Location

Middleton Cum Fordley

Middleton is located about 3 miles inland from the North Sea coast and is part of the highly acclaimed Suffolk Heritage Coastal area. The parish comprises three distinct areas, the main village straddling the 5 metre contour near the river and marshes; Middleton Moor on higher ground to the north-west and Fordley, further west again.

Five miles to the south west is the traditional market town of Saxmundham. Leiston, famed for its Garrett agricultural engineering history is 3 miles to the south. The former traction engine works is now a museum. Local attractions include the renowned RSPB Minsmere Bird Reserve and the internationally recognised Snape Maltings concert hall. The ancient Roman port of Dunwich, now mainly lost to the sea, is near-by, as are the popular resorts of Aldeburgh to the south and Southwold and Walberswick to the north.

CIRCULAR WALKS

Middleton Cum Fordley and Middleton Moor

These walks can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey © ‘Explorer’ Maps Sheets no. 212 and 231

Car park at recreation ground; Fletchers Lane, off Back Road, IP17 3NZ. O.S. Grid Ref. 431677

Public Transport

Darsham and Saxmundham are served by regular trains from Ipswich and Lowestoft. Middleton has an irregular local bus service; contact Traveline on 08712 002233 or: www.traveline.info - for details.

COASTLINK operate a bookable public mini-bus service from both stations and from Leiston – book your ride by noon the previous day. Journeys must be completed by 7 p.m. Tel. 01728 633526, or visit: www.suffolkonboard.com

Access Suffolk

linking communities to nature

Published by Middleton Parish Council with the assistance of Suffolk County Council’s Access Suffolk project.

www.suffolk.gov.uk
Welcome to Middleton

Middleton cum Fordley is a village over a thousand years old, alongside the Minsmere River. The soil varies from sands, river valley silts, through to heavy clay. It is surprisingly hilly with extensive views. There is a wide range of historical buildings with good examples of thatch, flint and timber frames.

In these three leaflets we aim to provide a variety of walks starting and finishing in the village, which show off our varied terrain, flora and fauna. The Parish is blessed with a wide variety of wildlife including many interesting birds such as kingfisher, heron, barn owl and marsh harrier.

Local Landmarks

The Umbrella Tree

A well known local landmark – a sycamore shaped by pruning. Note the new hedge at the base.

Middleton Moor

Records go back 700 years. The Moor consists of seven and a half acres of common land. Heavily grazed in the past, it is now subject to regular mowing and conservation measures including wild flower planting and a new hedge at the eastern corner. The Moor has several wildlife-rich ponds, one of which was used for full-immersion baptisms in Victorian times.

The Causeway

A raised hard road leading up to Middleton Moor across water meadows. These were flooded every winter and the water retained for summer grazing. Very wide views are available across the Minsmere river valley. At the crossroads in the village the white house opposite The Causeway was once the post office, as was the very large brick house looking straight up the main street.

The Bell Inn

The Street, Middleton, Suffolk
IP17 3NN
Tel: 01728 648286

Featured in ‘The Hidden Places of East Anglia’. Food available during open hours.

Access Suffolk

www.suffolkcountryside.com

Access to Middleton cum Fordley is via A12 which leads to the village through the picturesque village hall to The Bell Inn.

Marsh Acres

Located on the first bend in the Causeway, is one of the oldest houses in the village, which have a range of historical buildings with good examples of thatch, flint and timber frames.

In these three leaflets we aim to provide a variety of walks all starting and finishing in the village, which show off our varied terrain, flora and fauna. The Parish is blessed with a wide variety of wildlife including many interesting birds such as kingfisher, heron, barn owl and marsh harrier.

Local Landmarks

The Umbrella Tree

A well known local landmark – a sycamore shaped by pruning. Note the new hedge at the base.

Middleton Moor

Records go back 700 years. The Moor consists of seven and a half acres of common land. Heavily grazed in the past, it is now subject to regular mowing and conservation measures including wild flower planting and a new hedge at the eastern corner. The Moor has several wildlife-rich ponds, one of which was used for full-immersion baptisms in Victorian times.

The Causeway

A raised hard road leading up to Middleton Moor across water meadows. These were flooded every winter and the water retained for summer grazing. Very wide views are available across the Minsmere river valley. At the crossroads in the village the white house opposite The Causeway was once the post office, as was the very large brick house looking straight up the main street.

The Bell Inn

The Street, Middleton, Suffolk
IP17 3NN
Tel: 01728 648286

Featured in ‘The Hidden Places of East Anglia’. Food available during open hours.

Access Suffolk

www.suffolkcountryside.com

Access to Middleton cum Fordley is via A12 which leads to the village through the picturesque village hall to The Bell Inn.

Marsh Acres

Located on the first bend in the Causeway, is one of the oldest houses in the village, which have a range of historical buildings with good examples of thatch, flint and timber frames.

