

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Wicken Fen Summer Nature Trail

Look out for a wide array of wildlife on this easy walk through Wicken Fen, a unique wetlands habitat that is home to more than 9,000 species, including hen harriers, muntjac deer and Konik ponies. Visit three wildlife hides along the way, including the 10-metre Tower Hide, and experience their commanding views across the reserve. This trail is suitable for both active walkers and families alike.

! Restricted opening times

Please note, this trail is only available June – October. The numbered points 4 - 10 on this trail are incorrectly marked on the map, due to a glitch. The route description is accurate, please check the minor route variation between points 3 and 5 with a member of our welcome team at the Fen.



Information

Address: Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve, Lode Lane, Wicken, CB7 5XP

OS map: Explorer 226

Activity: Walking

Easy: Flat route along grassy paths. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Not suitable for dogs

Full trail: Miles: 2.25 (km: 3.6)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 1 hour 15 mins

Terrain

A well-signed route along wide grassy paths which can be muddy. Some sections may be closed in wet weather to protect the fauna in this special habitat – please check at the Visitor Centre before setting off. Take care near waterways and ponds.

Total steps: 11

Start point: Wicken Fen Visitor Centre, grid ref: TL563705

1. Starting from the back of the Visitor Centre turn right onto the boardwalk, heading towards the wind pump.
2. Follow the boardwalk in the direction of the wind pump. Before the advent of steam and diesel pumping engines, wind pumps were the main method used to drain turf pits and fields.
3. Continue ahead on the boardwalk until you reach the Roger Clarke Hide to your right.
4. Follow the path past the hide towards the Woodland Walk. The path takes you past old brick kilns.
5. Instead of heading straight into the Woodland Walk, turn left along Sedge Fen Drove, one of the oldest paths on the Fen, by which villagers could access their strips for cutting sedge.
6. Take the first path right (signposted) towards the outer edge of the Sedge Fen.
7. Follow the path along Mitchell's Drove, with Spinney Bank on your right, until you come to the Pump House where the trail turns sharp left.
8. Follow the trail south with Drainer's Dyke, and Verrall's Fen on the far back, on your right. You pass the Godwin Plots on your left, a ground-breaking ecological experiment started in 1920s and continued to this day.

9. Follow the path all the way to Wicken Lode. At the southern end, the trees are known as Godwin's Triangle. This area, in contrast to the Godwin Plots, is never cut and therefore is now tree-covered.
 10. The path passes the historic Tower Hide, built in the 1950s and thatched with Wicken sedge. It overlooks the Mere and Adventurers' Fen, and gives good views of the differently cut strips on Sedge Fen.
 11. The trail follows the drove along the waterway (or Lode) past a metal wind pump which draws calcium-rich water from Monks Lode and pumps it into ditches to irrigate Sedge Fen. With a working sedge field on your left, continue back to the Visitor Centre.
- End point: Wicken Fen Visitor Centre, grid ref: TL565107
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