

THREE SUGGESTED ROUTES

GREEN WALK: 4 miles 2h 30m

RED WALK: 3 miles 1h 45m

BLUE WALK: 1.5 miles

(The Blue Walk is for wheelchair users and slow walkers)

You can use any walks and tracks as you wish and all walks start from the Bridge on the Quay.

Cycling is permitted, but not on the following paths: The Quay, River Bank, Calves Hurn and Worlingham Wall.

(Starts at the roundabout on the bypass A146).

PLEASE RESPECT OTHER USERS

The River Bank and Calves Hurn paths are definitive paths and are **open** at all times; the others are **permissive** and can be **closed** at any time.

The **MARSH TRAIL** is amongst typical grazing marshes and as it is below the water level in the river, is maintained by a network of dykes which are pumped into the river via a pump station near the old railway line. It creates a unique landscape with the flora and fauna of the Broads supporting rare varieties of birds and animals.



Please Note: The Marsh Trail is closed every other Saturday between 1st October and 31st January

HISTORY OF BECCLES FEN

Early History

The surface geology of the Marsh is glacial in origin although the Marshes are largely composed of alluvium, peat and gravels. These deposits are the result of flooding at various periods when the sea level has risen. The last such period was late in Roman and early Saxon times when the Waveney Valley would have formed a broad estuary. Most of the Marsh Trail would have been below water level even at low tide.

Middle Ages to 1584

Records show that by the 10th Century, Beccles Fen was owned by the Abbey, Bury St Edmunds. However, by the last Middle Ages, local people had established common rights on the Marshes which they were allowed to exercise unhindered until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th Century. At this point the Beccles Manor, of which the Fen formed a part, was granted to a local merchant named William Rede. Forty years of turmoil followed when commoners fought against the Rede family to protect their ancient rights. The matter was finally settled when the Fen was surrendered to Elizabeth I and granted to the people of Beccles by the Town's Charter of 1584.

The Modern Day

In 1854 the railway was built across the Fen. However, this proved particularly expensive to maintain due to the river crossings and was eventually closed in the 1960's. The Marsh is nowadays used less for agricultural purposes. It is now a haven for wildlife, where many rare species of plant life may be found with the wild fowl and dragonflies which have made their home in the complex network of dykes, the importance of which has been nationally recognised as an integral part of the Broads.

COUNTRY CODE

- Leave no litter
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Respect the life of the countryside
- Keep to paths
- Keep dogs under proper control
- Fasten all gates and avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls
- Safeguard water supplies



Broads Authority
The Broads - a member of the
National Park Society

Beccles Town Council hope you enjoy your visit to Beccles Fen

BECCLES MARSH TRAIL



In 1584 Beccles Marsh or 'Fen' was granted by Charter to the people of Beccles by Queen Elizabeth I. The Town Sign commemorates this event and is seen at each of the four entrances to Beccles.

Beccles Town Council welcomes you to walk round the system of tracks and paths which form the Trail, following the Way Marker arrows. These are in three colours to indicate the suggested routes that you can follow.