In these three leaflets we aim to provide a variety of walks all starting and finishing in the village, which show off our varied terrain, flora and fauna. The Parish is blessed with a wide variety of wildlife including many interesting birds such as kingfisher, heron, barn owl and marsh harrier.

Local Landmarks

The Umbrella Tree

A well known local landmark – a sycamore shaped by pruning. Note the new hedge at the base.

Middleton Moor

Records go back 700 years. The Moor consists of seven and a half acres of common land. Heavily grazed in the past, it is now subject to regular mowing and conservation measures including wild flower planting and a new hedge at the eastern corner. The Moor has several wildlife-rich ponds, one of which was used for full-immersion baptisms in Victorian times.

The Causeway

A raised hard road leading up to Middleton Moor across water meadows. These were flooded every winter and the water retained for summer grazing. Very wide views are available across the Minsmere river valley. At the crossroads in the village the white house opposite The Causeway was once the post office, as was the very large brick house looking straight up the main street.

The Bell Inn

The Street, Middleton, Suffolk
IP17 3NN
Tel: 01728 648286

Featured in ‘The Hidden Places of East Anglia’. Food available during open hours.

Access Suffolk

www.suffolkcountryside.com

Access to Middleton cum Fordley is via A12 which leads to the village through the picturesque village hall to The Bell Inn.

Marsh Acres

Located on the first bend in the Causeway, is one of the oldest houses in the village, which have a range of historical buildings with good examples of thatch, flint and timber frames.

In these three leaflets we aim to provide a variety of walks all starting and finishing in the village, which show off our varied terrain, flora and fauna. The Parish is blessed with a wide variety of wildlife including many interesting birds such as kingfisher, heron, barn owl and marsh harrier.

Local Landmarks

The Umbrella Tree

A well known local landmark – a sycamore shaped by pruning. Note the new hedge at the base.

Middleton Moor

Records go back 700 years. The Moor consists of seven and a half acres of common land. Heavily grazed in the past, it is now subject to regular mowing and conservation measures including wild flower planting and a new hedge at the eastern corner. The Moor has several wildlife-rich ponds, one of which was used for full-immersion baptisms in Victorian times.

The Causeway

A raised hard road leading up to Middleton Moor across water meadows. These were flooded every winter and the water retained for summer grazing. Very wide views are available across the Minsmere river valley. At the crossroads in the village the white house opposite The Causeway was once the post office, as was the very large brick house looking straight up the main street.

The Bell Inn

The Street, Middleton, Suffolk
IP17 3NN
Tel: 01728 648286

Featured in ‘The Hidden Places of East Anglia’. Food available during open hours.
**Middleton Cum Fordley**
**Middleton-cum-Fordley and Middleton Moor**

**Watermill Farm**
2⅓ miles (3.5 km)

Leave the car park, turning left into Fletchers Lane (away from the village). Pass two houses on the right, turn right at a footpath sign and walk down the track with gardens on your right, to the next road. Turn right into Title Road, then first left along Mill Street, passing the Village Hall on your left. Continue out of the village about ⅓ mile (0.8 km) and at the footpath sign go right through a gated field and across a bridge. Continue up the wooded path to a telegraph pole just before you meet the tarmac road.

Follow the footpath sign left to the Moor, along a hedge, ignoring the road. Turn right along the Moor edge passing the umbrella tree on your immediate right until you meet the road opposite a white house. (This was once the village store for Middleton Moor; note the old dog-biscuit sign on the outbuilding). Turn right on the road, and then immediately left down a long drive to Watermill Farm.

Approaching Watermill Farm after ½ mile (0.8 km), follow the track round to the right passing the farm and later a brick-built cottage on your left. After the cottage turn left and cross the stile into a small field, bearing immediately to the right along the right hand hedge. Follow the footpath on the right hand side of a series of paddocks crossing several stiles including a small footbridge with a stile at either end of it. Grass snakes can be seen along here in warm, dry conditions.

After about ¼ mile (400 metres), look for a stile and footpath marker in a gap in the hedge on your right. Follow this path (initially with a hedge on your left) to the next field, cross the stile and go straight on. Join the tarmac road (The Causeway) at a set of steps opposite a large house (Marsh Acres). Turn left and walk back to the village centre. The Middleton Bell PH (to your left), has refreshments available during opening hours. At the crossroads go up Back Road opposite, then opposite the church gate turn right into Fletchers Lane to return to the start.

* As an option, at the 2nd stile by a metal gate, turn left across a field to a metal footbridge. This is a permissive path to Darsham Marshes - a network of dykes and two ponds owned by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust providing a rich habitat for a wealth of watery wildlife. This can be explored before retracing your route back to the walk. Please note it can be very wet underfoot and no dogs are allowed into the reserve.

