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| Start point | Car park & bus stop, Runton Road, Cromer Grid reference TG212425 |
| Parking | Pay & display car park, Runton Road |
| Distance | 4 miles (*or 3.2 miles with short cut) |
| Details | Steep gradients, 50% soft  Seasonal refreshments and toilets |

Walk instructions

From Runton Road car park/Westcliff Avenue bus stop, cross the road into Westcliff Avenue opposite. Turn right at the end into Howard's Hill.

Just before the brow of the steep hill bear left then immediately right onto the public footpath beside the dog waste bin and walk anticlockwise around Howard's Hill – the site of the old Cromer Zoo from 1962 to 1981. Continue on the public footpath ignoring all other paths, pass a second dog bin on the left then bear right to walk parallel to the railway line. Turn left at the end, cross the railway bridge and then turn right.

As the road bears sharp left continue ahead and turn almost immediately right onto the footpath signposted to East Runton. Walk along this footpath as it passes over a hill before descending to the railway line, cross at the gate and continue through a second gate onto a narrow path.

Turn right at the road, pass the village pond and walk under the railway viaduct.

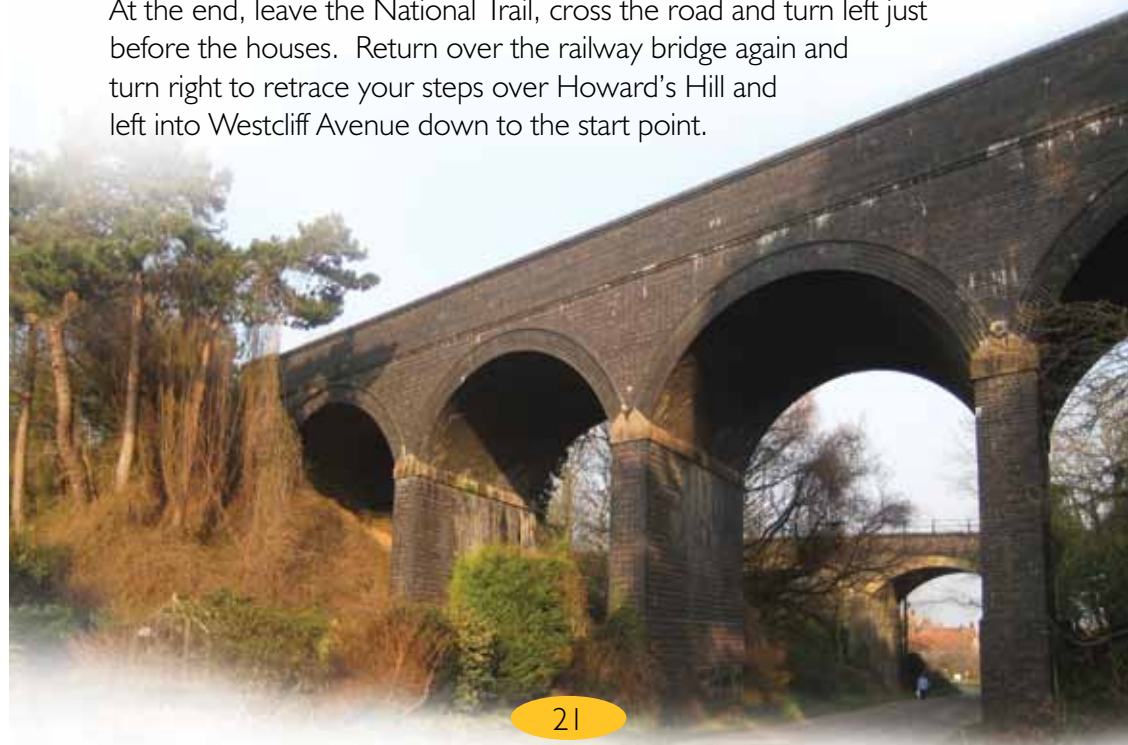
*For the short cut; turn left after the pond/before the viaduct and walk anticlockwise around Top Common. Continue the walk from the directions to Abb's Common.

For the longer walk, from the viaduct walk on the left along the common until reaching the Cromer Road. Turn left and then left again into Thain's Lane. Walk over the railway bridge and turn left. Continue ahead on reaching the tarmac road (Brick Lane).

Turn right at the T-junction beside the common *now joined by the shorter route. Follow the road as it winds around into Banville Lane leading to Abb's Common.

