

# HOLT COUNTRY PARK

## Countryside Walks and Wildlife

Holt Country Park, just 10 minutes walk from the historic Norfolk Georgian town of the same name, is a tranquil setting of mature woodland adjoining the heathland of Holt Lowes an SSSI and the nearby River Glaven.

The earliest recorded mention of the land now the Country Park was in the 1700's. At that time the area between the Norwich Road and Hempstead Road was a racecourse. The race meetings were an important local event with members of the aristocracy competing for the "Town Plate".

The wood extends to almost 100 acres and contains more than 30 species of tree composed mainly of Scots Pine, Oak and Silver Birch together with other species. Woodland management of the site is directed to increasing the proportion of native broad-leaved trees with stands of varying ages to enhance habitat diversity.

The Country Park is a sustainable working-woodland where people, the local economy and nature co-exist. It is a valuable natural resource for all to enjoy. Access has been thoughtfully planned with a system of broad-rides, woodland glades and way marked walks. One of the routes is designed for ease of use by the less mobile or for families with pushchairs.

Throughout the Country Park there are interesting features such as a totem pole, carved stile, play area and viewing tower.

Our aim is to maintain the Park as countryside with an unspoiled and natural feel. There is a deliberate management policy to keep signs and notices to a minimum reducing unnecessary visual impact. Bins are provided for dog waste. Responsible owners are asked to keep the paths in the park clear. We do not provide litter bins and ask that you take your litter home with you. For many years, the Country Park's wildlife has been studied by local Natural History Societies whose work has provided a wealth of information on trends and populations on which management activities are based.

Holt Country Park and its connecting public-footpaths make it an ideal base from which to explore the surrounding countryside. Whether you choose a brief visit or plan to stay longer and bring a picnic, if you are a family or wish a little solitude – you are always welcome in Holt Country Park.

Our woodland has many moods. It is beautiful and inviting at any season although perhaps at its best in spring, early summer and in the autumn. Whenever you visit, take time to stop and listen to the restful sounds of birdsong or the sighing of wind in the trees, savour these sounds and relax.

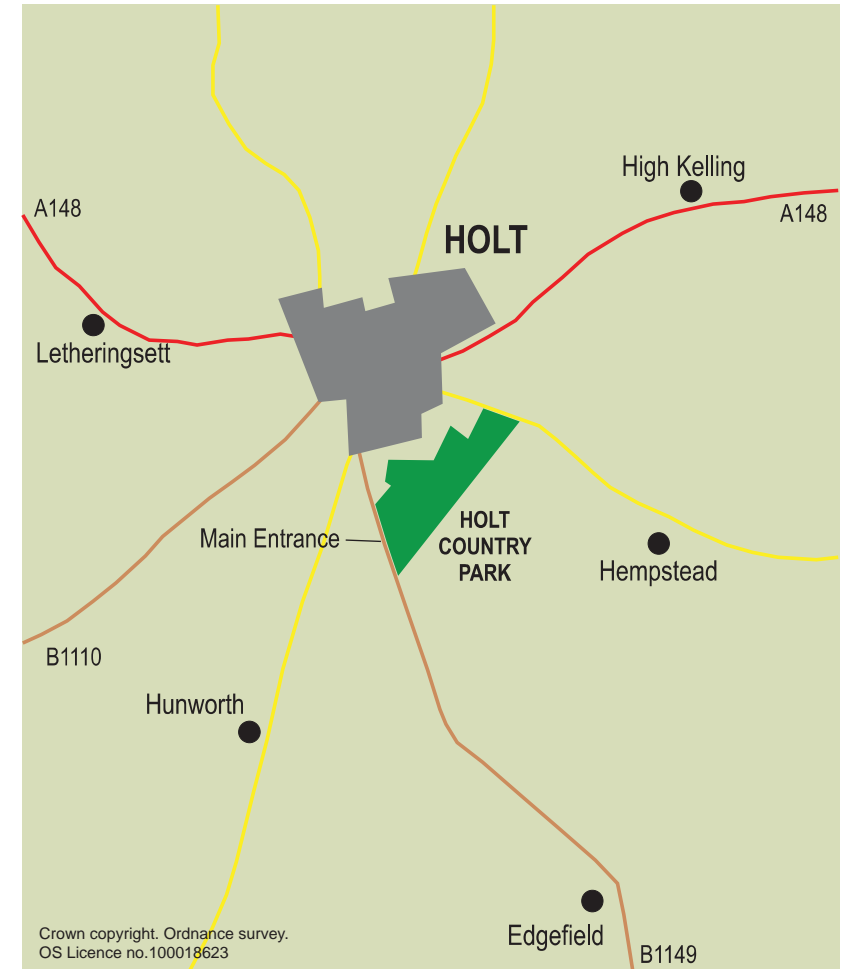
The Park is rich in flora and fauna...

Many animals, birds and invertebrates occur here, a complete species lists can be found at the Visitors Centre. Our bird list contains almost 100 species. Those most frequently seen are robin, great, blue, and long tailed tits, with blackbird, songthrush, tree creeper, great spotted woodpecker, jay, chiffchaff, willow warbler and blackcap all present. Less obvious avian residents are sparrowhawk, woodcock and goldcrest. [continued on next page]

### ALWAYS FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- \* **Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work**
- \* **Guard against risk of fire**
- \* **Fasten all gates**
- \* **Keep your dogs under control**
- \* **Keep to public paths across farmland**
- \* **Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls**
- \* **Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone**
- \* **Take your litter home**
- \* **Help to keep all water clean**
- \* **Protect wildlife, plants and trees**
- \* **Take special care on country roads**
- \* **Make no unnecessary noise**

## Location Map



**For further information please contact:**

North Norfolk District Council  
Holt Road, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9EN  
Telephone: 01263 513811  
[www.northnorfolk.org](http://www.northnorfolk.org)



The most frequently seen mammal is the grey squirrel. During a dawn or dusk walk you may meet red deer, muntjac deer or even red fox. At dusk it is a wonderful and magical experience to find brown long eared, pipistrel and noctule bats flying just above your head with tawny owls calling from their nearby perches.