**The Causeway and Rectory Road**
1 ¾ miles (2.8 km)

As a gentler walk, take a circular stroll around the village. From the car park follow Walk 1 to point 1. Turn right at the telegraph pole ignoring the footpath to your left and walk along the road (The Causeway), passing Causeway Farm and Marsh Acres where you rejoin Walk 1. Continue straight on at the cross-roads before turning right into Fletchers Lane to complete your circuit. Alternatively go left at the cross-roads for the Bell PH. Holy Trinity Church can be visited in Back Road. The churchyard gate is opposite the bottom of Fletchers Lane, on your left.
Middleton Cum Fordley

Middleton-cum-Fordley and Middleton Moor

KEY TO MAP

Watermill Farm
Public Footpath
Bridleway
Byway
Car Park

Map based on Ordnance Survey Copyright mapping. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright.

Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2009.

Watermill Farm

2 ¼ miles (3.5 km)

Leave the car park, turning left into Fletchers Lane (away from the village). Pass two houses on the right, turn right at a footpath sign and walk down the track with gardens on your right, to the next road. Turn right into Title Road, then first left along Mill Street, passing the Village Hall on your left. Continue out of the village about ½ mile (0.8 km) and at the footpath sign go right through a gated field and across a bridge. Continue up the wooded path to a telegraph pole just before you meet the tarmac road. Follow the footpath sign left to the Moor, along a hedge, ignoring the road. Turn right along the Moor edge passing the umbrella tree on your immediate right until you meet the road opposite a white house. (This was once the village store for Middleton Moor; note the old dog-biscuit sign on the outbuilding). Turn right on the road, and then immediately left down a long drive to Watermill Farm.

Approaching Watermill Farm, after ½ mile (0.8 km), follow the track round to the right passing the farm and later a brick-built cottage on your left. After the cottage turn left and cross the stile into a small field, bearing immediately to the right along the right hand hedge. Follow the footpath on the right hand side of a series of paddocks crossing several stiles including a small footbridge with a stile at either end of it. Grass snakes can be seen along here in warm, dry conditions.

After about ½ mile (400 metres), look for a stile and footpath marker in a gap in the hedge on your right. Follow this path (initially with a hedge on your left) to the next field, cross the stile and go straight on. Join the tarmac road (The Causeway) at a set of steps opposite a large house (Marsh Acres). Turn left and walk back to the village centre. The Middleton Bell PH (to your left), has refreshments available during opening hours. At the crossroads go up Back Road opposite, then opposite the church gate turn right into Fletchers Lane to return to the start.

* As an option, at the 2nd stile by a metal gate, turn left across a field to a metal footbridge. This is a permissive path to Darsham Marshes - a network of dykes and two ponds owned by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust providing a rich habitat for a wealth of watery wildlife. This can be explored before retracing your route back to the walk. Please note it can be very wet underfoot and no dogs are allowed into the reserve.

The Causeway and Rectory Road

1 ¾ miles (2.8 km)

As a gentler walk, take a circular stroll around the village. From the car park follow Walk 1 to point 1. Turn right at the telegraph pole ignoring the footpath to your left and walk along the road (The Causeway), passing Causeway Farm and Marsh Acres where you rejoin Walk 1. Continue straight on at the cross-roads before turning right into Fletchers Lane to complete your circuit. Alternatively go left at the cross-roads for the Bell PH. Holy Trinity Church can be visited in Back Road. The churchyard gate is opposite the bottom of Fletchers Lane, on your left.
Local Landmarks

Location
Middleton Cum Fordley

Middleton is located about 3 miles inland from the North Sea coast and is part of the highly acclaimed Suffolk Heritage Coastal area. The parish comprises three distinct areas, the main village straddling the 5 metre contour near the river and marshes; Middleton Moor on higher ground to the north-west and Fordley, further west again.

Five miles to the south west is the traditional market town of Saxmundham. Leiston, famed for its Garrett agricultural engineering history is 3 miles to the south. The former traction engine works is now a museum. Local attractions include the renowned RSPB Minsmere Bird Reserve and the internationally recognised Snape Maltings concert hall. The ancient Snape Maltings concert hall. The ancient Minsmere Bird Reserve and the internationally acclaimed Snape Maltings concert hall.

The ancient Minsmere Bird Reserve and the internationally acclaimed Snape Maltings concert hall.

Local attractions include the renowned RSPB Minsmere Bird Reserve and the internationally recognised Snape Maltings concert hall. The ancient Roman port of Dunwich, now mainly lost to the sea, is near-by, as are the popular resorts of Aldeburgh to the south and Southwold and Walberswick to the north.

