



Rougham Estate

Chevins Wood Walk



Time taken: 2 hours

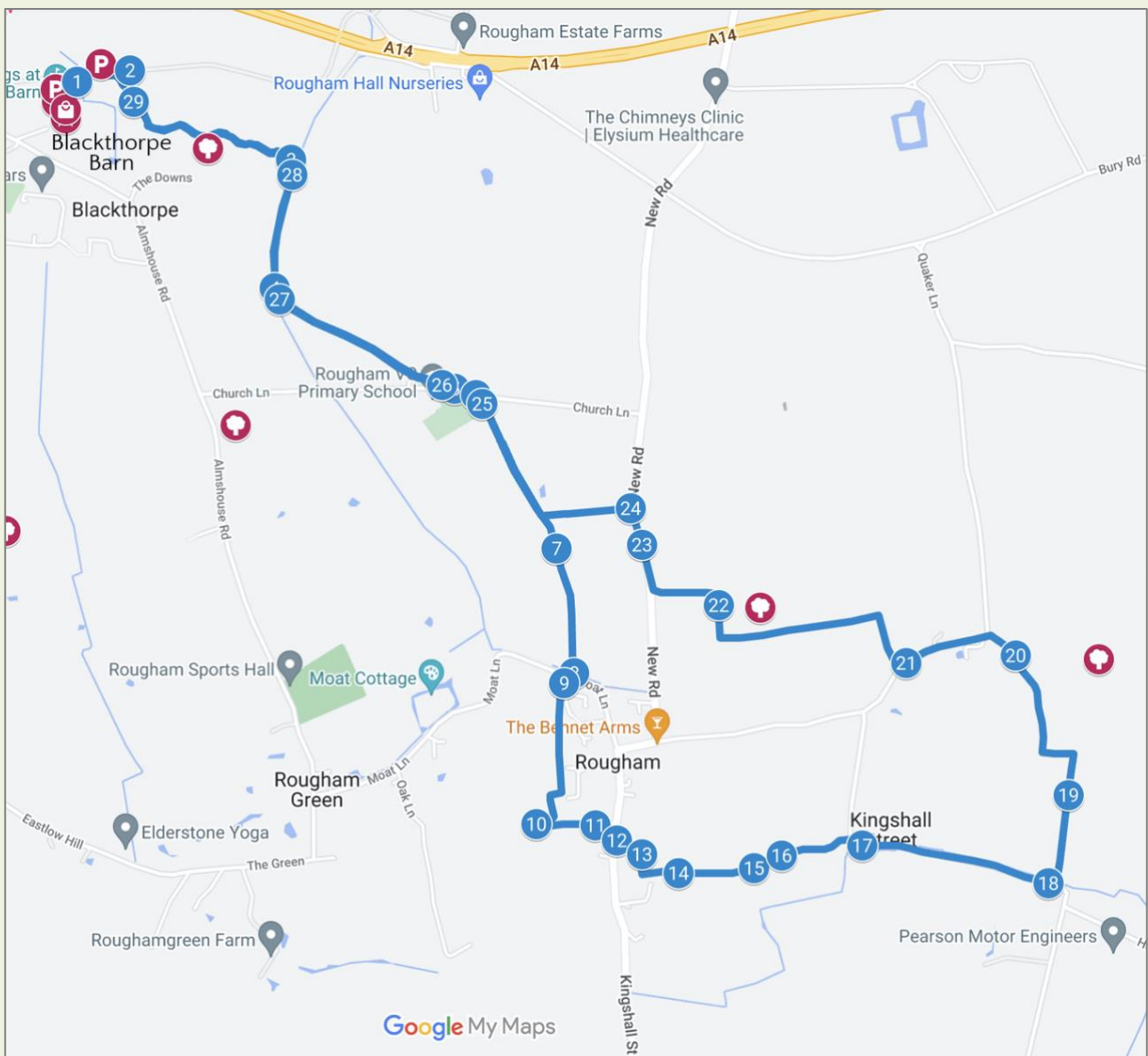


Distance: 5 miles



Difficulty: Hard, including stiles, meadows and beehives

Map



Waypoints

This walk delves deep into the Estate, exploring areas further south and east, with ancient history, green lanes and a taste of a different Rougham.



1. From Blackthorpe Barn turn right and pass through the carpark along the concrete road until you reach a wood on your right.



2. A path leads into the wood shortly after you reach its boundary. Follow this path bearing left at a fork and then turning left after 50 metres. Follow through the wood to the far end.



3. At this point turn right at a T junction. Follow this path out of the wood with a hedge on your left. Follow this path until it meets a path from the right.



4. At this point follow round to the left heading for Rougham Church which appears dramatically in front of you. At the far end of this path cross the school and church carpark. Cross the public road with care.



5. On the far side, turn left and walk along the pavement passing the splendid sight of Rougham Church on your right side. Shortly afterwards you pass the magnificent lychgate with carvings and seats within. You might like to take a short pause here. The structure was built in 1901 in memory of the previous rector Morton Shaw, whose name appears on the inner side of the structure.



6. When you are ready to continue, turn right out of the lychgate, walk along the pavement for a few metres before following the footpath along the edge of the field as it peels away from the public road to the right. This footpath has a tarmac surface but tree roots below the surface make it uneven in parts, so take care as you walk.



7. This path leads you to Kingshall Street which gradually appears ahead of you as you leave the church behind. At the far end of the path, you will see a convenient poop bin on your left which might come in handy.



