



▪ **BEDFORDSHIRE**

Chilterns Gateway Centre, Dunstable Downs & Whipsnade Estate

Dunstable Road, Whipsnade, Bedfordshire LU6 2GY

Tel: 01582 500920

Commanding outstanding views over the Vale of Aylesbury and surrounding countryside, 206 ha (510 acres) of grassland and farmland SW of Dunstable, this local beauty spot offers an opportunity for many forms of recreation, including walking and kite-flying.

Whipsnade Tree Cathedral

Trustees c/o Chappel Farm, Whipsnade, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2LL

Tel: 01582 872406

Created following WW1 in 'Faith, hope and reconciliation', the Tree Cathedral covers a tranquil 10.5ha (26 acres) and contains many tree species uniquely planted in the plan of a medieval cathedral. Grass avenues form chancel, nave, transepts, chapels and cloisters, and there is also a dew pond. Nearby are Whipsnade Downs, where the Trust owns a farm and an area of botanically rich chalk grassland, to which there is unrestricted access on foot.

Willington Dovecote and Stables

Willington, nr Bedford, Bedfordshire

Tel: 01480 301494

The 16th century stable and stone dovecote has room for 1,500 nesting pigeons and allegedly has a graffiti signature by John Bunyan. The area is a barn owl and kestrel nesting site.

▪ **CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill

Quy Road, Lode, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB25 9EJ

Tel: 01223 810080

The house, dating from 1600, is built on the site of an Augustinian priory and contains the famous Fairhaven collection of paintings and furniture. It is surrounded by a 40ha garden and arboretum.

Houghton Mill

Houghton, nr Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 2AZ

Tel: 01480 301494

A large timber-built watermill on an island on the Great Ouse River. Much of the machinery is intact and is operational on milling days.

Peckover House and Garden

North Brink, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 1JR

Tel: 01945 583463

A town house built c.1722 with fine plaster and wood rococo decoration, and an outstanding Victorian garden.

Ramsey Abbey Gatehouse

Abbey School, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 1DH

Tel: 01480 301494

Remains of a 15th century gatehouse of a Benedictine abbey.

Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve

Lode Lane, Wicken, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5XP

Tel: 01353 720274

Britain's oldest nature reserve—a unique part of wilderness that once covered much of East Anglia.

Wimpole Hall

Arrington, Royston, Cambridgeshire SG8 0BW

Tel: 01223 206000

Built in a restrained 18th century style, the fine interior is both intimate and formal with work by Gibbs, Flitcroft and Soane.

Wimpole Home Farm

Arrington, Royston, Cambridgeshire SG8 0BW

Tel: 01223 206000

Built in 1794 as a model farm (designed by Sir John Soane)

Wimpole houses a collection of farm machinery used at the farm for over 200 years and is home to a range of rare animal breeds.

Note: NT members pay half price for entrance fee.

▪ ESSEX

Bourne Mill

Bourne Road, Colchester, Essex CO2 8RT

Tel: 01206 572422

Originally built as a fishing lodge in 1591 it features a mill-pond and machinery including the waterwheel still intact and working.

Coggeshall Grange Barn

Grange Hill, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex CO6 1RE

Tel: 01376 562226

The oldest surviving timber-framed barn in Europe, dating from 1140, and originally part of a Cistercian monastery.

Paycocke's

West Street, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex CO6 IN5

Tel: 01376 561305

A merchant's house dating from c.1500 with unusually rich panelling and wood carving. A display of lace for which Coggeshall was famous is on show.

Rayleigh Mount

Rayleigh, Essex

Tel: 01284 747500

The former site of the domesday castle erected by Sweyn of Essex.

▪ HEREFORDSHIRE

Ashridge Estate

On the Herts and Bucks border, between Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead

Contact: Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, Moneybury Hill, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire HP4 1LX

Tel: 01494 755557

The Ashridge Estate covers six square miles and comprises woodlands, commons and downland. The main focal point is the granite monument erected in 1832 to the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater.

Hatfield Forest

Takeley, nr Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM22 6NE

Tel: 01279 874040 (Infoline); 01279 870678

An ancient woodland and rare surviving example of a medieval royal hunting forest. The pollarded hornbeams and oaks support a wide variety of wildlife and there are many walks and nature trails, as well as fishing in the lake.

Shaw's Corner

Ayot St Lawrence, nr Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 9BX

01438 829221 (Infoline); 01438 820307

An Edwardian villa, the home of George Bernard Shaw from 1906–1950. Many literary and personal relics are shown in the downstairs rooms which remain as in his lifetime.

