

Santon Downham

A hidden gem full of surprises along lovely forest and riverside trails

St Helen's Picnic Site is the start of a series of adventurous trails that lead through the forests of Santon Downham, an off-the-beaten-track destination that is surprisingly well known – you may find yourself completely alone mid week or completely surrounded at weekends!



This walk takes you to the tiny All Saints Church, one of Britain's smallest churches and an absolute gem, and to the site of St Helen's Church.

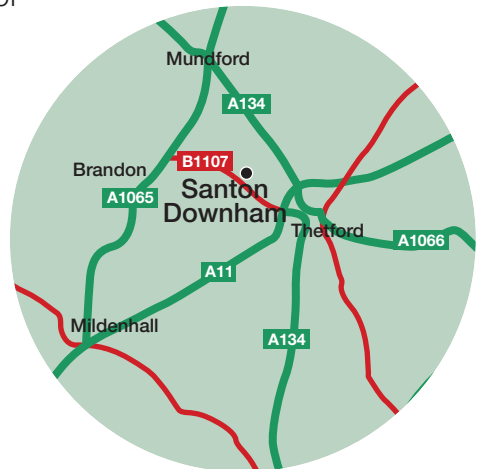
The River Little Ouse runs through the forest and there is a good chance of seeing deer, kingfishers, crossbills and woodpeckers during your visit.

Facilities

- **Parking** – charges apply
- **Toilets** – accessible (seasonal)
- **Picnic area**

Directions

- Santon Downham is located 2.5 miles from Brandon and 5 miles from Thetford. In the village of Santon Downham, turn off the B1107 Brandon Road by St Mary's Church and follow signs to Forestry Commission Regional Office. Go past the offices (there is car parking and toilets here), over a narrow bridge and turn immediately right, signposted St Helen's Picnic Site.
- **Forestry Commission**
Santon Downham 01842 819 081
Post Code IP27 0TJ



Easy access trail



0.7miles/1km

From the car park pick up the trail behind the toilet block (look out for the orange marker) and follow the firm surfaced, circular route towards All Saints' Church, with its octagonal tower, through woodland beside the Little Ouse River and back to the car park and picnic area.



Easy going trail



2miles/3km

From All Saints Church orange markers lead you past a barrier towards former railway station cottages along a natural surfaced path.

Passing under the railway line (it can get muddy here) turn right and follow a long, gently ascending forest track to the site of St Helen's Church and the Holy Well. There are lovely views over the Little Ouse River and a very well written interpretation panel telling the story of the site.

Retrace your steps back to the car park.

You can also explore forest trails south of the river.

