

Paston Way Short Walk 3 (of 4) Mundesley to Paston

Length:
4 Miles



Along the way

Mundesley is a pretty seaside village, recorded in the Domesday book as Museleai. This walk begins by heading north to Beach Road, where it passes the village's tiny maritime museum located in a former coastal lookout building. A little further on it passes the Ship Inn, thought to date from the 18th century, then bears left and heads down to the beach, where it runs southeast beneath the cliffs. Harbour porpoises can sometimes be seen offshore here. The Mundesley Cliffs have been given Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status because of the layers of sediment deposited over time that they display. Further along the beach, the route passes below Mundesley Holiday Camp, built in 1933 in the shape of nearby Stow Hill Windmill and the first purpose-built fully catering holiday camp in Norfolk.

Continuing southeast along the beach, the unmistakable industrial sprawl of Bacton Gas Terminal soon becomes apparent on the cliffs above. Just after passing this extensive complex, the route leads inland at Bacton Green and heads west across farmland towards Bacton's rather isolated St Andrew's Church, a small medieval church with a mostly Victorian interior. At Hall Farm House just beyond here, the way leads northwest towards Paston village where after passing St Margaret's Church the route ends at Paston Great Barn.

The thatched 14th-century church of St Margaret's contains several family tombs of the Paston family who once lived at nearby Paston Hall, which was completely rebuilt in the 19th century. The Paston family were responsible for the famous Paston Letters, a large collection of correspondence written in the 15th century. This same wealthy land-owning family also built the enormous thatched barn in the village. The 16th-century barn, which has brick buttresses and a magnificent hammerbeam roof, is both a scheduled listed building and a designated SSSI and Special Area of Conservation because it is home to a rare maternity roost of barbastelle bats, one of only three in Britain and the only one to use a building to roost.

Walk summary

Starting at the seaside village of Mundesley, follow the coast along the beach to Bacton Green before heading inland through rolling farmland to finish at Paston Great Barn.

Getting started

This walk starts next to Gold Park, Mundesley on High Street (TG311366) and ends at Paston Great Barn (TG283302).

Getting there

Bus service

Mundesley – Sanders 5, 34, 35B, 55

Paston – Sanders 34 and 35B

Bus stops Gold Park Gates (Mundesley) and Chapel Road Bus Shelter (Paston)

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33

www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk

Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 252, Norfolk Coast East, available from Ordnance Survey shop www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/

What to expect

Pavements, beach walk (**please check tide times**), ramp / slipway to and from beach, country lanes. Short walk along busy road with no pavement at Paston (300 metres).

Facilities

Pubs, cafés, accommodation, shops, museum in Mundesley.

Accommodation in Paston.