▪ NORFOLK

Blakeney National Natural Reserve

Coast Office, Friary Farm, Cley Road, Blakeney, Norfolk NR25 7NW
Tel: 01263 740241

A 3.5 mile-long sand and shingle spit important for its colonies of seabirds as well as common and grey seals.

Blickling Hall, Garden and Park

Blickling, Norwich, Norfolk NR11 6NF
Tel: 01263 738030

This Jacobean house dates from the early 17th century and includes fine collections of furniture, pictures and tapestries.

Brancaster, Brancaster Millenium Activity Centre

Dial House, Brancaster Staithe, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 8BW
Tel: 01485 210719

A large area with 4 miles of tidal foreshore, sand dunes and saltmarsh including the site of the Roman Fort of Branodonum.

Felbrigg Hall, Garden and Park

Felbrigg, Norwich, Norfolk NR11 8PR
Tel: 01263 837444

One of the finest 17th century houses in Norfolk with its original 18th century furniture and pictures, and an outstanding library.

Horsey Windpump

Horsey, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 4EF
Tel: 01263 740241

A drainage windmill severely damaged by lightning in 1943—now restored.

Oxburgh Hall, Garden and Estate

Oxborough, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE33 9PS
Tel: 01366 328258

A moated house built (1482) by the Bedingfeld family who still live there. The rooms show the development from medieval austerity to Victorian comfort, with embroidery worked by Mary Queen of Scots during her captivity on display.

St George's Guildhall

29 King St, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1HA
Tel: 01553 765565

The largest surviving English medieval guildhall, now in use as an arts centre.

Sheringham Park Visitor Centre

Upper Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8TL

Tel: 01263 820550

This outstanding landscape park by Humphry Repton contains mature woodlands and spectacular gardens of rhododendrons and azaleas.

▪ SUFFOLK

Dunwich Heath: Coastal Centre and Beach

Dunwich, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3DJ

Tel: 01728 648501

A beautiful stretch of the Suffolk coastline with heathland, shoreline walks, shady woods and sandy cliffs. There is magnificent flowering heath during June to September and rare wildlife such as the Dartford Warbler and ant-lion. The old Coastguard Cottages provide tea and gifts with a stunning view.

Elizabeth House Museum

4 South Quay, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 2QH

Tel: 01493 855746

Lovely display of 16th century domestic history with hands on activities throughout the house. There is a children's playroom filled with toys from the past. The Conspiracy room is where the trial and execution of Charles I was plotted.

Flatford: Bridge Cottage

Flatford, East Bergholt, Suffolk CO7 6UL

Tel: 01206 298260

This beautiful 16th century thatched cottage is located in the heart of Dedham Valley. The location is famous for John Constable's paintings and house holds an exhibition of his paintings. There are walks along the River Stour and a riverside tea room.

Ickworth House, Park and Gardens

The Rotunda, Horringer, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 5QE

Tel: 01284 735270

The Earl of Bristol created this eccentric house in 1795 to display his collections. Paintings include works by Titian, Gainsborough and Velazquez. A magnificent Georgian silver collection is displayed in the oval Rotunda.

Lavenham: The Guildhall of Corpus Christi

Market Place, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9QZ

Tel: 01787 247646

An early 16th century timber-framed Tudor building, originally the hall for the Guild of Corpus Christi. Displays of local history and an exhibition of 700 years of the medieval woollen cloth trade.

Melford Hall

Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9AA

Tel: 01787 376395 (Infoline)

A turreted brick Tudor mansion little changed since 1578 with original panelled banqueting hall, a Regency library and Victorian bedrooms.

Orford Ness National Nature Reserve

Quay Office, Orford Quay, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 2NU

Tel: 01728 648024 (Infoline) 01394 450900

This important nature reserve was the site of secret Cold War military testing. The area is wild and remote and has the largest vegetated shingle spit in Europe.

Sutton Hoo

Tranmer House, Sutton Hoo, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DJ

Tel: 01394 389700

Opened in Spring 2002. The Anglo-Saxon royal burial site where the priceless Sutton Hoo treasure was discovered in a huge ship grave. The exhibition tells the story of the site – which has been described as 'page one of English history' – and displays some original objects as well as replicas of the treasure. The burial site forms part of the 99-ha (245-acre) estate given to the National Trust by the Annie Tranmer Trust in 1998. Excellent walks.

Theatre Royal

Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QR

Tel: 01284 769505

Built in 1819, a rare example of a late Georgian playhouse still in use. Theatre Royal is a working theatre and presents a year-round program.

Thorington Hall

Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk CO6 4SS

Tel: 01284 747500

Set in the heart of Stour Valley, this rambling farmhouse was built around 1600. The house has a traditional oak frame with gabled exterior, a fine oak carved staircase and a six flued chimney stack.