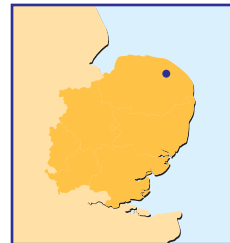


# CYCLING DISCOVERY MAP



Starting point: *Aylsham, Norfolk*

Distance: *29 miles/47 km (or with short cut 16 miles/26 km)*

Type of route: *Day ride - moderate, circular; on roads*

## LORDS OF THE MANOR

This cycle ride starts from the historic market town of Aylsham. From here the route heads north along quiet county lanes, through gently rolling landscapes and picturesque villages, such as Itteringham, Baconsthorpe and Hanworth. Here you can explore the grand country estates of the rich and famous - from the Jacobean Blickling Hall, with its fine tapestries and furniture, to the rambling roses of medieval Mannington, and 17th C. Felbrigg Hall with its walled garden. Along this route you can discover some of Norfolk's round-towered churches, visit the 15th C. remains of Baconsthorpe Castle and take a ride on a real narrow gauge steam railway.



*Blickling Hall, Garden and Park*

### Essential information

**Starting point:** Aylsham - Bure Valley Railway, Station Road car park (just off Norwich Road).

**Alternative starting point:** Felbrigg Hall (see 'M Felbrigg Hall' for information) - west gate car park. Access from unclassified road off A148, 13/4 miles south west of Cromer. Join the route by turning L out of the west gate onto the road, SP 'Felbrigg Forge'. After 1/4 mile, turn L (or basically SA) (NS). Then after a further 1/2 mile, turn L again (NS). Start from 'N Metton'.

**Car parking:** Aylsham - Bure Valley Railway, Station Road car park (free). You will need to follow the yellow triangle and park in the yellow bays of the car park. Felbrigg Hall - west gate car park (free).

**Nearest railway station:** Aylsham - Bure Valley Railway (carries cycles). This links with the main Bittern Line railway station at Hoveton. Cromer (21/4 miles north east of Felbrigg Hall - via National Cycle Network Route 30).

**Type of route:** Day ride - moderate, circular; on roads.

**Summary of route:** Aylsham - Blickling - Itteringham - Mannington Gardens and Countryside - Plumstead - Baconsthorpe - Bessingham - Gresham - Metton - Hanworth - Aldborough (Thurgarton) - Calthorpe and Erpingham - Aylsham.

**Distance:** 29 miles/47 km.

**Short cut:** From Mannington Gardens and Countryside, east along unclassified road (via Wolterton) to Calthorpe, 3 miles (5 km). Total route with short cut, 16 miles (26 km).

**Terrain:** Gently rolling. Several easy to moderate climbs. Lowest point - 62 feet (19 metres) at Erpingham. Highest point - 262 feet (80 metres) at Baconsthorpe.

**Cycle hire:** Blickling - Blickling Hall, Garden and Park (01263) 738030. Cromer (21/4 miles north east of route at Felbrigg Hall) - Knight Riders Cycle Centre, West Street (01263) 510039.

**Cycle repair:** Aylsham - Aylsham Cycles, 31a-33 Red Lion Street (01263) 731731. Cromer - Knight Riders Cycle Centre (see cycle hire above).

**Ordnance Survey map area:** Landranger 133 - North East Norfolk.

**National Cycle Network links:** Route 30. This ride follows the NCN from Gresham to Metton.

### Key to Symbols & Abbreviations

	Cycle Parking
	Places of Interest
	Refreshments
	Children Welcome
	Picnic Site
	Shop
	Toilets
	Tourist Information
	Caution/Take care
	Left Turn
	Right Turn
	T-junction
	Straight Across/Ahead
	Cross roads
	Sign-posted
	Not Sign-posted

*Aylsham*



# Points of Interest

(listed as you would find them along the route)  
Please note: within this map there is only room to list basic details regarding opening times. In this respect, if you are planning to visit any of the places of interest on this route, we advise you to telephone in advance to confirm exact opening days and times. Refreshment establishments listed on this map are just a small selection of those available. For further information, please contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre.

