Harleston is an ancient market town close to the River Waveney. In its earlier days the town was nothing more than a collection of market traders. The market prospered, houses replaced the stalls and the town grew. Its future was assured when in 1259 it was granted the right to hold a fair and a market. Now it is a vibrant and lively town with shops, a small museum, eating places and pubs to enjoy.

This stretch of Angles Way crosses the River Waveney twice. Now a considerably smaller river than it was at the eastern section, the lush grazing meadows beside the river and diverse aquatic flora and fauna in the river has given some sections of the river County Wildlife Site status.

Both crossing points for the Waveney housed watermills. The watermill at Syleham by the toll bridge to Brockdish was originally a corn mill. It was converted in 1839 to a linen mill and thriving garment factory which employed over 100 people into the mid-19th century. The wealth from the weaving trade is reflected in many villages along the Waveney, including Brockdish’s colour-washed cottages. The mill has been converted into private houses and the factory site now has four houses built at the turn of the 21st century.