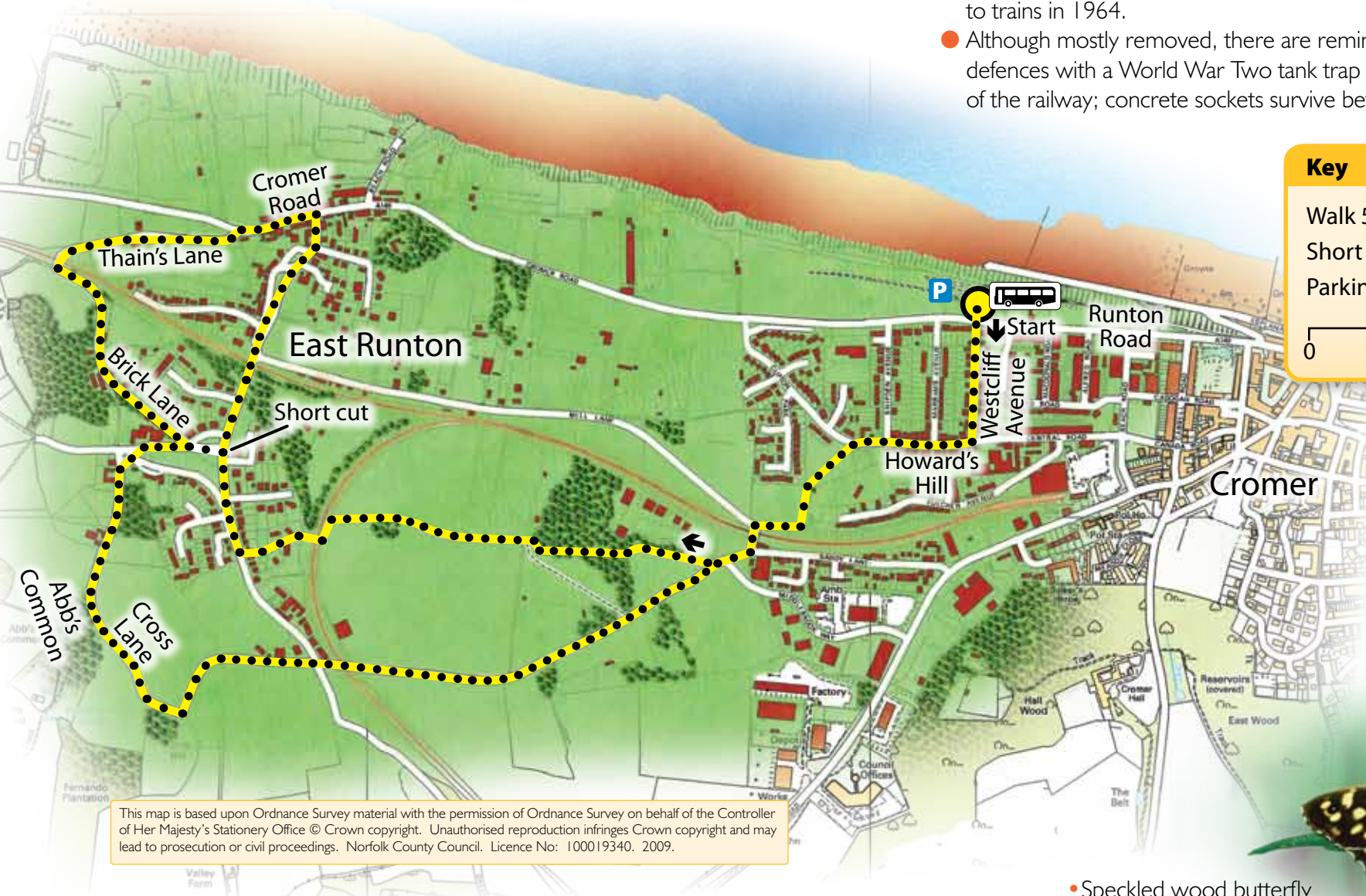
Turn left in Abb's Common just after the tarmac road becomes a track. Continue along this sunken lane following the acorn waymarks of the Norfolk Coast Path National Trail. Ignore a track off to the right, cross a road and walk straight ahead onto another track under the railway bridge.

At the end, leave the National Trail, cross the road and turn left just before the houses. Return over the railway bridge again and turn right to retrace your steps over Howard's Hill and left into Westcliff Avenue down to the start point.



This walk enjoys a railway theme; the route takes you under an impressive viaduct and crosses the railway line six times.

- The viaduct and embankments are reminders of the Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Railway which once joined East Runton to North Walsham. The Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway (locally known as 'Muddle and Go Nowhere') also ran through Runton on its way from Cromer to Norwich. All but the Cromer to Sheringham sections closed to trains in 1964.
- Although mostly removed, there are reminders nearby of coastal defences with a World War Two tank trap on the Cromer Curve section of the railway; concrete sockets survive between the rails.



Key

- Walk 5 ●●●●●●
- Short cut ●●●●●●
- Parking **P**

0 1/4 mile 1/2 km

- The undisturbed tangle of shrubs and wildflowers on dismantled railways create excellent wildlife corridors linking nearby commons and gardens with farmland and providing cover for a variety of species.

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● Speckled wood butterfly