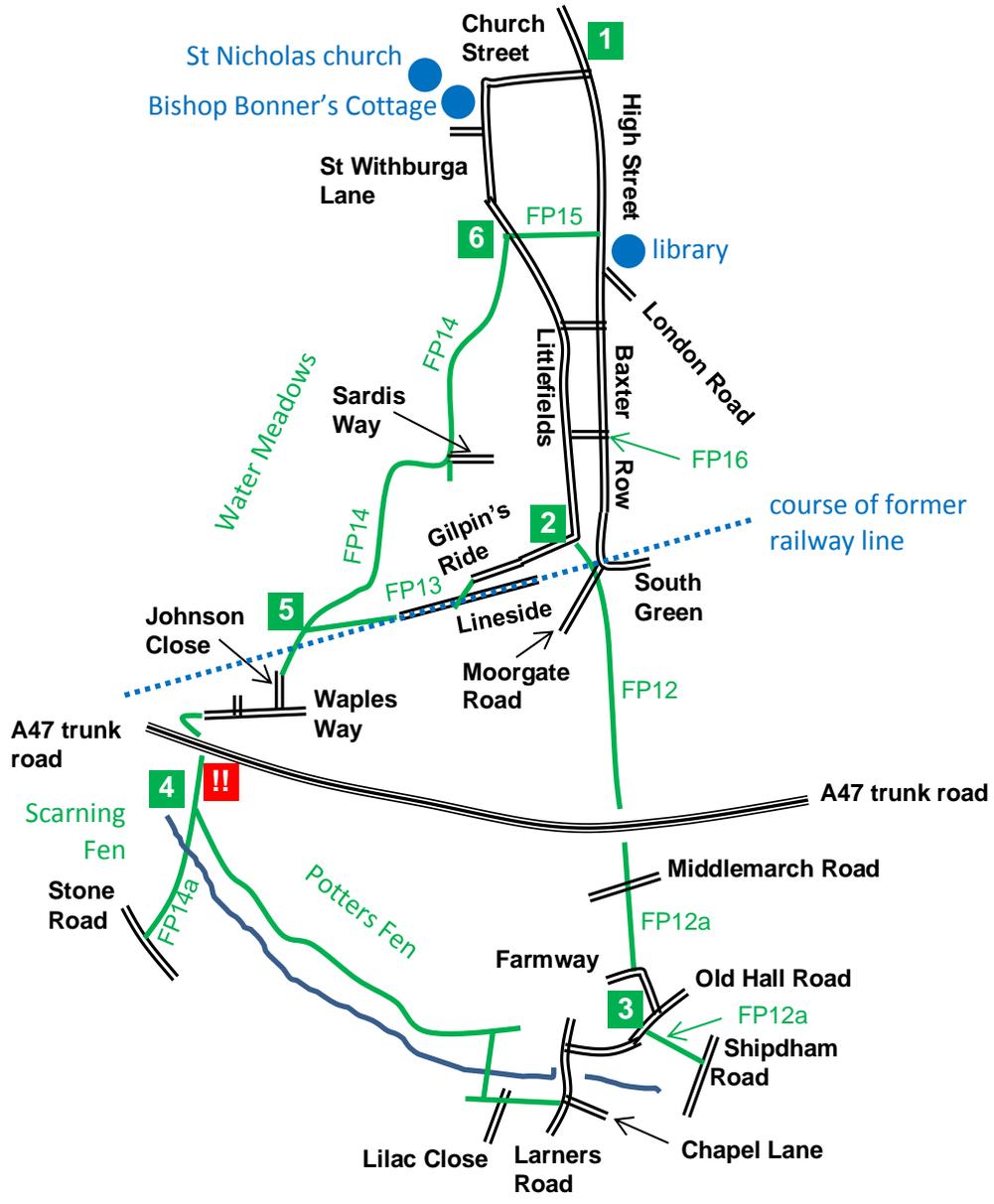
5 Go to the left of the school grounds. *[Note: The surfaced path which runs to the right of the school grounds is the line of **Footpath 13**, which follows Lineside, then via a dog's leg footpath past the school, on to Gilpin's Ride and ultimately on to join Footpath 12.]* The path soon turns away from the fence; turn right to follow it through the Water Meadows. *[Note: The official line of Footpath 14 follows the fence, but has become overgrown, and a well walked informal path instead meanders through here. There are a number of other informal paths to explore across*



this area.] Your route continues more or less ahead (parallel to the school fence), until it meets a tarmac path. Turn right up that path, then shortly left (not ahead up Sardis Way) on an unsurfaced track known as Rolling Pin Lane. Follow this until it joins the road.

6 *[Note: The road on your right is Littlefields, while ahead is **Footpath 15** which runs through to High Street.]* Turn left along St Withburga Lane, to pass first *Bishop Bonner's Cottage*, then *St Nicholas Church*, then go up Church Street to get back to the town centre.





KEY

direction points 1

road

path or track

!! additional care needed

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