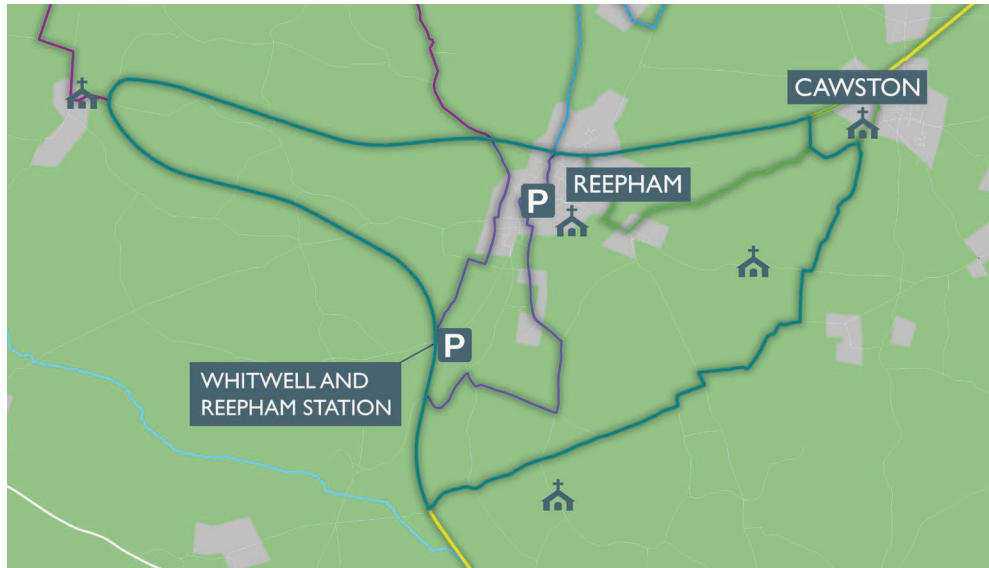


Themelthorpe Loop



12.5 miles



The longest of the Marriott's Way circular walks joins the villages of Cawston, Reepham and Great Witchingham by following the 'Themelthorpe Curve'. Marriott's Way is made up of two former train lines: the Midland and Great Northern line (originally joining Norwich with Melton Constable), and the Great Eastern Railway line (linking Wroxham and County School).

In 1959, all passenger traffic stopped flowing through Norwich City Station, but the station was too important for goods to shut completely. So as to avoid a journey all the way to Cromer to get from one side of Norwich to the other, the Themelthorpe curve was installed to join these two lines which had been rivals before nationalization. The curve was the sharpest corner on any line in the UK, so tight that trains were limited to 10mph when going around.

The path now is home to the largest badger sett in Norfolk, mainly thanks to the imported materials used to build the railways being firm enough to support their extensive network of tunnels.

Getting started

This walk starts at Whitwell and Reepham Station: don't forget to pop in for a drink and a marvel at their trains!

Getting there

There are places to park in Reepham, Cawston, and a car park at Whitwell and Reepham Station.

What to expect

Mainly off-road, along tracks and quiet lanes. Marriott's Way can be quite muddy in sections so wear suitable footwear.

Facilities

Reepham has many facilities including a pub, shop and cafe. Whitwell and Reepham Station serves food, drink and has toilets.

