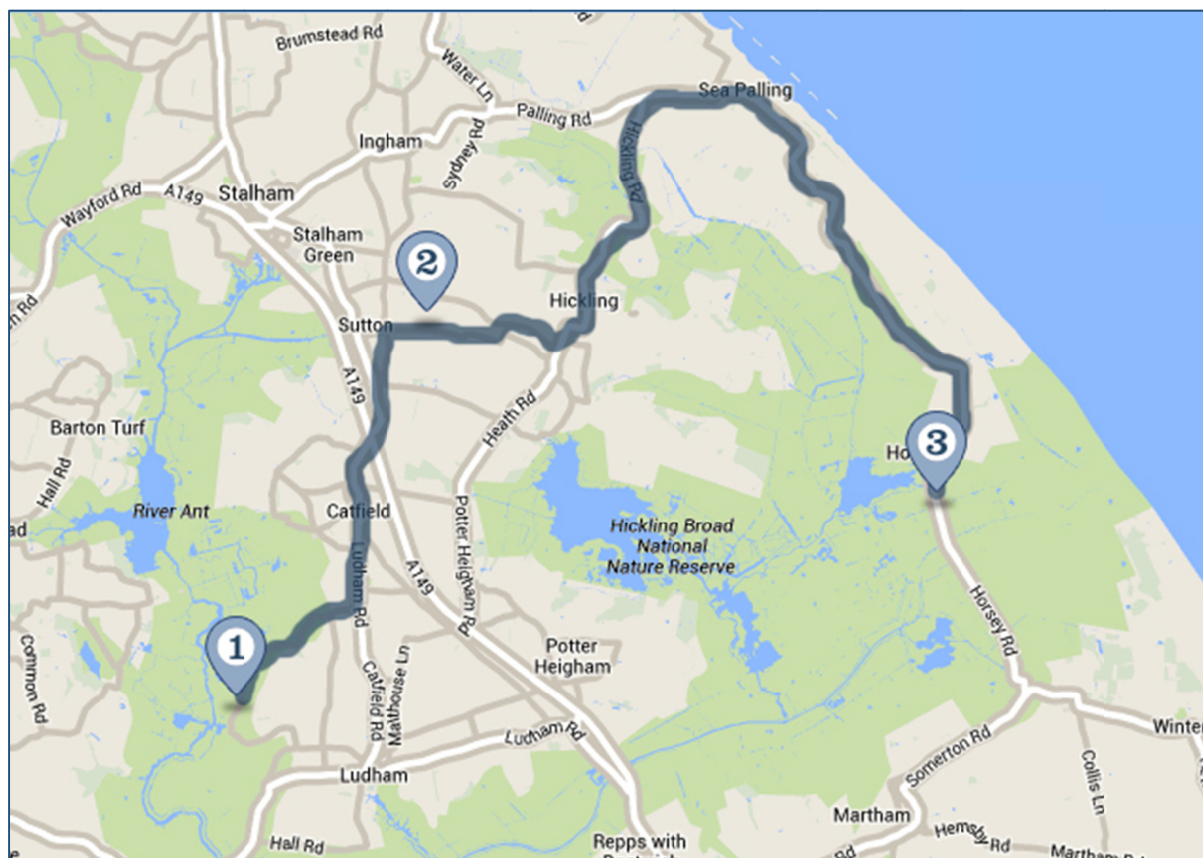


The Griffon Guide

The Wind and Water Mills Trail

This is one of the trails which aim to please those who like to discover heritage on foot. We have selected two areas to explore: How Hill and Horsey. In exploring the mills located there you will also enjoy some of the best of Norfolk's Broadland landscapes.



To learn more about the history of Norfolk's mills, visit Norfolk Mills: <http://www.norfolk Mills.co.uk/>

The site contains historical information for well over a thousand mills in the county, and over three thousand photographs. The Norfolk Windmills Trust web site contains an interactive map of all the windmills open to the public. Click on the windmill icons to get directions, opening times and photographs: <http://www.norfolkwindmills.co.uk/windmills.htm>



1. How Hill

Ludham NR29 5PG
(map ref OS 637319)

This environmental study centre for the Broads, set just above the River Ant, is surrounded by beautiful gardens (open on weekends and Bank Holidays, £3 entrance) fen and broads. There is a car park on your left just before you reach the study centre, when driving from Ludham.

You can book a river and dyke trip on the Electric Eel from the mooring at How Hill, which is ideal for bird and insect spotting. Boat trips are hourly from 10 am - 4 pm June to September. Telephone (01603) 756096 for bookings. Further details here:

<http://www.enjoythebroads.com/things-to-do/electric-eel-boat-trip>



The Mills Trail

(map available at Toad Hole Cottage)

This walking trail takes in the three windmills at How Hill, and offers fine views of the surrounding landscapes. These mills were built to drain the Broads marshes to make them suitable for grazing cattle.

Walk towards the river, across the expanse of grass to the left of the house. Turn right at the river and walk along to Boardman's Mill, also known as Skeleton Mill due to its open timber trestle build. It was built around 1897 by Daniel England, a millwright and engineer from Ludham. His drawings show the mill driving a scoop wheel. This was improved upon in 1912, after some serious flooding. The present day turbine was installed in 1927. The mill was blown over by a gale in 1938 and was restored by The Norfolk Windmills Trust from 1979 - 81.



100 metres further upstream, you will reach Clayrack Mill. This mill was originally built in Ranworth, fell into disuse, and was then moved to How Hill by the Norfolk Windmills Trust. Restoration work was completed in 1988, and the mill can now be used to drain the marshes behind it.