- A Aylsham** - historic small town with attractive Georgian buildings. For 500 years it was an important cloth making centre. Market - Mon, Fri. 🗺️  
🚶 Behind Town Hall.  
🏠 **Bure Valley Path** (Norwich Road) - 9 mile traffic-free path to Wroxham. Open to cyclists and walkers.  
**Bure Valley Railway** (Norwich Road) - narrow-gauge steam railway running for 9 miles between Aylsham and Wroxham. Open end Mar-Sept. Admission charge. (01263) 733858. ✖️ 🗺️  
**Marriotts Way** (Norwich Road) - 21 mile traffic-free path (on former railway line) to Reepham and Norwich. Open to cyclists and walkers.  
**St. Michael's Church** (off Market Place) - flint-faced with 14th C. tower. Humphrey Repton (1752-1818), the noted landscape gardener is buried here.  
✖️ Wide selection throughout town.  
🗺️ Bure Valley Railway Station, Norwich Road (01263) 733903. Open all year.
- B Blickling** - tiny settlement, set around the main gate to Blickling Park.  
🏠 **Blickling Hall, Garden and Park** - Jacobean house with gardens/parkland. Fine tapestries and furniture. Off-road cycle routes. The National Trust. Hall open Apr-Oct. Gardens/park all year. Admission charge. (01263) 738030. ✖️ 🗺️  
**St. Andrew's Church** - 13th C. door. Brass to Sir Nicholas de Dagworth (died 1401), builder of the first hall.  
✖️ **The Buckinghamshire Arms** 🗺️ (01263) 732133.
- C Just off the route** - Ingworth (1/4 mile north of route). Small riverside hamlet.  
🏠 **St. Lawrence's Church** - stump of Saxon tower. Royal arms of William and Mary.
- D Itteringham** - pretty village set on the River Bure. Fine 17th C. farmhouse. 🗺️  
🏠 **St. Mary's Church** - inscription to William Lumner, builder of Mannington Hall.  
✖️ **The Walpole Arms** (01263) 587258. 🗺️
- E Mannington Gardens and Countryside** - Medieval moated manor house. Gardens with rose collection. Walks. Owned by Lord and Lady Walpole. Gardens open May-Sept. Walks all year. Admission charge. (01263) 584175. ✖️ 🗺️
- F Just off the route** - Wolterton Park (3/4 mile east of Mannington, via short cut). Georgian house with parkland/lake. Walks. Owned by Lord and Lady Walpole. Park open all year. Hall end Apr-Oct (Fri only). Admission charge. (01263) 584175. 🗺️  
✖️ **The Saracens Head** (01263) 768909. 🗺️
- G Just off the route** - Little Barningham (1/4 mile west of route). Tiny village.  
🏠 **St. Andrew's Church** - 14th C. (although restored) with pew showing upright carved wooden skeleton
- H Just off the route** - Matlaske (1/4 mile east of route). Small village with flint/brick cottages.  
🏠 **Barningham Hall** - built 1612. Former home of the Paston family. Partly ruined church (St. Mary's). *Church open to the public, but hall closed.*  
**St. Peter's Church** - 12th C. with round tower and Royal arms of George III.
- I Plumstead** - several old brick and flint cottages.  
🏠 **St. Michael's Church** - 12th C. but well restored. A cousin of Lord Nelson was rector here (1793-1837).
- J Baconsthorpe** - named after the Bacon family, who held the manor in the 15th C.  
🏠 **St. Mary's Church** - monuments to Heydon family. 15th C. roof shield showing three pigs' heads.  
**Baconsthorpe Castle** (1/2 mile north of village) - remains of 15th C. part-moated, semi-fortified house, built by the Heydon family. English Heritage. Open all year. Admission free. (01223) 582700.  
✖️ **The Hare and Hounds Freehouse and Inn** (01263) 712329. 🗺️
- K Bessingham** - wooded village with red-tiled and flint houses.  
🏠 **St. Mary's Church** - set on a hilltop. Anglo-Saxon round tower.
- L Gresham** - village sign shows a grasshopper, the crest of the Gresham family. Remains of former castle (*not open to the public*). Round-towered church.  
🏠 **A and J Young Pottery** - pottery workshop. Open all year. Admission free. (01263) 577548.
- M Just off the route** - Felbrigg Hall, Garden and Park (3/4 mile north of route). 17th C. with 18th C. furniture and pictures. Walled garden. The National Trust. Hall open end Mar-Oct. Gardens open end Mar-Dec. Park all year. Admission charge. (01263) 837444. ✖️ 🗺️  
🏠 **St. Margaret's Church** - 15th C. tower. Important brasses, including Sir Simon de Felbrigg (died 1351).  
🗺️ Cromer (2 1/4 miles north east of Felbrigg Hall - via National Cycle Network Route 30). Prince of Wales Road (0871) 200 3071. Open all year.
- N Metton** - tiny hamlet. Just to the south west is Sustead, with its 13th C. round-towered church.
- O Hanworth** - pretty village of thatched houses set around a large common, with several ponds.
- P Aldborough** (Thurgarton) - a former centre for tannery. Large green with Georgian houses and cricket pitch. Annual fair granted by King John. 🗺️  
🏠 **All Saints' Church** (Thurgarton) - 14th C. thatched with carved bench ends.  
**St. Mary's Church** (Aldborough) - restored 19th C. window marks the slaughter of the Norfolk Regiment in the Dardanelles, Turkey in 1915.  
✖️ **The Black Boys** (01263) 768086. 🗺️  
**The Old Red Lion** (01263) 761451. 🗺️
- Q Calthorpe and Erpingham** - two villages, spilt by a stream. Erpingham is linked to the family of the same name. Sir Thomas Erpingham was a renowned knight, immortalised by Shakespeare in 'Henry V'.  
🏠 **Alby Crafts** (1 mile east of village, beside A140) - gallery, craft workshops and gardens. Open all year. Admission free (charge for gardens). (01263) 761590. ✖️  
**St. Margaret's Church** (Calthorpe) - north-facing 'Devil' door, and a corbel showing two female faces.  
**St. Mary's Church** (Erpingham) - began by Sir Thomas Erpingham. Brass to his father, Sir John (died 1370).  
✖️ **Alby Horseshoes Inn** (1 mile east of village, beside A140) (01263) 761378. 🗺️  
**The Spread Eagle Inn** (01263) 761591. 🗺️

