

5. Lynn and Dereham Railway

This railway line operated between King's Lynn and Dereham. The railway opened to Narborough in 1846, Sporle in 1847 and finally reached Dereham in 1848. It closed in 1968 except for sand trains to the Middleton quarries. Most of the line has been removed but many of the stations remain now converted into houses.

6. Post medieval cottages

Overgrown foundations of a number of post medieval cottages can be seen in scrubland. The buildings are marked on old maps where they are set around a funnel-shaped green. It is said they were built with materials from Castle Acre Priory.

7. St Margaret's Church

This medieval flint church has an Early English nave, chancel, north aisle and demolished chapel. The tower is in Perpendicular style as is the south porch. Inside is a remarkable corbel of a horned head on the chapel arcade. Some medieval wall paintings remain on two arches in the chancel north arcade. The church may originally have been a manorial chapel within the medieval enclosure now visible as earthworks that we saw at the beginning of the walk (1).

M. Dennis (NLA), September 2007.

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This heritage trail comes from a website which documents Norfolk's 50,000 archaeological sites, finds and historical buildings. To find out more information about any of the sites mentioned in the trail or to investigate the archaeology on your doorstep go to:

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Little Dunham Heritage Trail



Take a walk around this beautiful Breckland village and discover a deserted medieval settlement, the highest mansion in Norfolk, a Napoleonic monument and the course of an old railway line.



Little Dunham Heritage Trail

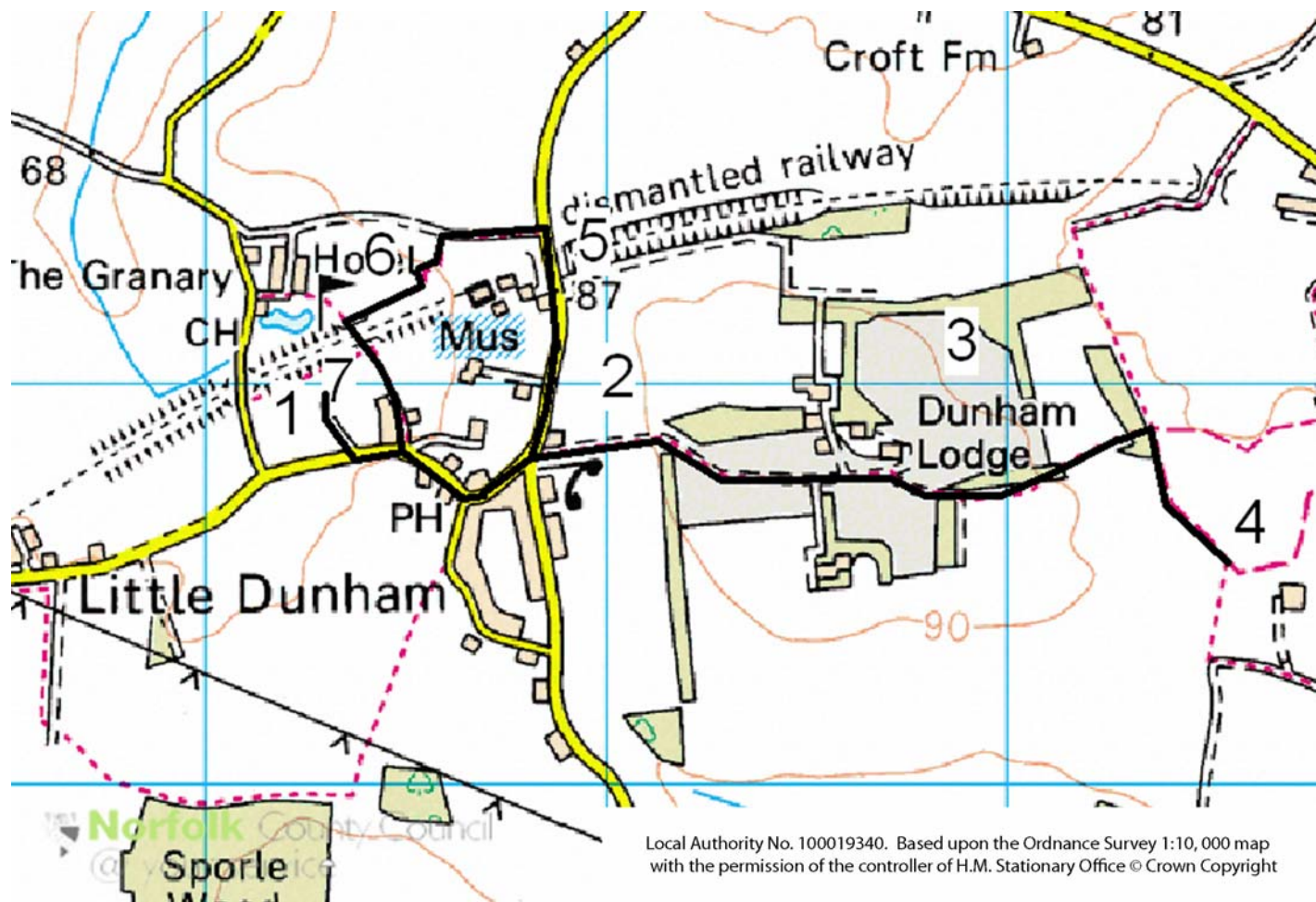
Take a walk around this beautiful Breckland village and discover a deserted medieval settlement, the highest mansion in Norfolk, a Napoleonic monument and the course of an old railway line. The walk is around four miles long and is fairly level with some muddy tracks and one short steep slope to negotiate. Park on the gravel drive outside the church.

1. Possible medieval manor

Earthworks of enclosures, pits, raised areas, early roadside banks and an early drive can be seen in parkland surrounding St Margaret's Church. The enclosure banks and ditches probably include a road or park boundary partially enclosing an earlier manorial site. The site is called Manor Close on the 1838 tithe map. If this is the site of an early manor it suggests the church may originally have been a manorial chapel.

2. Multi-period finds

Metal detecting on these two fields has recovered finds including Roman coins and a lead weight, medieval buckles and undated metal working waste. Pieces of Roman, medieval and post medieval pot were also found.



Map of Little Dunham Heritage Trail

3. Dunham Lodge

This Georgian red brick great house was built in the early 1780s. The building has five bays and three storeys with an outer staircase with two flights of stairs curving up to the entrance. The Lodge is claimed to be the highest situated mansion in Norfolk at 96m above sea level. William Cowper, the famous 18th century poet and letter writer, stayed here in 1795.

4. Dunham Obelisk

This gault brick obelisk with stone dressings was erected in 1814 by John and Mary Drostier to celebrate peace at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. Mary Drostier was Nelson's aunt. The obelisk has an inscribed pedestal and a plaque which dedicates the structure to the memory of Nelson. The obelisk is featured on the village sign.