



## Guided circular walk from Creake Abbey to Burnham Thorpe, birthplace of Lord Nelson by The Hawk and Owl trust.

Park in the car park in front of the Food Hall or the field to the south, and follow the exit sign between two fields to the North. Turn right towards the ruins of Creake Abbey, an Augustinian Abbey dating from 1206. You'll often see red kites wheeling over the ruins as they breed in the vicinity.

Notice the River Burn to your left, one of North Norfolk's chalk rivers, which including the nearby rivers Stiffkey and Glaven, often support otters, kingfishers and water vole. As you pass the Abbey, look out for the little owl lurking around the ruins and also the interesting lichens and plants on the ruins themselves.

Turn left through the gate at the permissive footpath sign, keeping dogs on leads as there are sometimes animals grazing. Head diagonally north west across the rough grassland – the only habitat which voles live in, which are fed on by owls.

Go over the bridge across the Burn keeping an eye out for Moorhens, coots and water vole. Follow the defined footpath to the gate to the left of the stand of trees. Go through the gate, past the trees, looking for warblers and also blackberries in autumn. At the metalled (tarmac) road,

turn right towards the village of Burnham Thorpe.

The road is lined with old hedgerows and trees, with water meadows to your right with the Burn flowing through. Check for waders and scan the sky for raptors. During the summer look out for butterflies including meadow browns, peacocks and speckled woods.

You will reach a fork in the road and a sign for Burnham Thorpe. Stop for a game of pooh sticks on the bridge (and admire the watercress in season) before following the road to Thorpe, birthplace of Nelson. You will come to a sign for the site of his birthplace on your left. Look out for graceful red kites swooping overhead and buzzards wheeling over the water meadow.

As you get to the 30mph sign, take the next right turn down Garners Row. Turn right at the end of the road, and you will spot the Burn which gets bigger here. Go along the road until you get to the crossroads, turn right to the Creakes.

Follow the road back to the pooh sticks bridge, looking out for little egrets and other waders in the Burn. Turn left, back the way you came, listening out for the chiffchaffs. Go through the gap

and follow the diagonal footpath across the grassland towards the Abbey ruins. Go back across the bridge, heading for the ruins. Follow the road round, past the Burn and left towards the Café & Food Hall where you started. Time for a well-earned pit stop in the Café!

*With thanks to the Hawk and Owl Trust who work for wild birds of prey and their habitats. Visit [hawkandowl.org.uk](http://hawkandowl.org.uk) for more information about their work.*

