

## Fynn Valley Discovery- Lower Route

Fynn Valley Walks Group



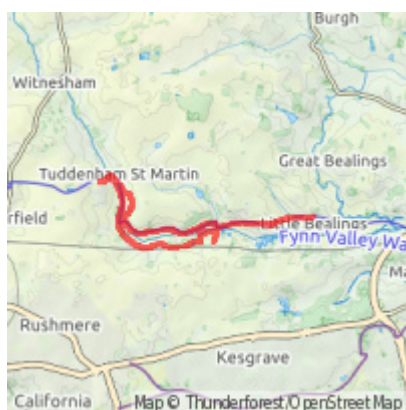
### Route Summary

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A very picturesque circular route of around 6.5 miles, making the most of the beautiful scenery of the Fynn Valley.

### Route Overview

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Category: Walking

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Moderate

Date Published: 10th October 2020

Difficulty: Easy

Length: 10.470 km / 6.54 mi

Last Modified: 23rd March 2021

### Description

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A very picturesque circular walk from Little Bealings to the Tuddenham Fountain Pub, following the path of the River Fynn but also taking lesser known paths away from the official Fynn Valley Walk, to make the most of the beautiful scenery. The walk passes green pasture and arable fields, Playford Mere, a couple of viewpoints with sweeping views across the Fynn Valley, small sections of woodland, and secret treasures such as a tunnel of blackthorn which is adorned with white blossom in the Spring. In fine weather, Buzzards and occasionally Kestrels can be seen circling over the valley, whilst deer can sometimes be spotted in the fields and woodland. It's worth taking a short extra stroll from the Fountain Pub to St Martin's church, where you will find the burial place of Giles the famous artist and cartoonist.

To find more photos and maps for this area see the Fynn Valley Walks Group page on Facebook. Look in "Albums" under "Media".

### Waypoints

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#### Start Point - Little Bealings Church

(52.08524; 1.25273)

To start the walk, locate the narrow path at the SW corner of the churchyard, in front of the church, and follow this path.

## View to Playford Mere

(52.08399; 1.24160)

There is a lovely view south to Playford Mere from this section of the path. The little copse in the field to the south is actually a natural spring, where there is a small waterfall. The mere is private and was built for leisure by the owners of Hill Farm. The sand cliffs to the left/behind the mere were created to provide a nesting place for Sand Martins. The hedge along the field is Elm, interspersed with invasive Bramble which is loaded with fruit in late summer!

## Elm Trees

(52.08414; 1.23755)

Although many think the Elm have died out in the UK, there are many Elm trees in the Fynn Valley, where they are the hedgerow of choice. Clusters of young Elm can often be found together, where this location is a good example. In summer and Autumn you can tell by the rough furry leaves. Once Elm grow to a certain size they are susceptible to disease as the beetle takes an interest in the bark- until then they can grow freely. You will therefore find mostly young Elm trees or see Elm as hedgerows, rather than the grand trees of many years ago.

## Viewpoint with a bench

(52.08407; 1.23687)

There are some lovely views to the south, across pasture to the River Fynn, with Lux Wood on the far hill. If you step down to the lane into Hall Farm, you will find a bench where you can rest and enjoy the view.

## Dog Waste Bin

(52.08401; 1.23618)

Dog waste bin

## Butts Road

(52.08400; 1.23103)

Take care crossing the road which can have fast approaching cars. The walk continues on the path opposite the junction.

## Turn right just after the footbridge

(52.08364; 1.22814)

When you emerge from the copse, turn right to take the path north.

## Read if persistent wet weather!

(52.08440; 1.22732)

The 'Middle path' you are about to take is very picturesque. If there has been persistent wet weather however, the first field may not be passable without wellington boots as the middle section gets quite waterlogged. If this is the case, the suggestion is to carry straight on up the hill instead and follow the 'Fynn Valley Discovery - Upper Route' map as far as the Tuddenham Fountain pub, then use this map for the return to Little Bealings. The Upper Route map can be

found at: <https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/Mzc5MTMyMQ==>

### Viewpoint and bench

(52.08400; 1.22453)

The view south over the pasture and the River Fynn to the hill beyond is very pleasant. Here a bench has been erected in memory of Geoff Pratt who in his retirement did much to introduce people to the wonderful walks around Suffolk. He is known for 'Walkers Way' articles in the East Anglian Daily Times where he and his wife penned one a month for 22 years, and his walking guides including 'Suffolk Rambles'.

