

Roaming Around Massingham



5 miles



Walk Information

Start point: Outside The Dabbling Duck, 11 Abbey Road, Great Massingham, Norfolk, PE32 2HN

Grid ref.: TF 797228

Map: Ordnance Survey – Explorer 250

Walking time: 3 hours

Walk Summary

This route takes in part of the **Peddars Way**, a National Trail, giving amazing vistas across the wonderful Norfolk countryside. This walk gives you the opportunity to discover a diversity of wildlife from common buzzards to common toads, brown hares to grey partridges. Keep your eyes peeled and who knows what you might see.

Please note:

- Dogs are welcome on this walking route but should at all times be kept on a lead and under close control.
- At times this walk can be very muddy, especially along the Peddars Way.
- Extreme care should be taken on the sections of the walk which involves walking along roads.

Walk Notes

1 With your back to The Dabbling Duck head right, passing the village sign and a duck pond on your left. Cross over Lynn Lane and continue down Castleacre Road.

2 When you reach Drunken Drove on your right take this lane and follow it for approximately half a mile until you see a road on your left.

A **drove** is the mass movement of a group of people or a flock or herd of animals being driven in a group. We leave it to you to ponder why this road is called **Drunken Drove**.

3 When you reach the road on your left opposite you will see a footpath signed Peddars Way. Take this footpath.

The **Peddars Way** is a 46 mile footpath that is believed to follow a Roman Road from **Knettishall Heath** in Suffolk to **Hunstanton** in Norfolk.

4 Cross over the road and continue straight ahead following the Peddars Way. Ignore any footpaths to your right (unless you want to take a short cut back to Great Massingham).

5 At the next road cross over it and continue on the signposted Peddars Way footpath. Continue along this wide path ignoring any footpaths to your left.

Within the village of **Great Massingham** there are a number of large ponds some of which were fish ponds for an 11th century **Augustinian Abbey**.

All along this route are thick **hedgerows** which in the autumn time are full of **berries**, an important source of food for many **birds**.

7 At a T-junction bear right, keeping Nut Wood on your right. Continue along this path until you reach the road.

8 At the road bear right.

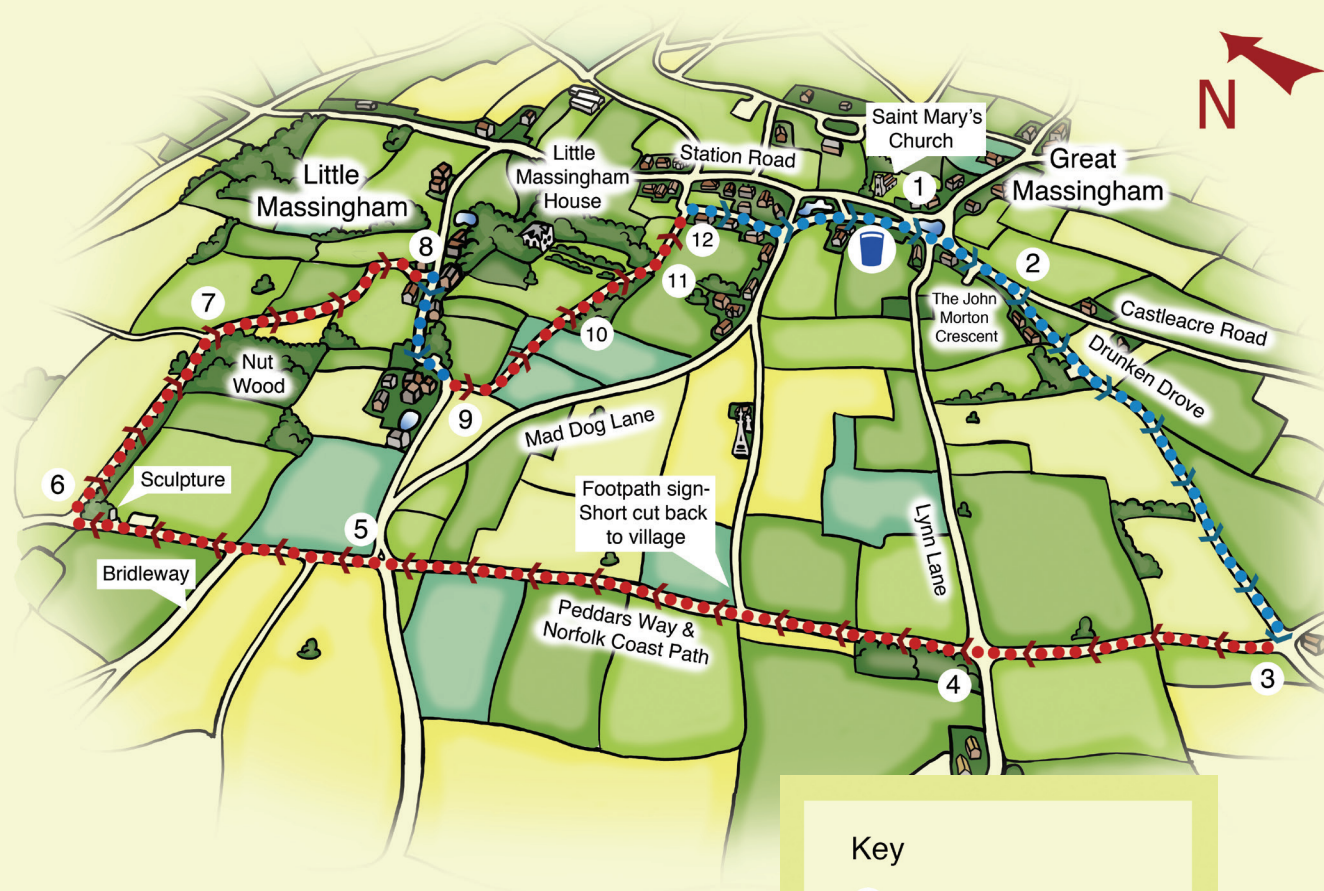
9 Shortly after passing two houses on your left, just as the road bears to the right you will see a footpath sign on your left. Take this, but do not enter the field instead take the wooded path on the right. After a short while take the signed footpath to the left. The path skirts the field but as the hedge bears a sharp left the footpath carries on straight across a field heading to the hedgerow on the other side.

Keep your eyes peeled for **common toads**. At certain times of the year in spring and autumn these amphibians can be seen here on their migration.




10 Go through the gap in the hedge and continue straight over the field heading towards a wood. Follow the footpath through the wood, keeping on the path as it follows a fence line on your left. Look out for Little Massingham House.

11 At the end of the fence line bear right, then turn left onto a footpath and head towards the housing estate.

12 When you reach the housing estate bear right through the concrete bollards and follow the pavement until you reach a T-junction. At the T-junction bear left, then right back to where you started.



Key

-  Pub
-  Public right of way (walk route)
-  Public road (walk route)

Putting wildlife on the map

Help us protect wildlife by telling us what you see whilst you are on this walk. Wildlife records are really important as they help us to build a picture of what is out there. We would love to know about the animals and plants you spot whilst you are on this walk.

To submit your wildlife sightings for this walk:

Email: wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk. Tell us what you saw, when you saw it and where you saw it.
Phone Norfolk Wildlife Trust: 01603 598333

Wildlife to look out for:



Yellowhammer

☐

Skylark

☐

Red admiral

☐

Brown hare

☐

Common toad

☐

Grey partridge

☐

Common
buzzard

☐

Jay

☐

Wildwalks

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By visiting www.wild-walks.org.uk you can map your favourite walk and tick off the plants and animals you see along the way, helping us build a picture of where wildlife is found and how nature changes.

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