# ROUTE DIRECTIONS

**STARTING POINT:** Aylsham (Bure Valley Railway, Station Road car park).

**A** Aylsham - historic small town. 🚲 🏠 ✂️ 🏰 🗺️

**1** At the T-j with Norwich Road turn right (NS). ⚠️

**2** Bear L around the corner to the Market Place, SP 'Bawdeswell B1145, Saxthorpe (B1354)'. ⚠️

**3** Turn L onto Heydon Road, SP 'Abel Heath 1'.

**4** Turn R (or basically SA), SP 'Blickling'. The road passes through Silvergate, a hamlet of estate cottages.

**5** At the T-j, turn R onto the B1354 (NS). ⚠️

**Alternative off-road route.** This removes approx. 2 miles from the total route. Please respect other users on this track.

At the T-j, turn L onto the B1354 (NS). After about 100 metres, turn R, SP 'Blickling Park'. Continue SA, passing through the white gate, then immediately L onto the bridleway. Follow this (ignoring all turnings) until you reach the Great Wood car park, where you rejoin the road (and the main route) by continuing SA.

Please now continue from 'direction no. 8'.

**B** Blickling - settlement surrounding Jacobean house. 🏠 ✂️

**6** Turn L, SP 'Ingworth 1'.

**7** Turn L, SP 'Itteringham'. Along this road are two car parks where you can enjoy Blickling Hall's parkland - at Park Farm a walk leads to the lake, whilst just before Itteringham Common is the Great Wood area.

