

East Walk

Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit and Rifle Butts Quarry (summer)

Summertime heralds an abundance of chalk grassland flowers in this historic area of Yorkshire which hosts one of the best places to see striking, monochrome marbled white butterflies.

1 From the car park in Goodmanham Dale, take the path heading north-eastwards. This was once a railway line from Market Weighton to Beverley but is now the Hudson Way rail trail open to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. After a few hundred metres you'll reach Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit.

2 As the reserve opens out before you, pause for a moment to look across the valley floor. The distinctive mounds of tufted grass harbour gloriously scented wild thyme and basil. Listen carefully for linnets, yellowhammers, and busy bees.

Did you know? These mounds are made by yellow meadow ants and attract green woodpeckers who probe them with their long tongues.

Yellow meadow ant



3 If you're sure-footed and able to make the short, steep climb up the embankment on the left, you'll be rewarded with fine views, a welcoming bench and often a wonderful breeze on a hot day. There is only one access point up onto the bank, so you can do a loop before heading back into the valley bottom. Watch your step as there are steep drops in places.

4 Once you've soaked in the sights, sounds and smells of this wildflower paradise, retrace your steps back to the carpark and then follow the Hudson Way towards Market Weighton until you emerge onto a small road. Turn right along the road to reach Rifle Butts Quarry.

5 The reserve sits on the right at the end of the first field, through a kissing gate. Here, the exposed rock face showcases a unique geological timeline starting in the Jurassic period. The reserve is awash with wild colours through the spring and summer including lady's bedstraw, and clustered bellflower. From here, continue along the minor road for around 1km, keeping your eyes peeled for brown hares and whitethroats, and listening out for skylarks.

6 At Goodmanham, turn left along Main Street and you'll pass All Hallows, a delightful 12th-century church. Keep following the road as



it curves left by the pub, becoming Goodmanham Road, which leads to Market Weighton.

7 Just to the left of the sign for Market Weighton, take the path through the kissing gate. When you emerge onto Hall Road by the playing fields, take a sharp left back onto the Hudson Way in the direction of Beverley and enjoy a shaded walk back to the car park under the canopy of trees, past the natural spring of St Helen's Well on your right.

Suggested start point – Goodmanham Dale car park

Parking – Small car park just off Spring Lane single-track road in Goodmanham Dale (on the left if driving from Market Weighton).

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Alternative parking available in Market Hill Car Park in Market Weighton. The entrance point to the Hudson Way is on the north edge of the town by the playing fields near Aspen Close and Hall Road.

Length – 5.8 miles/9.3 km approx.



Dogs – No dogs on Kiplingcotes please, but they

are allowed on the rail trail.

Cycling – along the Hudson Way and roads but not within the reserves.

Other useful info: There are a few pubs and other places to get food in Market Weighton, as well as a public toilet on Londesborough Road. You'll also find a pub (the Goodmanham Arms) and café (the Fiddle Drill Tearooms) in Goodmanham. Access: Kiplingcotes is a short walk from the car park, flat easy walking, can be uneven underfoot. Steep bank on reserve is unsuitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.