Muntjac Deer

In early summer, the Park's flora provides a colourful backdrop with primrose, meadow saxifrage, orchids (common spotted and creeping ladies tresses) as well as field scabious. Cowslips survive within the wood in areas of old meadowland. In the autumn a wealth of fungi may be found.

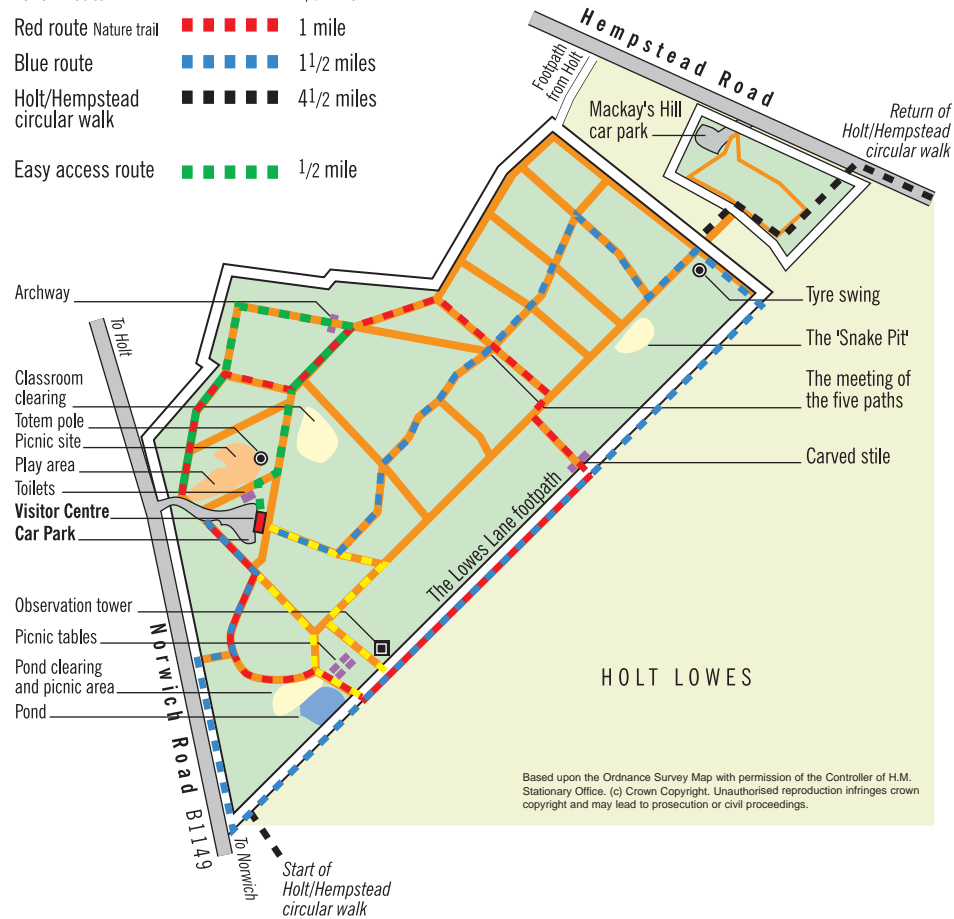


Painted Lady

During summer many butterflies are in evidence with peacock, red admiral, white admiral, ringlets, commas, painted lady, purple hairstreak and many others. Those quick flying jewels the dragonflies and their smaller cousins damselflies can be found hunting over the Park's picturesque spring fed lake.

### The Waymarked Trails

- Yellow route ■ ■ ■ ■ 1/3 mile
- Red route Nature trail ■ ■ ■ ■ 1 mile
- Blue route ■ ■ ■ ■ 1 1/2 miles
- Holt/Hempstead circular walk ■ ■ ■ ■ 4 1/2 miles
- Easy access route ■ ■ ■ ■ 1/2 mile



### Park Map



Harvest Mouse

### General Information

Holt Country Park is open every day. There are toilets and a small shop. There is ample car parking for which a nominal charge is made.

We continue to work to improve access and facilities for the less mobile. One of our way marked routes is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There is disabled access to the visitors centre and adapted toilet facilities.

To find out more about Holt Country Park, its history, wildlife and events call at our Visitors Centre. Our friendly staff will be happy to help.

Images by Mike Powles  
www.naturesvisions.com



Red Fox

### Events

Many school groups visit the Country Park each year. Our trained team work alongside school staff within the framework of the national curriculum to stimulate awareness of the environment and an understanding of natural processes.

We have a comprehensive public events programme. Throughout the year our staff host special events that are open to the public and are suitable for youngsters on holiday or families interested in exploring the natural world together. Events may include: Moth and Bat Nights, Pond Dipping, Woodland Crafts, Fungi Forays and more.

**For more details all events are listed at the Visitors Centre or at [www.northnorfolk.org](http://www.northnorfolk.org) or telephone 01263 513811 and ask for a brochure.**



Tawny Owl