**C** Just off the route - Ingworth (continue around the corner, SP 'Ingworth'. Then at the next T-j, turn L). Riverside hamlet. 🏠

**8** At the T-j, go SA, SP 'Matlask 3 1/2, Holt 9 1/2'.

**9** Turn R, SP 'Mannington 1'.

**D** Itteringham - set on the River Bure. 🏠 ✂️ 🏰

**E** Mannington Gardens and Countryside - gardens and walks. 🏠

**Short cut** (3 miles). Total route with short cut - 16 miles.

Turn R, SP 'Wolterton, Wickmere'. After 1/2 mile (at the T-j), go SA, SP 'Wolterton Park, Private Road - Estate Vehicles only'. Please note this is seasonal access only for cyclists. Gates are closed at dusk. Follow the road through the woodland to the hall. You then take the main drive back up to the T-j with the road, where you turn R, SP 'Erpingham 1 1/2, Aylsham 5'. After 1 1/4 miles (in the village of Calthorpe), turn R, SP 'Aylsham 6, Erpingham 1 1/4'. *If the route through Wolterton Park is not open, turn L at the first T-j, SP 'Wolterton, Matlask 1 1/2, Erpingham 2 1/2'. After just over 1/4 mile (beside Park Farm), turn R, SP 'Wolterton, Erpingham 2 1/4, Aylsham 5 3/4'. Continue for 1 3/4 miles to the village of Calthorpe, where you turn R, SP 'Aylsham 6, Erpingham 1 1/4'.*

**F** Wolterton Park - Georgian house with walks. 🏠 ✂️

Please now continue from 'Q Calthorpe and Erpingham'.

**G** Just off the route - Little Barningham (turn L, SP 'Edgefield 3 3/4, Briston 6'). Tiny village. 🏠

**10** Just before the former school-house on the triangle junction, turn L (NS). To your R here is the site of an old wartime airfield (RAF Matlaske). Then at the X-roads, go SA, SP 'Plumstead 3 1/4'.

**H** Just off the route - Matlaske (turn R, NS). Small village. 🏠

**I** Plumstead - old brick/flint cottages. 🏠



Baconsthorpe Castle

**J** Baconsthorpe - named after the Bacon family. 🏠 ✂️

**11** Turn R onto Gresham Road, SP 'Gresham 2 1/2'. Or alternatively continue SA to visit the village of Baconsthorpe (and its castle).

**12** At the X-roads, turn R, SP 'Barningham 1, Matlaske 2'.

**13** At the T-j, turn L (or basically SA), SP 'Gresham 2 1/2, Bessingham 2'. Just along this road you can turn R (along a private road) to visit the partly ruined church at Barningham Hall (see 'H Matlaske' for information).

**14** Turn R (or basically SA), SP 'Bessingham 2 1/2, Aldborough 4 1/2'.

**K** Bessingham - wooded village. 🏠

**15** Turn L, SP 'Gresham'.

**L** Gresham - village sign with grasshopper. 🏠

**16** At the T-j (in front of the church), turn R onto Cromer Road. You are now on the National Cycle Network Route 30.

**17** At the triangle junction (with the cross), turn R, SP 'Metton 1 1/2, Roughton 3 1/2'.

**M** Just off the route - Felbrigg Hall (turn L (NS). After 1/2 mile, turn R (NS). Then 1/4 mile later turn R into the west gate entrance). 17th C. hall with walled garden. 🏠

