

### 3. Wensum Walks - West Raynham TF873253

This is a charming area at any time of year but probably best for birds in spring and early summer. The villages of West, South and East Raynham surround Raynham Hall and its parkland, and there is plenty of interest for lovers of scenery and old buildings as well as bird watchers and walkers. Lots of easy walking routes on waymarked paths and tracks, some of which go alongside the river Wensum.

Bird species

**All year.**

Common wildfowl & waterbirds  
Sparrowhawk  
Kestrel  
Kingfisher  
Green Woodpecker  
Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Sky Lark  
Pied Wagtail  
Common scrub birds  
Marsh Tit

**Summer.**

Cuckoo  
Turtle Dove  
Hirundines  
Sedge Warbler  
Reed Warbler  
Common Whitethroat  
Blackcap  
Garden Warbler  
Chiffchaff  
Willow Warbler

**Winter.**

Winter thrushes, Siskin, Redpoll

Park in the village of West Raynham (c.8 miles SW of Fakenham) somewhere near the middle near the triangular green with cherry trees (great blossom in May). A notice board on the west wall displays the routes around the area, varying from whole day walks to an hour or so.

A nice 2 hour birdwatching walk goes along the road towards East Raynham, with views of the lake across the field (best view of lake) and crosses a stile to the south before the bridge. This takes you over a field and through a couple more stiles, alongside a pleasant stream at the edge of the woodland, before crossing the Wensum on a safe bridge. You can choose to go straight on up the hill and come back along the road, turn left to walk beside the river (the shortest route, but involves a couple of ditches with narrow planks), or to go right and take a much longer route. Whichever option you take, you come back to the entrance to St Mary's Church where walkers' paths are clearly signposted through the farmyard. Lovely view of Raynham Hall on your right.

Walk on a level track to the end of the field and turn left through the kissing gate to cross the river once again. Take care here as it might be a good place for kingfishers and grey wagtails. The path goes through wet scrubland with plenty of warblers in season (close views) before emerging onto farmland where you have a choice of routes back to the village, the quickest being diagonally left across the field. Admire the ruined church of St Margaret from this path. Take care on the road back into the village but spot some nice wildflowers on the bank on your left.