### 5 Tunnel of Blackthorn

(52.08285; 1.21773)

Here you walk through a tunnel of blackthorn, which becomes a tunnel of beautiful white flowers in the Spring,

### 6 Paths Cross- go straight on

(52.08293; 1.21077)

There are several choices of paths through this beautiful stretch of the Fynn Valley, on this walk we take the path straight on to find the lovely viewpoint 100 meters on.

### Viewpoint

(52.08255; 1.20897)

Viewpoint with a bench overlooking the valley. Look out for birds of prey in fine weather! Buzzards are common (wingspans of up to 4.5 feet) and Kestrels can also be seen. Sometimes you can see deer in the fields to the west.

### 7 Dog Waste Bin

(52.08901; 1.20535)

Dog Waste Bin

### Fountain Pub

(52.09183; 1.20042)

This is roughly the half way point and The Fountain is a great place to take a rest. From here it is worth just going a little way further to St Martin's church, which is the burial place of Giles the famous artist and cartoonist.

### 8 Turn left to locate the little path

(52.09156; 1.19970)

Turn left to locate the little path at the end of the close. This allows us to reach the back entrance to the churchyard without walking on the busy road.

### St Martin's Church Tuddenham

(52.09081; 1.19780)

Close to this marker lies the grave of Carl Giles, the artist famous for 'Giles' cartoons in the Daily Express. Carl moved to nearby Winesham just after marrying and lived there for 50 years, up until his death in 1995. Giles' grave is easy to find, it is just to the right of the main entrance to the churchyard.

### Return using the Fynn Valley Walk path

(52.09134; 1.20116)

We return along a different route, proceeding through the gate to the right of the track. This gate is next to a small public parking bay. The return path rolls along pasture next to the River Fynn.

### Take the path to the right past the Wier

(52.08426; 1.20259)

The main path branches to the right past the weir. This proceeds next to the Fynn through some pretty woodland heading east, to another great viewpoint.

In persistent wet weather, this is very difficult to pass however and the landowner usually allows an alternative temporary permissive route. For this alternate route, go straight on then immediately turn right instead of following the track up the hill. Following the path close to the hedge on the right hand side, this path isn't shown on every map. When you reach the next track running north/south, turn right and go south to re-join our original route.

### Viewpoint

(52.08089; 1.21245)

A viewpoint with a bench

### Footpath has changed

(52.08224; 1.22327)

Note that the footpath has been upgraded and now runs to the south of the pond.

### Optional detour to view over Playford Hall

(52.08288; 1.22782)

If you wish, before continuing to the left, take the path to your right approximately 100 yards up the hill until you reach the gate marking which is the rear entrance road to the historic, moated Playford Hall.

### Views across the Fynn Valley and over Playford Hall

(52.08143; 1.22700)

Look back north east to find Playford Hall, a Grade II\* moated Elizabethan mansion, the eastern half of which is considered to have been demolished in the middle of the 18th century. It is believed to date back to c. 1590 when it was built for Sir Anthony Felton, Sheriff of Suffolk.

Playford Hall was also the home of Thomas Clarkson who was instrumental in the abolition of the slave trade.

Thomas Clarkson died at Playford Hall in 1846 and is buried at St Mary's Church, Playford. There is a monument to Thomas Clarkson in Playford Church. We visit Playford Church on other walks, in our series, for example Bealings and Playford Upper Loop.

### 13 Rejoin our outward path

(52.08353; 1.22782)

Here we rejoin our outward path, to take us back to Little Bealings Church.

If you missed the view of the river through the trees, before continuing perhaps go back a few steps and look through the gap in the hedge/trees. Here the river widens into a pool then flows onwards through the trees and makes a pretty photo.

### 14 Little path on the left

(52.08500; 1.25033)

Watch out for the narrow path on the left which takes you directly back to Little Bealings church.