Double back along the river and continue downstream until the footpath turns left along a dyke. Just before the turning you can admire Turf Fen Mill, sitting on the opposite river bank. This was built around 1875 by William Rust. This is a typical example of brick built Norfolk mills, with its four double shuttered sails and boat shaped cap. The double scoop wheel has a choice of low or high gears. The mill was fully restored by the Norfolk Windmills Trust, and the work was completed in 1986.

Follow the path until you reach a crossroads. At this point you can choose to turn right and return to the river bank. This path continues all the way to Ludham Bridge, via Buttle Marsh. The marsh is 42 hectares of arable land that is being reverted to wetland to attract bitterns and other rare marshland wild life (Allow 2 hours).

Alternatively, continue straight on to complete a circular route along the eastern side of Buttle Marsh then back along farm tracks to How Hill Road (Allow 1 hour).

The third choice is to turn left up Turf Fen Lane past a row of cottages. After the large thatched cottage, turn left along a footpath which takes you back to How Hill road. The car park is 300 metres ahead (Allow 30 mins).



2. Sutton Mill

New Road, Sutton NR12 9RD
(map ref OS 639323)

Even though the mill and attached museum are now closed, Sutton Mill is well worth a look on your way to Horsey. It was built in 1789 with 8 floors, and was, for many years, the tallest windmill in England.

It was built on the site of an earlier towermill that burned down in 1789. Once rebuilt, it was large enough to use four common sails to power 4 pairs of stones, two flour mills, jumper and cylinder.

The mill suffered a serious fire in 1861, and was hit by lightning in 1875, with the bolt hitting one of the sails then passing down the sack chain. Some staff were within 3 ft of the chain but escaped injury. The mill was struck by lightning again in 1940, when the sails were hit, causing a fire. This was the last time it worked.

The mill was bought by Chris Nunn in 1975, restored and converted into a museum. The museum housed a huge collection of trades tools, domestic utensils engines, early televisions and a complete Victorian pharmacy.

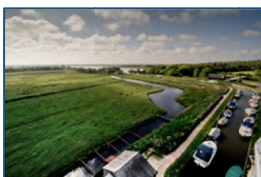
The mill and museum were closed in September 2008, having ceased to turn a profit. It has been designated as unsafe for visitors and requires restoration work estimated to cost £500,000.

There is no convenient parking close to the mill, but it can be seen whilst driving along New Road in Sutton. If you would like to spend more time there, you could park in Stalham or Hickling Green, then follow the Weaver's Way to reach the mill.

(Allow 1 - 2 hours round trip. Further details and map here:
<http://www.countrysideaccess.norfolk.gov.uk/walk.aspx?section=5&id=71>)

3. Horsey Windpump and Brograve Mill

Horsey NR29 4EF
(map ref OS 645322)



A visit to Horsey Windpump makes for a pleasant afternoon escape. Here you have the choice of enjoying a visit to the mill, tea at the Staithe Stores, a river trip starting from the staithe or an excellent two hour circular walk to see Brograve Mill, Horsey Church and the local Broadland landscapes. Park in the National Trust car park beside the mill. (Charges apply to non members.)

The five storey windpump contains historical exhibits, and offers stunning views from the top of the tower, where you can also see a massive break

wheel. (Entrance £2.50 for adults, £1 for children. Allow 20 mins)



Ross' Norfolk Broads River Trips

For details of start times and prices for the river trips, please visit the web site here: <http://www.rossrivertrips.co.uk/index.html>

Circular Walk via Brograve Mill



You can download a pdf guide and map of the walk from the Horsey Windpump web site: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/article-1356404617535/> (Allow 2 hours.)

For those unable to download the guide, here is the step by step description of the walk:

1. From the car park head back towards the entrance and visit Horsey Staithe Stores (Mar-Nov) for information on the area, a warm welcome and a quick cup of tea or coffee. From the Stores, head to the Staithe and follow the path along the flood bank, adjacent to the car park and around the edge of Horsey Mere.
2. At Lady's Hill turn right, heading north follow this new flood-bank, and then turn left towards Waxham Cut.
3. Where the path rejoins the flood-bank turn right and continue along a large dyke, the Waxham Cut. You will see the derelict Brograve Drainage Mill ahead of you.
4. Turn right opposite the mill and leave the flood-bank. Enter a field. Walk along the edge of the field until you reach the stile and a bridge over a dyke. Cross both and continue to the houses at Horsey Corner.
5. When you reach the metalled road turn right, then left between the houses and continue on a narrow path into a field.
6. Continue along the field edge and turn right where the path meets a hedge. Continue on; the path widens and has a hedge either side.
7. The grassy track joins a metalled road (Binsley Close). Continue on past the houses and All Saints' Church, Horsey. Follow the road round to left and continue before turning right and reaching the main road (B1159).
8. Taking care, cross the road and turn left and over a small foot bridge. Go left and walk along the field edge to the field entrance. Turn right and walk down the narrow lane to your right (The Street) looking out for traffic. Continue down The Street past houses, National Trust holiday cottages and the Nelson Head pub and restaurant (which serves snacks all day).
9. Pass the pub on your left (if you aren't tempted to go in) after approx 100m look for a wide grassy path on you right. Follow this path keeping a ditch on your left hand side. Continue and you will see a stile ahead of you. NOTE: the remainder of this walk is via a permissive path provided by the Horsey Estate Trust.
10. Cross the stile and turn right. You will see Horsey Windpump ahead. Continue to the main road. Take care crossing the road. Toilets are in the car park.