

walk 4: Rush Meadow and Quebec Wood - 7 miles, allow 3 hours

Before starting this walk, please read the general leaflet

1 From the town centre, go past the market area (used for short term car parking on non market days), keeping the cinema on your right, and turn right down Church Street. Go left to pass **Bishop Bonner's Cottage**, then right down Washbridge, passing **St Nicholas church** on your right.

2 At the bottom of Washbridge, cross the stream and immediately turn right off the cycle and pedestrian path to follow a narrow path (Scarning Footpath 6) alongside a ditch. Where this emerges on to Church Farm Lane, turn right and follow it to and across Dereham Road into Rushmeadow Road. Follow this road for ½ mile, turning right (shortly before reaching a left turn) on to a minor road.

3 This road is also Scarning Footpath 9: follow it to the sewage works (not as bad as it sounds, and worth it to get to Rush Meadow). Follow



Footpath 34 which runs next to the stream to the left of the works, then across Rush Meadow. After ¼ mile, it turns right through a gate, across a bridge and on to a boardwalk. After the end of the boardwalk, it meanders through the woods to meet **Footpath 18** at a junction of paths: bear left rather than right and follow it up to Sandy Lane.

4 Turn left down Sandy Lane, part of the Dereham link to the Wensum Way (a **Norfolk Trail**). At the end, turn left on Gressenhall Road (note the pink waymarks used here to identify the Wensum Way) and follow this for almost ¾ mile, passing Dillington Hall almost half way along. **!** Take care along Gressenhall Road - it is quite bendy in places.

5 Turn right on to **Footpath 19** - it is called *Mill Lane* though it carries no signs - which starts as the track leading to Drift Farm, then turns right to climb to a meeting with **Footpath 20** and Hoe Footpath 6.

6 [Note: A left turn here would take you further along Footpath 19, which crosses the parish boundary to become Hoe Footpath 1, finally emerging on to Fakenham Road (opposite a small car park giving access to Norfolk Wildlife Trust's **Hoe Rough**. Continuing ahead would take you along Hoe Footpath 6 to Fakenham Road and ultimately to Hoe and Swanton Morley. Both of these paths are part of the Wensum Way.)]

Footpath 20 is the track on the right here, forming part of the Dereham link

to the Wensum Way. It ends through a short section of woodland.



[Note: The walk can be shortened here by turning right down Quebec Road into the town (or follow the Wensum Way signs for an alternative route).]

7 Turn left, cross the main road **!** with care: traffic moves fast here - and walk up it for 100 yards (a 'trod' pavement is planned for this short section of road) to reach **Bridleway 21** on your right. This starts as a track: halfway down, continue ahead on a much narrower path. At the end, turn right then left across Back Lane **!** with care: traffic moves fast here - to **Footpath 22**. After a few minutes, a junction is reached with **Footpath 23** on the right. [Note: Footpath 22 continues ahead and across the parish boundary into Hoe to meet Unclassified Road 35131, which leads towards Hoe.] Your route turns right down Footpath 23 to emerge on to Northall Green Lane.

[Note: There is another 'escape route' into town here, by turning right and following the road on to Northgate and Cemetery Road; past the cemetery, go ahead at the crossroads and pick up the route at point **9**.]