The Bell Inn

The Bell Inn was once the granary where the farmers brought their harvest. The large brick house looking straight up the main street was originally two storeys, with a lean-to rear. In the mid-19th century, the house was extended and the rear altered to provide a larger rear wing. The bell chamber is at the eastern corner. The Moor has several wildlife-rich ponds, one of which was used for full-immersion baptisms in Victorian times. The Umbrella Tree is one of the oldest trees in the area, and is the setting for summer concerts. The Parish Council is committed to preserving and enhancing this idyllic setting, and has recently undertaken work to remove invasive species and improve the woodland. The Moor is also a popular spot for wildlife enthusiasts, with a wide range of historical buildings with good examples of thatched, flint and timber frames.

The Causeway

The Causeway was once the post office, as was the very crossroads in the village the white house opposite The Bell Inn. The Crossways is one of the oldest crossroads in England and is an important feature of the village. The Parish Council has undertaken measures including wild flower planting and a new hedge to protect the area. The Causeway is a wide, open space with good views of the surrounding landscape.

CIRCULAR WALKS

These walks can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey © ‘Explorer’ Maps Sheets no. 212 and 231

Public Transport

Darsham and Saxmundham are served by regular trains from Ipswich and Lowestoft. Middleton has an irregular local bus service; contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or: www.traveline.info for details.

Access Suffolk

Published by Middleton Parish Council with the assistance of Suffolk County Council’s Access Suffolk project.

www.suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolkonboard.com

www.traveline.info

www.suffolkdesign.com
Welcome to Middleton

Middleton cum Fordley is a village over a thousand years old, alongside the Minsmere River. The soil varies from sands, river valley silts, through to heavy clay. It is surprisingly hilly with extensive views. There is a wide range of historical buildings with good examples of thatch, flint and timber frames.

In these three leaflets we aim to provide a variety of walks all starting and finishing in the village, which show off our varied terrain, flora and fauna. The Parish is blessed with a wide variety of wildlife including many interesting birds such as kingfisher, heron, barn owl and marsh harrier.

Local Landmarks

The Umbrella Tree
A well known local landmark – a sycamore shaped by pruning. Note the new hedge at the base.

Middleton Moor
Records go back 700 years. The Moor consists of seven and a half acres of common land. Heavily grazed in the past, it is now subject to regular mowing and conservation measures including wild flower planting and a new hedge at the eastern corner. The Moor has several wildlife-rich ponds, one of which was used for full-immersion baptisms in Victorian times.

The Causeway
A raised hard road leading up to Middleton Moor across water meadows. These were flooded every winter and the water retained for summer grazing. Very wide views are available across the Minsmere river valley. At the crossroads in the village the white house opposite The Causeway was once the post office, as was the very large brick house looking straight up the main street.

The Bell Inn
The Street, Middleton, Suffolk, IP17 3NN
Tel: 01728 648286

Featured in ‘The Hidden Places of East Anglia’ Food available during open hours.

Marsh Acres
Located on the first bend in the Causeway, is one of the oldest houses in the village, parts dating from the early 1500’s and the frontage from 100 years later. It was originally two detached houses, and had an ‘Arts & Crafts’ style extension added by noted local architect Cecil Howard Lay in about 1910. This large pink grade II listed timber framed house (privately owned) was the home of poet, critic and translator Michael Hamburger OBE (1924-2007), whose family emigrated from Berlin to London in 1933. His brother Paul, better known as Paul Hamlyn (1926-2001), founded the family publishing business in 1949; ‘Music for Pleasure’ in 1965; and a charitable foundation which gave £10M to the Royal Opera House.

Middleton Farm Shop – Reckford Farm.
Supplied by local growers in addition to their own produce, some of which can usually be seen growing as you walk up to the Moor. Located on the B1125 Reckford Road, to the East of the village near the garage. Open 10 am to 4 pm.

Tel: 01728 648253
Middleton Cum Fordley
Green Lanes and History

---

Wash Lane and Packway Farm
3 ¼ miles (5.2 km)

(This route is best walked after a spell of dry weather.)

Leave the car park into Fletchers Lane and turn left, away from the village. Follow the road to its end, alongside the Recreation Ground hedge passing 2 houses and a footpath on the right. The route continues straight on as a footpath; follow this beside the field ignoring a branch left; and bear right at a prominent waymark post where the path forks. There is a hedge on your left and a small copse in the middle of the field on your right which hides a pond. These ponds may mark the sites of old houses built from dried ‘clay lump’ excavated from the pit. They had timber-framed or brick upper storeys and over-hanging ground level for usable timber, pollarding is a similar process above head height.

Continue on through a gate then downhill through a gap in a hedge, and diagonally right across a field. At the earth road in the valley, reached about ½ mile (1.2 km) from the start, turn right and walk past Valley Farm (with elderly barns!) to Anneson’s Corner and the B1122. Cross the road in the valley, reached about ¾ mile (1.2 km) from the start, turn right and walk past Valley Farm (with elderly barns!) to Anneson’s Corner and the B1122. Cross the road and walk to Trust Farm, joining the main unmade road. Before reaching the wooden gates to the farmhouse, take the footpath signed to your left and follow the field boundaries going gently downhill on an obvious track close to the hedge; this is Grass Lane and goes straight ahead, then left, then right. In the ditch are many centuries-old coppiced ash trees and you will see ancient and newly-planted hedgerows. Coppicing involves cutting trees at ground level for usable timber, pollarding is a similar process above head height.

