

King's Lynn to Shepherd's Port



The Route

Where: King's Lynn to Shepherd's Port

National Route Number: 1

Distance: 15 miles each way

Terrain: gentle gradients, some sections are traffic-free

Public transport: railway station at King's Lynn

Bike hire: A E Wallis, Heacham - 01485 570303
Fat Birds don't fly, Hunstanton - 0845 458 5875

Maps: the route to Snettisham is covered by the Hull to Fakenham National Cycle Network map

OS maps: Explorer 250, Landranger 132

Tourist information: King's Lynn TIC 01553 763 044

Towns to search for on Sustrans website mapping:

King's Lynn, Sandringham, Snettisham, Shepherd's Port



The Sandringham Estate near Hunstanton

This route explores the traditional cycling country of West Norfolk. It begins at the railway station in the bustling town of King's Lynn (well worth a visit in its own right) and takes you out of the town on a traffic-free path through parkland and following a disused railway. National Route 1 continues on-road through the broadleaf woodlands of Ling Common, until you come to the attractive village of Castle Rising, with its impressive 12th century castle and 17th century almshouses. You then join a closed road which takes you onto the cycle track alongside the A149. Ignore the first turn-off for the B1439 and follow the Route 1 signs towards the Royal Estate at Sandringham. Tea is served at the visitor centre.

The route continues along the road to Snettisham, where this ride leaves the

waymarked route and heads westwards for the coast at Shepherd's Port. This is The Wash, in which King John is reputed to have lost the crown jewels in the 13th century. The RSPB recommends visiting its Snettisham reserve as a big tide covers the mudflats, in order to see one of nature's great spectacles as tens of thousands of wading birds leave their feeding grounds and move onto the islands in front of the hides.

If you want a shorter there-and-back ride, turning around at Castle Rising will make the total distance 12 miles; and turning back at Sandringham Country Park will give you a 19-mile round trip. National Route 1 continues northwards from Snettisham to Burnham Market, Wells-next-the-Sea and Fakenham, but doesn't intersect with the rail network again until it reaches Norwich.