

Walk 3: The Windmill and The Neatherd - 7 miles, allow 3 hours

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 and then turn right along Neatherd Road, over the level crossing for the **Mid Norfolk Railway** line and on to the small 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 Community Centre**. The land beyond is earmarked for housing, hence the security fence around it. Follow the path round the edge and up to the bridge.



3 The path ahead forms a mildly challenging route back into town via Greens Road, but your route now goes across the bridge over the A47. *[Note: The track to the right 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. 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. *[Note: Those wanting a longer walk should soon be able to follow a longer route from here - see **5L** at the end.]*

5 The main route turns immediately left on to **Footpath 5**, passing the **Lecture Room** and the houses to join the access track up to Etling Green. Cross the road and walk up **Footpath 6** to the houses. Here there are two options.

Option 1 Follow the track round past the houses until you reach Meadoway, the second of two bungalows on the left. *[Note: Footpath 6 continues from here*

through the garden of one of the houses ahead of you, but is then inaccessible through the fields.] Turn left up **Footpath 8** alongside Meadoway to meet **Restricted Byway 28**. *[Note: A right turn here enables you to explore this Byway as far as Rookery Farm, then return.]* Turn left on Restricted Byway 28 and follow this until it emerges from the trees to meet **Restricted Byway 33** on the left.

Option 2 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**.

6 Walk about 200 yards to **Restricted Byway 27** on your right. *[Note: If you want to shorten the 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 can become overgrown, so be prepared for brambles and nettles. At its end, cross Swanton Road and continue on **Restricted Byway 31** (which also can be overgrown) until it meets Restricted Byway 28.

7 Turn right and walk well beyond the end of the trees 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.

5L This addition should be available from autumn 2015. It rejoins the main walk on RB28 at point **6**.

Continue ahead and turn right along Etling Green (there is a good verge on the right), then left along Elsing Lane to reach Mowles Road. **!! This road can be quite busy, and has many bends.** There is a field margin on the opposite side of the road that people have clearly used, but it is not a right of way. Follow the road to Gooch's Cottages and the start of **Restricted Byway 28** on your left. This Byway can be very overgrown: in particular the final few yards to Rookery Farm have been very challenging and until cleared properly (planned for autumn 2015), are best avoided. If you can get through, continue ahead past the cow shed, looking out for where the Byway diverges left from the farm track. *[Note: In the process, you will have passed where Footpath 7 should run, but is, like the eastern end of Footpath 6, currently inaccessible.]* This next section can become a little overgrown: continue ahead past Footpath 8 until the path emerges from the trees to meet **Restricted Byway 33** on the left.