When you reach the main road after ½ mile (0.8 km), turn left, passing the Saxmundham tumbling on the left and The Garden House (with Victorian letter box) on the right; this horticultural business has been in the same family for four generations. After a short distance on the road, bear left at a small signpost, opposite a lay-by, into a recently planted wood. Crossroads, the house on your right is a large thatched house (called The Thatched House). From the top of the wood, carefully follow a path across the Moor keeping to the right hand side. Just before the umbrella tree a footpath right leads along a hedge to take you to a road (The Causeway) continue onward and this returns you to Middleton Moor. At the old water-pump follow a path across the Moor keeping to the right hand side.

Walk up the short grassy track with the wooded field on your right. Before the track enters an arable field, turn right keeping to the left-hand boundary of the wood heading for a large thatched house (called The Thatched House). From the top of the wood, carefully cross the road, turn left and continue uphill on the verge for ½ mile (400 metres) to reach Middleton Moor. At the old water-pump follow a path across the Moor keeping to the right hand side.

Just before the umbrella tree a footpath right leads along a hedge to take you to a road (The Causeway) continue onward and this returns you to Middleton Moor. At the old water-pump follow a path across the Moor keeping to the right hand side. Just before the umbrella tree a footpath right leads along a hedge to take you to a road (The Causeway) continue onward and this returns you to Middleton Moor. At the old water-pump follow a path across the Moor keeping to the right hand side.

Wet Weather Alternative

** If Wash Lane is running with water, stay on the tarmac road past the ford for about 1/3 mile (0.5 km) until you reach a footpath sign pointing right just after Hawthorn Farm. Follow this along a field edge, then right and left keeping the farm buildings on your right. The path then leads away from the farm as a good track soon reaching a crossroads of routes, where you turn left through a low wooden gate into the top part of Wash Lane. If this is also wet, keep straight on the main track with the wooden gate on your left and walk to Trust Farm, joining a major farm track after the buildings. Here you turn right then immediately left at a footpath sign, to re-join the original route.
Middleton Cum Fordley
Green Lanes and History

Wash Lane and Packway Farm
3 ¼ miles (5.2 km)

This route is best walked after a spell of dry weather.

Leave the car park into Fletchers Lane and turn left, away from the village. Follow the road to its end, alongside the Recreation Ground hedge passing 2 houses and a footpath on the right. The road continues straight on as a footpath; follow this beside the field ignoring a branch left; and bear right at a prominent waymark post where the path forks. There is a hedge on your left and a small copse in the middle of the field on your right which hides a pond. These ponds may mark the sites of old houses built from dried 'clay lump' excavated from the pit. They had timber-framed or brick upper storeys and over-hanging thatch to keep rain off the clay foundations; after bricks became cheaper in the 1860's this construction method fell into disuse.

Continue on through a gate then downhill through a gap on your left was the Kings Head pub. When you reach the main road after ¼ mile (0.5 km) until you reach a footpath sign pointing right just after Hawthorn Farm. Follow this along a field edge, then right and left keeping the farm buildings on your right. The path then leads away from the farm as a good track soon reaching a crossings of routes, where you turn left through a low wooden gate into the top part of Wash Lane. If this is also wet, keep straight on the main track with the wooden gate on your left and walk to Trust Farm, joining a major farm track after the buildings. Here you turn right then immediately left at a footpath sign, to re-join the original route.

Go straight on through a low wooden gate usually carrying some debris and on up Wash Lane. Soon on your left will be a large pit of uncertain origins now home to several badger setts. Continue onwards through a pleasant woodland to Packway Farm passing through a small ornate metal gate. Turn right at the footpath sign just before the farmouse and walk through the farmyard, crossing a stile by a wooden gate. Then walk uphill - crossing two stiles. After the second stile continue straight on across one field heading for the hill-top and a clump of trees; this also hides a pond with maybe the same origins as the previous. At the top, before the trees, you reach a good, wide farm track turn right and follow this to Trust Farm.

Walk past two farm buildings and two turnings to the right, staying on the main unmade road. Before reaching the wooden gates to the farmouse, take the footpath signed to your left and follow the field boundaries going gently downhill on an obvious track close to the hedge; this is Grass Lane and goes straight ahead, then left, then right. In the ditch are many centuries-old coppiced ash trees and you will see ancient and newly-planted hedgerows. Coppicing involves cutting trees at ground level for usable timber, pollarding is a similar process above head height.

