

Walk 5

Roydon Heritage Walk - Roydon by the Ling

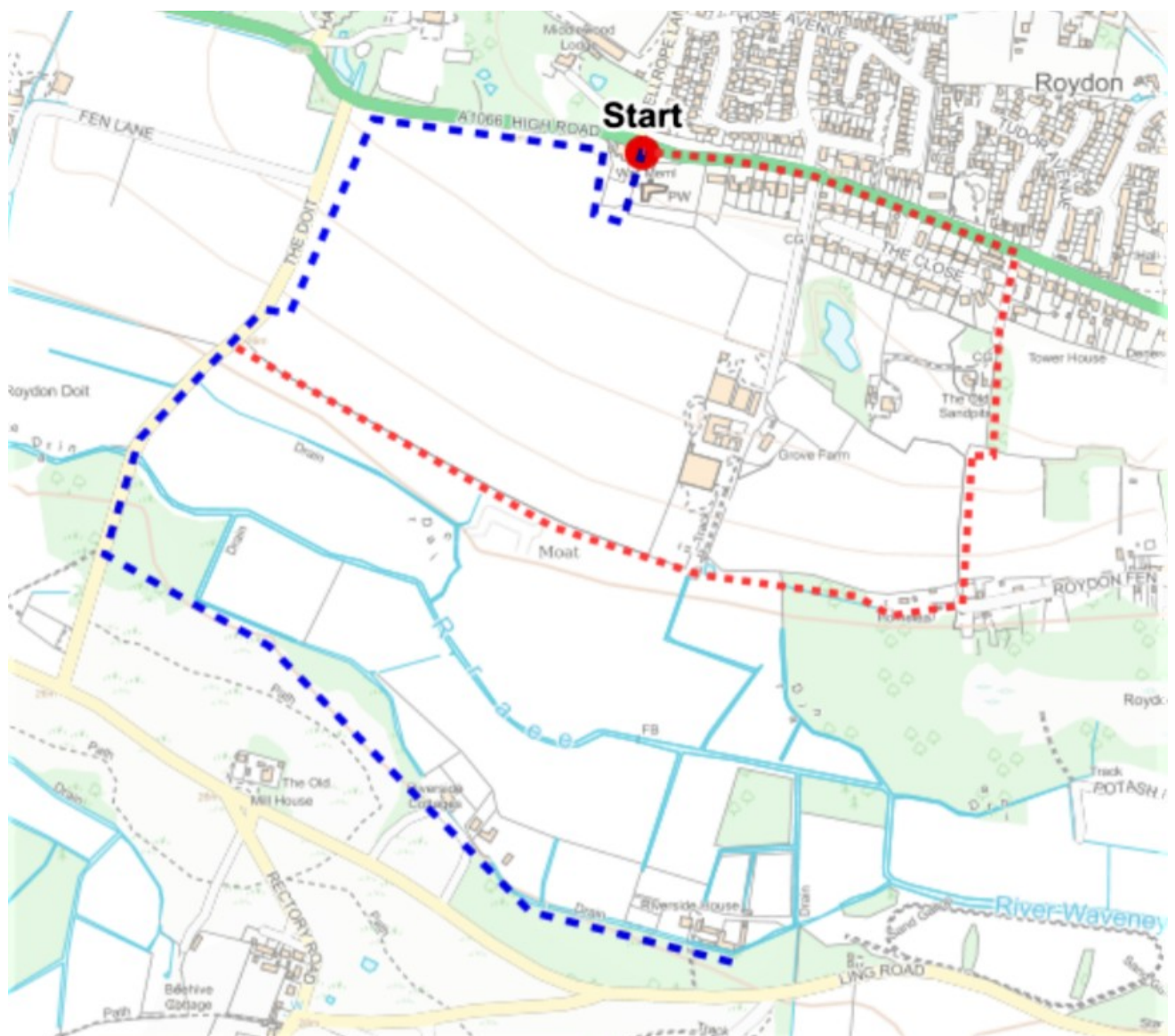
This walk goes to a little known part of Roydon, which most people think is in Wortham, south of the river, and therefore in Suffolk.

The going is fairly comfortable (but not for wheelchairs etc).

Note that the first part of the walk takes you along field headlands. These are not official public rights of way but are regularly walked by local people and others (thanks to the farmer!)

Distance: 2.4 miles minimum (3.9 K). Short walk 1.9 miles (3.1 k).

The short walk is in red on the map:



1 From the car park in front of the church walk down the track between the churchyard and the pub, keeping to the left through the pub car park. You will come to a gap in the bank in front of you, which leads to a gap in a hedge, through which you reach a field headland.

2 Turn right along the headland, which takes you right again, then left along parallel to the A1066 – with great views over the Waveney Valley.

3 At the end of this headland turn left down the field alongside a copse. This copse was planted in 1973 – part of a general drive to plant trees; much of the wood was lost in the drought of 1974, but was immediately replaced.

At the bottom turn right along a worn track through the trees to Doit Lane.

4 Turn left down the lane. (Go to number 10 if you want the **short walk**.)

Just before you reach the bridge, on your right are fields which once were commons called The Doit. Enclosure of land here was one of the causes of the Roydon Riots in 1893.

5 As you go over the Doit Bridge you enter Wortham Ling, Suffolk.

6 When you are almost at the car park on the right, you will see a track going off to the left through trees. (It is opposite a similar track on the right).

7 Take this track and after a while you will be walking next to a ditch on your left. This is the old course of the River Waveney, whose course from South Lopham to Great Yarmouth marks the Norfolk-Suffolk border. However, the course of the river has been changed here, moving further north, but the border between Norfolk and Suffolk, Roydon and Wortham, has not. And because this ditch runs in front of the houses which you pass as you walk along the track, these houses, apparently on the Ling, are actually in Roydon, South Norfolk.

8 You pass five dwellings, all on your left, and then the track bears right to the road and other parts of the Ling.

9 Go back along the track, or explore the Ling and then head back to the Doit Bridge. From here go back to the church the way you came,

or take this **alternative route**:

10 Part way up Doit Lane go through the kissing gate on the right (on the left if you are on the **short walk**) and walk across the fields with the hedge nearby on your left. This is the Angles Way, with the River Waveney running through the water meadows on your right.

These fields used to be known as The Seven Meadows (not seven now!)

Note a wild pear tree in the hedge soon after you start (the first *single* tree you come to).

Immediately after passing through a kissing gate next to a metal farm gate, notice on your right the ditch remains of a medieval moated house called Bush Hall (for more details see [Medieval-moated-site - Norfolk Heritage Explorer](#)).

At the end of the fields there is a lynchet (raised bank) on the left– possibly made to prevent flooding from the river, or the result of many years of ploughing the field above.

11 Go through the kissing gate and you are now in Roydon Fen. Follow the track straight ahead and then as it turns sharp right and left. After you pass a house on the left you will find yourself on a gravelled road. Turn right along it and soon on the left is a footpath (beside house number 17/18)) which will take you up the field edge, through a strip of woodland, and along a tarmac drive to Roydon's High Road, next to the petrol station.

12 Turn left along the High Road to get back to the church.

Note: at number 11 you can join the walk number 3 - *The Old Sandpits and Fen Street*

Map courtesy of Parish Online and Ordnance Survey ©

With thanks to the Roydon Footpath Group – for walking the footpaths, for helping with maintenance when needed, and for help with writing these guides.

Many thanks to Andrew Daniels and David Bartrum for lots of local knowledge.

For more information or to let us know your comments please contact the Parish Council Clerk: Wendy Benson, roydondiss@gmail.com