

8 As you leave the wood, pause before crossing the road known as St. Thomas's Lane, which is a section of the Icknield Way. Directly over the lane is St. Thomas's Meadow, an area of uneven meadowland with a series of humps and bumps in the land. This was the site of a medieval watermill and also a small chapel - St. Thomas's Chapel, named after Thomas A'Becket. There is an English Heritage interpretation board that gives further information about the site. Beyond this point is the deer park (take a safari ride to see the deer more closely) and lakes dug out in 1973 with the woods of Sandringham House some 3 miles away. Cross St. Thomas's Lane, watching out for traffic, and turn left along the hedge.

9 The hedge is cut every other year and contains field maple, holly, elder, hawthorn and blackthorn. The field on your right covers 14 acres and is farmed on a rotation basis with different crops. Continue to the corner of the field.

10 The concrete pad was originally silage clamp but now provides winter storage for fodder beet and hard standing for harvested sugar beet awaiting transport to the factory. Snettisham Park has a contract with British Sugar to produce 1593 tonnes of sugar beet at 16% sugar content. The field beyond is Olland Breck and is 28 acres. Recross St. Thomas's Lane opposite the entrance to Snettisham House where the trail continues to the right of the road. There are good views of Snettisham church spire, Snettisham Park and Snettisham House stables with its ornate roof.



11 The hedge, planted in 1993, contains hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, dogwood and guelder rose. The field, known as Park Piece, contains Ancient Monument No. 330 and is controlled by the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. The land must not be ploughed, and no fertilisers or sprays must be used. It is sown with a traditional grassland mixture of Timothy, Cocksfoot, Crested Dogstail, Sheeps Fescue, Red Fescue, Meadow Fescue and Wild White Clover.

Snettisham Park has a flock of North country mules, ewes crossed with Blue-faced Leicester, which are put to a Suffolk or Texel ram. The lambing times are February to April and visitors to Snettisham Park can often see lambs being born! Turn right at this point and follow the hedge back to the Farmyard and then right again at the Hay Shed towards the Visitor Centre.

Look out for wildlife along all sections of the Discovery Trail.

You may see: Rabbit, Brown Hare, Water Vole, Hedgehog, Mole, Stoat, Weasel, Frog, Toad, Rook, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Pheasant, English Partridge, French Partridge, Kestrel, Moorhen, Coot, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Canada Goose, Egyptian Goose, Lapwing, Starling, Blackbird, Wren, Reed Bunting, Yellow Bunting, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Long Tailed Tit, Green Woodpecker and Wood Pigeon plus lots more...

Please keep dogs on leads

Enjoy Snettisham Park Safely

For your own safety and enjoyment please follow the guidelines below:

- ✂ No food or drink to be taken into the farm.
- ✂ Always wash your hands thoroughly after touching the animals, before eating or drinking and again before you leave the farm.
- ✂ Please keep your hands away from your mouth.
- ✂ Cover any cuts or abrasions with a waterproof plaster.
- ✂ Pregnant women are strongly advised not to visit the sheep barn during lambing.
- ✂ Please do not taste any of the foodstuffs or drink from any taps.
- ✂ Please observe safety information posters at all times.

Thank you!



Open daily: 10am - 4pm

For information & group booking telephone: 01485 542425

www.snettishampark.co.uk

Snettisham, Nr. Sandringham

Norfolk PE31 7NG



Discovery Trail



Discovery Trail

 1.5 Mile

Follow blue numbers



1 Ahead of you in the mid distance is a large area of woodland, Ken Hill Wood. It was in the is area that the hoards of treasure, gold and silver torcs, were unearthed by ploughing in 1991. On a clear day you will have views to the wash, along the West coast of Norfolk and to the Lincolnshire coast across the water. Looking back over the village, the spire of the 14th c. St Mary's church reaches up 175 feet into the sky. Now follow the signs to the west of the hedge (planted in 1988) alongside the horse paddocks until you reach a 5 bar gate onto the Park by a pair of carrstone cottages on your right at the top of a lane.

2 Pass through the gate with an old beech tree on your left. The gate has a suspended weight which makes sure it shuts behind you. Looking ahead you can see Snettisham Park with it's recently planted oak trees falling away towards the little river Ingol.



3 The mound on your left is the site of a Roman Villa occupied in the 3rd and 4th c. AD and was one of seven villas built along the nearby Ickneild Way. It was partially excavated in the 1930's and the English Heritage interpretation board shows what it might have looked like. It was built of chalk and carrstone and had plastered walls and a mosaic floor. The adjoining wood was planted in 1972 to provide shelter for animals and to give game cover. Continue over the middle of Snettisham Park which is now in permanent pasture.

4 From the middle of Snettisham Park you can see Snettisham House with a 'serpentine' wall on one side of the garden. Continue down to the River Ingol through a small wooden gate. This small stream rises from springs coming up out of the chalk at Shernborne a few miles distant and continues through Snettisham to the Wash at Wolferton. Continue along the bank of the River Ingol and notice the Alder trees growing here, they like moist ground and grow quickly in these conditions. Alder wood can be used for making broom heads and small tool handles and is the best wood for clog soles. Alder charcoal was extensively used in the manufacture of gunpowder. Freshly cut Alder wood is brilliant orange colour which gradually turns dark brown.



5 Go through the iron kissing gate and over the ditch which drains the land through a system of clay pipes. Continue along the side of the river keeping the deer fencing on your left. This field is called Warner's 16 acres and was put down to grass in 1999 under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme it was previously used for growing arable crops. The woodland on the far bank of the river is mainly beech with some oak, hawthorn and elder. The river and its banks become thickly grown with vegetation as the season progresses, watercress, yellow flag iris, reed grass, broad leaved willow herb with its pink flowers, all providing a sanctuary for nesting birds, particularly moorhens and mallard.

6 The public footpath crosses the River Ingol here, but our trail continues east up to St Thomas's Lane, at which point take the path, parallel to the road, up to Warner's Wood on your left.

7 Excavations in the 1950's tell us that this land was an early Saxon settlement of the 5th & 6th centuries. Warner's Wood was planted in 1972 and contains many species of trees including Scot's pine, cherry oak, sycamore and beech. Areas of woodland like this provide landscape features, shelter from the wind for livestock, game cover and a haven for a wide range of wildlife.