8. You are about to cross one of the busier roads in Rougham so take care. Cross the road and turn right for a few metres before you see a gap in the hedge on your left with a clear path leading through. Take this path.



9. Follow this path and on the far side continue straight on with some houses set back on your left and the field on your right. This pathway follows the edge of the field. Ignore various turns to the left. At the far end follow it round to the right and it continues to skirt the edge of the field.





10. Shortly after this you will see a small turning to the left which brings you immediately onto an official footpath where you turn left.



11. Follow this footpath in a straight line to the house line. Here, follow the path through to the public road. Just before this, you descend 5 steps. There is a convenient poop bin here and a handrail for the steps.

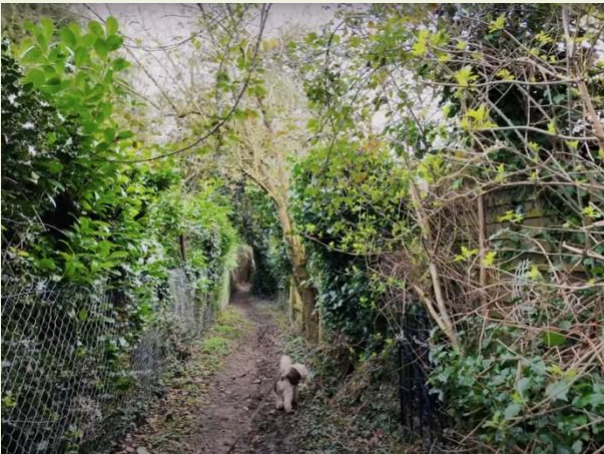




12. Once on the public road turn right and walk for 20 metres. At this point a private road runs off to the left and the footpath follows this for a distance of ca. 100 metres. There is a footpath sign at the start on the left side to reassure you that you are in the right place! Look out for a homemade wooden sign pointing to the right for the footpath.



13. This follows the fence line on the right and rapidly gets very narrow as you squeeze your way between the backs of the houses. This continues for maybe 200 metres, then you encounter a stile. There is a hole for your dog to pass through.



14. Then follow the path along the left-hand side of the meadow to the next fence and into the second meadow. Leave the gate here as you find it.



15. Partway through this second meadow the path turns left and goes over another stile before passing through the hedge and out onto the edge of the field on the far side.



16. The path follows on to the right, so now you have the hedge on your right side. Follow this through to the edge of the field where you pass through an extended piece of hedge before you appear on a bend on the public road.



17. You are now in another part of Rougham called Nether Street. Turn right and follow the public road with care, past a few houses and then past a field on your left. Then a track leads off to the left. Ignore this but continue down the road for another 50 metres.



18. As you approach a sharp right bend on the public road, a second footpath heads off to the left, which immediately crosses a ditch with a footbridge. Take this route.



19. Follow along this track with the hedge on your right until you reach Chevins Wood in front of you. Somewhere here was the Manor of Chevaunts which was mentioned in Domesday Book in 1086 and which seems to have been the residence of the important Drury family in Rougham too during the Middle Ages. Further round the wood there are very deep and wide ditches which suggest the possible presence of former buildings of importance. For now, we turn left and follow the edge of the wood for a short distance on our right side, before we cross a short section of path between two fields and then reach a green lane where we turn right.





20. Follow this path to the far end as it curves to the left. This area is known as High Rougham and is slightly higher than Nether Street which we have just left behind. Turn left into the public road in High Rougham and walk along it with care. It is usually a quiet road but still be careful.



21. After a few hundred metres you pass the last house on the right-hand side of the road. At this point you will see a trackway heading off to the right. Follow this track away from the public road. After a while it turns left and runs along the edge of New Wood, turning right as it rounds the corner of the wood. You may encounter some bee hives here. Just walk by without hanging around!





22. This track then reaches a hedge line and turns left and heads for the public road. Turn right onto this road and exercise great care as traffic can move along here at some speed.



23. It is best if you cross the road fairly soon as you get better visibility here. Walk along the side of the road until it turns slightly to the right.



24. At this point a footpath heads off to the left across the field. The crop has been cleared along the route of the path. At the far side of the field, you meet the metalled footpath that you walked on earlier on in this journey. Turn right here and follow this to the public road at the end.



25. Use the pavement to continue your walk past the lychgate and the church. As a small gate into the churchyard appears on your left, turn right across the road with care. Enter the carpark.



26. Turn left here and follow this carpark to the far end where a footpath heads off along the hedge line on your right-hand side. This path emerges from the carpark to give a fine view of the Rougham landscape as it falls away in front of you. It is full of roadside oak trees, hedges and the great Suffolk sky!



27. Follow this path, keeping the hedge to your right, until you cross a ditch, often with running water depending on the time of year. At this point, turn right and head back towards the Downs Wood which you came through at the beginning of this walk, continuing to keep the hedge on your right.



28. You will enter the wood and shortly afterwards find the path leading off to the left. This will take you through the wood to the far end where you turn right.



29. This path leads you to the edge of the wood. Turn left at an angle as the path approaches the Blackthorpe Barn carparks. Follow these through to the left and then follow the signs to the Roots Café where a welcome awaits you (and your dog).



The walk starts and ends at Blackthorpe Barn, where you can find plenty of free parking as well as Roots Café and the Garden Room shop.

Please remember that the gates to the avenue entrance are locked after the Café and Shop close.
We hope you enjoy your walk!

More information from roughamestate.com