When you reach the main road after ½ mile (0.8 km), turn left, passing the Saxmundham turning on the left and The Garden House (with Victorian letter box) on the right; this horticultural business has been in the same family for four generations. After a short distance on the road, bear left at a small signpost opposite a lay-by, into a recently planted wood. Crossroads, the house on your left was the Kings Head pub.

Wet Weather Alternative
** If Wash Lane is running with water, stay on the tarmac road past the ford for about 1/3 mile (0.5 km) until you reach a footpath sign pointing right just after Hawthorn Farm. Follow this along a field edge, then right and left keeping the farm buildings on your right. The path then leads away from the farm as a good track soon reaching a crossings of routes, where you turn left through a low wooden gate into the top part of Wash Lane. If this is also wet, keep straight on the main track with the wooden gate on your left and walk to Trust Farm, joining a major farm track after the buildings. Here you turn right then immediately left at a footpath sign, to re-join the original route.
Middleton Farm Shop –

A large, traditional shop, offering a wide variety of produce, some of which can usually be seen growing in the adjacent fields. Supplied by local growers in addition to their own stock, the shop also offers a range of artisan goods, including cakes, cheeses, meats, and breads.

**Location**

Middleton is located about 3 miles inland from the North Sea coast and is part of the highly acclaimed Suffolk Heritage Coastal area. The parish comprises three distinct areas, the main village straddling the 5 metre contour near the river and marshes, Middleton Moor on higher ground to the north-west and Fordley, further west again.

Five miles to the south west is the traditional market town of Saxmundham. Leiston, famed for its Garrett agricultural engineering history is 3 miles to the south. The former traction engine works is now a museum. Local attractions include the renowned RSPB Minsmere Bird Reserve and the internationally recognised Snape Maltings concert hall. The ancient Roman port of Dunwich, now mainly lost to the sea, is near-by, as are the popular resorts of Aldeburgh to the south and Southwold and Walberswick to the north.

These walks can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey © ‘Explorer’ Maps Sheets no. 212 and 231

**Car park**

At recreation ground; Fletchers Lane, off Back Road, IP17 3NZ. O.S. Grid Ref. 431677

**Public Transport**

Darsham and Saxmundham are served by regular trains from Ipswich and Lowestoft. Middleton has an irregular local bus service; contact Traveline on 0871 2002233 or: www.traveline.info - for details.

**COASTLINK**

operate a bookable public mini-bus service from both stations and from Leiston – book your ride by noon the previous day. Journeys must be completed by 7 p.m.

Tel. 01728 643526, or visit: www.suffolkonboard.com

---

**Local Amenities**

**The Bell Inn**

The Street, Middleton
Suffolk, IP17 3NN
Tel: 01728 648286

**Middleton Farm Shop –**

Reckford Farm.

Supplied by local growers in addition to their own produce, some of which can usually be seen growing as you walk up to the Moor. Located on the B1125 Reckford Road, to the East of the village near the garage. Open 10 am to 4 pm.

Tel. 01728 648253

**Welcome**

Middleton, Westleton and Eastbridge

---

**Middleton via Thetfordon**

---

**Location**

Middleton Cum Fordley

Middleton is located about 3 miles inland from the North Sea coast and is part of the highly acclaimed Suffolk Heritage Coastal area. The parish comprises three distinct areas, the main village straddling the 5 metre contour near the river and marshes; Middleton Moor on higher ground to the north-west and Fordley, further west again.

Five miles to the south west is the traditional market town of Saxmundham. Leiston, famed for its Garrett agricultural engineering history is 3 miles to the south. The former traction engine works is now a museum. Local attractions include the renowned RSPB Minsmere Bird Reserve and the internationally recognised Snape Maltings concert hall. The ancient Roman port of Dunwich, now mainly lost to the sea, is near-by, as are the popular resorts of Aldeburgh to the south and Southwold and Walberswick to the north.

These walks can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey © ‘Explorer’ Maps Sheets no. 212 and 231

**Car park**

At recreation ground; Fletchers Lane, off Back Road, IP17 3NZ. O.S. Grid Ref. 431677

**Public Transport**

Darsham and Saxmundham are served by regular trains from Ipswich and Lowestoft. Middleton has an irregular local bus service; contact Traveline on 0871 2002233 or: www.traveline.info - for details.

**COASTLINK**

operate a bookable public mini-bus service from both stations and from Leiston – book your ride by noon the previous day. Journeys must be completed by 7 p.m. Tel. 01728 635326, or visit: www.suffolkonboard.com

---

**Local Amenities**

**The Bell Inn**

The Street, Middleton
Suffolk, IP17 3NN
Tel: 01728 648286

**Middleton Farm Shop –**

Reckford Farm.

Supplied by local growers in addition to their own produce, some of which can usually be seen growing as you walk up to the Moor. Located on the B1125 Reckford Road, to the East of the village near the garage. Open 10 am to 4 pm.

