

Start point	Beach Road car park, Winterton Grid reference TG498197
Parking	Beach Road car park, Winterton (seasonal charge)
Distance	4.7 miles
Details	Minor gradients, 60% soft    seasonal café

Walk instructions

This walk takes you through beautiful but wildlife sensitive areas.

Please keep dogs on leads or under close control throughout the year. Many creatures lose their young if disturbed by dogs, especially seals and ground nesting birds such as skylarks on the dune heath and little terns on the beach. Stubble fields in the surrounding farm land have been specifically left for wild birds during the winter.

Start by walking from the car park to the wooden boat sheds then turn inland on the vehicle track through the dunes, heading towards the church on the horizon. Ignore all paths crossing this main track. As the track approaches the houses, bear slightly right, leaving Winterton Dunes opposite the 'Winterton - Horsey; Site of Special Scientific Interest' sign by the public footpath on the track between the houses.

Cross the road at the end into Low Road, opposite. Continue ahead as the road becomes a restricted byway and follow the track to the end, ignoring all turns leading off it.

Continue ahead on reaching the road at the end.

Pass the White House on the right. After Manor Farm Barn and Church Barn, where the road bears sharp left, continue ahead on the concrete public footpath through the wood beside the Low Road sign.

See if you can spot the ivy clad church ruins hidden in the wood on the left, pass Burnley Hall and then turn right at the T-junction onto another concrete track.

Pass a thatched house called Honey Pot and follow the track around to the left, then turn right at the next junction of tracks.

After approximately half a mile, turn right off the concrete track onto a grass track between the hedge and wire fence.

Follow the track around to the left towards the farm buildings, pass the buildings on your left and continue ahead on the footpath between the hedges.

Turn right on reaching the Winterton Dunes Nature Reserve at the information panel.

Note: for stunning views towards Horsey, have a quick diversion by walking to the top of the sand dunes just ahead and look west.

Follow the public footpath from the information panel through the Winterton Dunes for 1.7 miles to the car park. On reaching the edge of the village, chose any of the tracks leading to the car park and aiming for the Coast Guard lookout station.

Enjoy a beautiful walk through an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



● You can see an area named Decoy Wood on the map close to the Winterton Dunes National Nature Reserve. The wood takes its name from a duck decoy constructed in 1807 by George Skelton. Duck decoys were specially designed water features for catching ducks and are reputed to have been invented nearby in Waxham by Sir W Wodehouse during the reign of James I. Decoy Wood is part of a County Wildlife Site buffering Winterton Dunes Nature Reserve and continues to be valued, although now for biodiversity rather than for its original purpose (food!). Please note there is no public access to the wood.



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Winterton Dunes AONB walk

- The dunes at Winterton are classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and are part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which stretches from Winterton to Sea Palling.
- These naturally forming dunes are unusual in that they show greater ecological similarities to the dune systems of the Baltic - which support acidic plant communities - rather than the dunes on the North Norfolk Coast - where the sand is calcareous. It is one of just a few sites in Norfolk to have a stable breeding population of Natterjack toads, Europe's loudest amphibian. The toads burrow in the dunes and breed in the shallow pools behind the main ridge, which also supports adders, smooth and great crested newts. A number of dragonfly species use the pools including the Norfolk and common hawkler. This special interest is protected under powerful European legislation and the site is also a National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England, for more information visit www.naturalengland.org.uk.
- A colony of grey seals live north of Winterton and can be regularly seen basking on the beach, particularly in December and January when they have pups and come out of the water for several weeks. Their diet includes sand eels, flounders and whitebait. Have a close look in the sea to see if you are lucky enough to spot an inquisitive face peeping out of the water. Grey seals have long pointed heads, parallel nostrils and speckles on their coats. If you are fortunate enough to see seals on the beach, please remember they could abandon their young if disturbed, keep your distance, do not approach them and keep dogs on leads.

- Common seal

Photograph by G. Cresswell