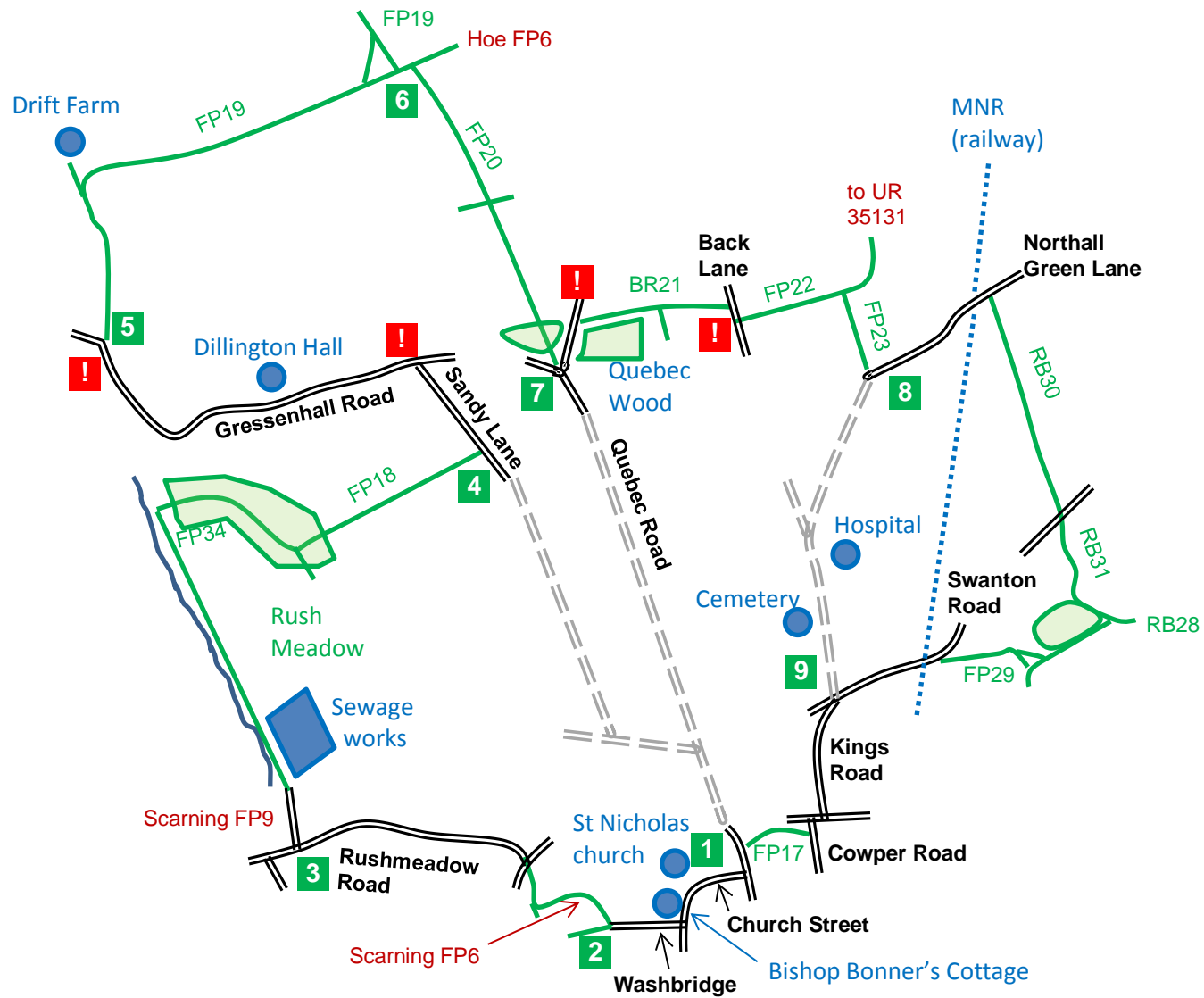
8 Turn left along Northall Green Lane. Once across the railway bridge (you might want to check with the **Mid Norfolk Railway** to see if they are



running trains up to Hoe), turn right down **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. Turn right and walk well beyond the end of the trees before you

turn right on to Footpath 29 (or follow 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 the line and go ahead to the road junction, then turn left down Kings Road.

9 Where Kings Road meets Neatherd Road, cross right then left into Cowper Road, and then, just a few yards down, turn right into **Footpath 17**. Follow this past the newly refurbished public toilets and into the Market Square to complete your walk.



KEY

- direction points 1
- road
- path or track
- short route
- woodland
- ! additional care needed

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