Tel. 01728 648253

**Welcome**

Middleton, Westleton and Eastbridge

---
Welcome to Middleton

Middleton cum Fordley is a village over a thousand years old, alongside the Minsmere River. The soil varies from sands, river valley silts, through to heavy clay. It is surprisingly hilly with extensive views. There is a wide range of historical buildings with good examples of thatch, flint and timber frames.

In these three leaflets we aim to provide a variety of walks all starting and finishing in the village, which show off our varied terrain, flora and fauna. The Parish is blessed with a wide variety of wildlife including many interesting birds such as kingfisher, heron, barn owl and marsh harrier.

Eastbridge via Theberton

4 ½ miles (7.2 km)

From the car park in Fletchers lane, walk through the Recreation Ground, leave by the gate  at the far corner, and turn left. Follow this grassy footpath down the hill to the B1125 ignoring other options. Cross the road, turn right and walk 100 yards / 90 metres into a lay-by  on your left. Head past some large steel sculptures (by local artist Paul Richardson), with a house (Ambleside) on your right. Now follow the footpath sign bearing left, out of the lay-by away from the main road; then immediately to the right of a house (Fenn Farm) over a stile, and down a narrow path  on the water meadows. Follow the footpath towards Theberton passing some superb willows. The path climbs, passing a major former clay pit  in woods on your right. At the end of this field cross the farm track and strike diagonally left across the next field to a low point crossing a bridge over the brook.

Turn right into a lane . Opposite a row of cottages, is a very large lime tree. Walk to the surfaced road, turn left (this is called Rattla Corner), and follow the road ¼ mile (400 metres) to the first farm on your right; Holly Tree Farm . After the farm frontage turn right to a footpath.

The footpath is well defined and leads to “Kenny’s Seat” with a lovely view over fields and woodland. A broad footpath continues crossing through the hedge and will lead you to a set of steps down to a minor road. Turn left, ignoring the footpath sign on your right, and walk to the crossroads .

Continue straight on down the road for ¼ mile (1.2 km), passing a play area and the Eastbridge village sign, to the Eel’s Foot Inn . The last brick house on the right was once the village store and you can see the former chapel in a valley on your left. The Eel’s Foot had long associations with the ‘Free-trade’, i.e. smuggling, whilst also serving as a billet for soldiers! Kegs of liquor were allegedly hidden under the altar welcome refreshments*), with Red House Farm on your right, and walk to the crossroads.

Bear left away from the Eel’s Foot Inn (which provides welcome refreshments*), with Red House Farm on your left and the car park on your right, along the level road northwards which becomes un-fenced. (If coming out of the pub, turn right). After a short distance you reach the Minsmere River , turn left on the near bank and follow the river path for about ½ mile (2.8 km) all the way back to the main road at Reckford Bridge . The New Cut (on right) was built in 1809; you can see the old river on your left from time to time. The “wallows” on the river edge are caused by red deer.

From the bridge turn left and follow the road back into Middleton, passing the farm shop on the left . Take the footpath right opposite the garage and then the first footpath to the right  which leads you back uphil to the Recreation Ground .

Local Amenities

The Bell Inn

Suffolk, IP17 3NN

featured in ‘The Hidden Suffolk’ book, and recognised Snape Maltings concert hall. The ancient archeological remains of the former chapel in a valley on your left. The Eel’s Foot had long associations with the ‘Free-trade’, i.e. smuggling, whilst also serving as a billet for soldiers! Kegs of liquor were allegedly hidden under the altar welcome refreshments*), with Red House Farm on your right, and walk to the crossroads.

Bear left away from the Eel’s Foot Inn (which provides welcome refreshments*), with Red House Farm on your left and the car park on your right, along the level road northwards which becomes un-fenced. (If coming out of the pub, turn right). After a short distance you reach the Minsmere River , turn left on the near bank and follow the river path for about ½ mile (2.8 km) all the way back to the main road at Reckford Bridge . The New Cut (on right) was built in 1809; you can see the old river on your left from time to time. The “wallows” on the river edge are caused by red deer.

From the bridge turn left and follow the road back into Middleton, passing the farm shop on the left . Take the footpath right opposite the garage and then the first footpath to the right  which leads you back uphil to the Recreation Ground .
Look inside this lovely church – re-built in the 13th century but much older, the interior rewards time spent looking around. Unusually the church is thatched, and has neither tower nor steeple; the tower fell down in 1776 and its replacement was demolished after being bomb-damaged in WWII. The existing bell and brick turret were installed in 1960.

Continue across Duffers Bridge crossing the Minsmere Wash Lane on the left – DON’T turn into it, but cross the stile. Then turn right here and walk along a delightful grass bridleway (inappropriately named Black Slough) which leaves the Common and takes you back to Middleton.

