

Ufford Heritage Trail

7. Crisp's Meadow

As you stand by the footpath sign, Crisp's Meadow is across the river to the left of the road.

The meadow is named after Thomas Crisp, who owned the first fully documented and traceable Suffolk Punch, a 15.2 hand (62 inch, 157cm) stallion, foaled in Crisp's meadow in 1768. The Suffolk Punch is a draught horse breed, dating back to the early 16th century, but all Suffolk Punches alive today can be traced back to this stallion, known as Crisp's Horse of Ufford.



You will often see Suffolk Punches in Crisp's meadow in the summer months.

Suffolk Punches are always chestnut, with no white and are unusual among British heavy horses as they have no feather on their legs. This enabled them to work the heavy ground of East Anglia without becoming weighed down by mud. Used extensively in farming prior to the industrial revolution, the breed's numbers plummeted when horses were no longer required to work the land and the breed neared extinction.

The Suffolk Punch is currently described as 'critical' on the Rare Breed Survival Trust's watchlist, which means there are fewer than 300 adult breeding females registered with the breed's studbook.