**N** Metton - tiny hamlet.

**18** Turn R, then immediately R again, SP 'Hanworth 2 1/4'.

**19** At the T-j, turn R, SP 'Hanworth 1 1/2, Thurgarton 1 1/2'.

**O** Hanworth - pretty village set around a large common.

**20** Continue SA for 1 mile, then at the X-roads, turn L, SP 'Aldborough 1/2, Aylsham 6'.

**P** Aldborough (Thurgarton) - large green with Georgian houses. 🏠 ✂️ 🏰

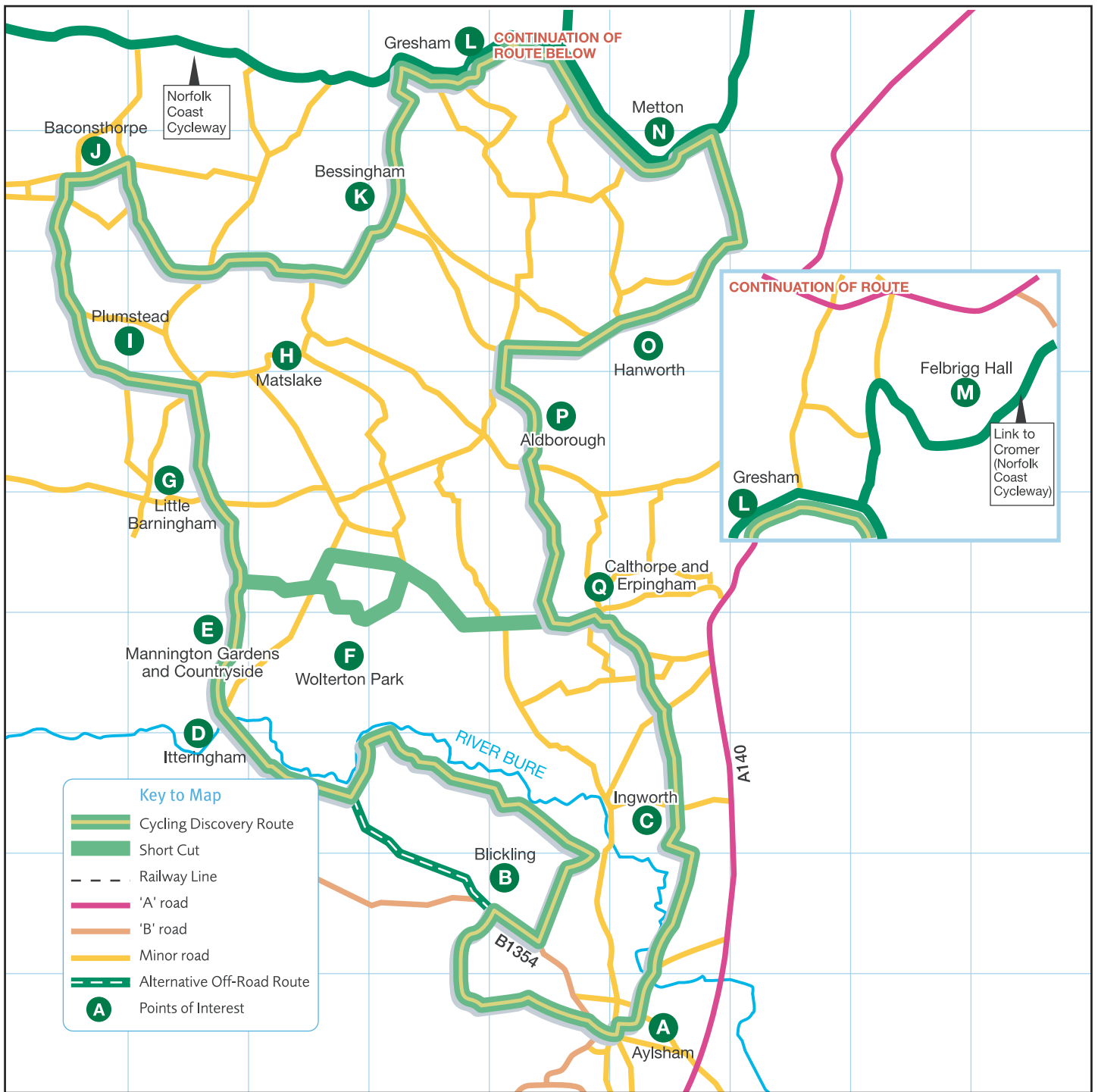
**21** At the staggered X-roads, turn R, SP 'Matlaske, Holt'. Then immediately L, SP 'Erpingham 1 1/2, Aylsham 5'.

**Q** Calthorpe and Erpingham - two villages split by a stream. 🏠 ✂️

**22** At the T-j, turn R, then immediately L (NS).

**23** Bear sharply L around the corner, SP 'Aylsham 3 1/4, Cawston 5'. Almost immediately you come to a T-j, where you turn R, SP 'Town Centre'. ⚠️

**24** Turn L onto Red Lion Street, SP 'Town Centre'. At the next T-j, go SA, SP 'Free P'. This brings you back to Norwich Road where you return to the car park at the Bure Valley Railway. ⚠️



The Map shown in this route provides just a general outline - In this respect, we recommend that you purchase the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map which covers the area. Ordnance Survey map area: Landranger 133 - North East Norfolk. 'Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown copyright (2006). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017282'.

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