When you eventually reach the road, turn right and after about ¼ mile (400 metres) you will see Wash Lane on the left – DON’T turn into it, but cross the stile between Wash Lane and the main road, at 45 degrees, into a small paddock. Walk across this field to the right of the telegraph poles, towards St Peter’s Church.

From the Recreation Ground car park, turn right and head down Fletchers Lane towards Middleton church. Go through the church gate opposite, walking directly across the churchyard past the war memorial. Keep to the right of the church, go through the small gate which leads past the school, and on to Rectory Road. Turn right and almost immediately left along the grassy path which runs beside the Old Meeting Rooms (a holiday cottage). This is narrow and can suffer from seasonal conditions! It offers delightful views of the village however.

Once you have passed a Sewage Works you soon come to the road, almost opposite a bungalow. Turn left here, walk down the road (*) and cross Reckford Bridge which has distinctive white rails, continuing another ¼ mile (400 metres) to a left hand bend just before the farm shop. Turn right into the village by the Bell Inn sign and take the first left to walk along Back Road. After another ¼ mile (400 metres) turn left into Fletchers Lane opposite the churchyard gate, which brings you back to the car park. Alternatively follow the description for the Red Walk from which takes you to the playing field using footpaths, or keep straight on Rectory Road to reach the pub.

(*) Taking the road junction to the right before Reckford Bridge, by another bungalow, you return to Vale View Farm, passing a pretty wooded valley. Opposite the farmyard turn left and take the footpath back to Middleton over Duffers Bridge. Retrace your steps to the street and across through the churchyard to the bottom of Fletchers Lane. Go straight up to get to the car park on your left.
Middleton Cum Fordley
Middleton, Westleton and Eastbridge

From the Recreation Ground car park, turn right and head down Fletchers Lane towards Middleton church. Go through the church gate opposite, walking directly across the churchyard past the war memorial. Keep to the right of the church, go through the small gate which leads past the school, and on to Rectory Road. Turn right and almost immediately left along the grassy path which runs beside the Old Meeting Rooms (a holiday cottage). This is narrow and can suffer from seasonal conditions! It offers delightful views of the village however.

Continue across Duffers Bridge crossing the Minsmere Wash Lane on the left – DON’T turn into it, but cross the stile between Wash Lane and the main road, at 45 degrees, into a small paddock. Walk across this field to the right of the telegraph poles, towards St Peter’s Church.

Look inside this lovely church – re-built in the 13th century but much older, the interior rewards time spent looking around. Unusually the church is thatched, and has neither tower nor steeple; the tower fell down in 1776 and its replacement was demolished after being bomb-damaged in WWII. The existing bell and brick turret were installed in 1980.

Walk down the church path to the village. The Crown Inn is directly ahead; said to be England’s oldest continuously working coaching inn. Cross the road to the Crown and walk to the left through the village until you reach the Post Office. Opposite, the Chapel Bookshop was the Primitive Methodist chapel featuring in the 2003 novel ‘Something Might Happen’ by Julie Myerson. Turn right into Bakers Lane. Walk up the hill until you come to the end of the houses. This is Westleton Common where tracks are vague and constantly changing! The Common is an Open Access Area - you can wander anywhere within it on foot.

Just after the last house, take the track to your right which brings you to another metalled road, complete with “30 mph” roundels. Cross this and head straight on into a sandy turning-area, making for the short, gorse-lined track beside a notice board slightly to the left.

When the common opens out, head off to the left, diagonally crossing a large concrete area (a relic of WWII). You will see a cottage high on a hill directly ahead of you. Keep right of a line of telegraph poles. Just before the thoughtfully provided wooden seat, head off to the right, keeping the cottage on the hill to your left. Another seat can soon be seen (and used). By now heath and gorse has returned. Climb up a steep narrow gulley and follow it down some wooden steps.

Turn right here and walk along a delightful grass bridleway (inappropriately named Black Slough) which leaves the Common and takes you back to Middleton. Once you have passed a Sewage Works you soon come to the road, almost opposite a bungalow. Turn left here. walk down the road (*) and cross Reckford Bridge which has distinctive white rails, continuing another ¼ mile (400 metres) to a left hand bend just before the farm shop. Turn right into the village by the Bell Inn sign and take the first left to walk along Back Road. After another ¼ mile (400 metres) turn left into Fletchers Lane opposite the churchyard gate, which brings you back to the car park. Alternatively follow the description for the Red Walk from which takes you to the playing field using footpaths, or keep straight on Rectory Road to reach the pub.

(*) Taking the road junction to the right before Reckford Bridge, by another bungalow, you return to Vale View Farm passing a pretty wooded valley. Opposite the farmhouse turn left and take the footpath back to Middleton over Duffers Bridge. Retrace your steps to the street and across through the churchyard to the bottom of Fletchers Lane. Go straight up to get to the car park on your left.