

Bealings and Playford Loop- Lower Route

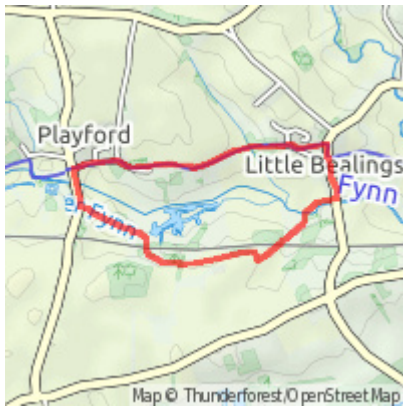
Fynn Valley Walks Group



Route Summary

A very picturesque amble of around 2.5 miles, following the lesser known path south of Little Bealings. There are wonderful views across Playford Mere and the Fynn Valley. Watch out for some very unusual trees!

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Length: 3.990 km / 2.49 mi

Last Modified: 23rd March 2021

Difficulty: Medium

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Moderate

Date Published: 29th October 2020

Description

A very picturesque amble of around 2.5 miles, following the lesser known path south of Little Bealings, tracking closer to the railway line. There is a wonderful view across Playford Mere to the north, the path then descends into some woodland before circling back past Playford Hall and Hill Farm. Watch out for some very unusual trees! Although this walk is short, I have rated it medium because there is one portion with some steep steps and a couple of tall styles.

Find more pictures and maps for our walks on Facebook at Fynn Valley Walks Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/337873547528977>,

looking under "Albums" in the Media section

Waypoints

Start Point

(52.08520; 1.25238)

Little Bealings Church. This route is best followed clockwise, first proceed down the church path to the road and turn right.

1 Head South

(52.08525; 1.25286)

Head south past the Angela Cobbold Hall

Footpath to the right

(52.08240; 1.25372)

Take the footpath to the right, just before the bridge

Footbridge

(52.08167; 1.25104)

Cross over the Fynn at the little footbridge.

Take the right hand path

(52.07990; 1.24864)

Follow the path in front of you that goes diagonally across the field. At the end of the field, before going through to the next field, turn right and follow the short permissive path to the gate on your left which goes through to the the lesser known public footpath- which has some scenic treats!

Superb views over the Mere to the north

(52.07926; 1.24361)

Look to the north for lovely views across the Mere to the hills beyond. The sand cliffs in front of the Mere are home to Sandmartins. These cliffs were constructed deliberately to encourage Sandmartins to nest here.

Hugging Trees

(52.07896; 1.24144)

Look out for the two 'hugging trees' towards the end of the field. Here you will find the remaining trunk of a large old, gnarled oak(?) tree, with impressive girth, which provides a framework for a younger Horse Chestnut tree which has 'wrapped around' the old tree, as though hugging it.

Skeleton Tree

(52.07924; 1.23825)

Look to the right to see how a fallen tree has adapted to use it's old branches as a support- the effect is not unlike a dinosaur skeleton!

Steep Steps

(52.07988; 1.23738)

Steep steps down to the copse, with awkward (tall) styles.

Viewpoint

(52.08401; 1.23605)

Lovely views south over the pasture and towards distant woodland. A bench is provided just off the footpath, on the narrow road to Hill Farm.

Dog Waste Bin

(52.08404; 1.23644)

A dog waste bin

Cluster of Elm Trees

(52.08408; 1.23689)

Although many think the Elm have died out in the UK, there are many Elm in the Fynn Valley, where they are the hedgerow of choice. Clusters of young Elm trees can often be found together, where this location is a good example. In Summer and Autumn you can tell by the ovate shaped leaves which are rough and furry to the touch. 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. There is a good stretch of Elm hedgerow coming up soon (see the next viewpoint).

Views south

(52.08398; 1.24148)

Perhaps stop by the gate to enjoy the view across the meadow, Playford Mere, and to the hill beyond. Swans and Herons frequent the Mere, also on a fine day Buzzards (wingspans up to 4.5ft) may be seen hunting or playing on the thermals, or if you are lucky you may see a Kestrel.

The clump of trees in the middle of the field is the site of a natural spring and a small waterfall.

The hedgerow along this path is Elm, interspersed with invasive Bramble- which is abundant with fruit in late summer!

Narrow path to the left

(52.08501; 1.25044)

Watch out for the path to your left, which can be easy to miss! Follow the path, walking past the back of the school on your right, which takes you back to Little Bealings Church.

End Point

(52.08521; 1.25229)

Little Bealings Church

