

S5

Norfolk Coast Path England Coast Path Stretch 1 Short Walk 5 (of 7) Mundesley to Happisburgh



Length:
6 Miles



Legend

- N
- This walk
- Alternative Route
- Adjacent Section/s
- Closest Bus/ Train Locations

Along the way

The walk begins at Mundesley at the Maritime Museum, a small two-storey building overlooking the beach that formerly served as a HM Coastguard lookout station. From the museum, the way leads down to the beach beneath Mundesley Cliffs, a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its Pleistocene geology – the Pleistocene epoch lasted from about two and a half million years ago until the end of the last glacial period. A good variety of sea birds can be seen out to sea along this section and seals are often seen in the waves. Occasionally, porpoises may also be spotted.

The way continues along the beach beneath the extensive industrial complex of the Bacton Gas Terminal, one of the main gas terminals in the UK. Just beyond the terminal there is the option of a brief inland diversion at Bacton Green if it is high tide. Reaching Walcott, the route diverts a little way inland before climbing up to the cliff top to skirt arable fields and pass through a caravan park before arriving in Happisburgh.

Halfway between Walcott and Happisburgh on the cliff path are the remains of World War II coastal battery with a pillbox and observation posts. Several more pillboxes may be seen in the Happisburgh area, including one that stands upside down on Happisburgh beach that was originally located on the cliff top.

Happisburgh is well known for its red and white banded lighthouse that can be seen from some distance away. The village church of St Mary's is another prominent local landmark. In 2010, the village became famous when a large cache of flint tools found on a Happisburgh beach appeared to indicate that the area was the site of early human activity between one million and 780,000 years ago. Further evidence came in 2013 when wave erosion exposed a number of fossilised footprints believed to belong to the same hominin (early human) species – *Homo antecessor* or 'Pioneer Man'. This is the earliest known record of hominin occupation outside Africa.

Walk summary

From Mundesley to Happisburgh on the northeast Norfolk coast, this bracing, seaside walk follows the beach for much of the way before taking to the clifftop for the final leg.

Getting started

Starts in Mundesley at the Old Coastguard Lookout Station (TG314367) and ends at Beach Road, Happisburgh (TG383308).

Getting there

Bus Service: (Service days vary)
Mundesley – Sanders 5, 34 and 55
Happisburgh – Sanders 34 and 36

Bus Stops:

Station Road or High Street (Mundesley) and Post Office (Happisburgh)

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33.
www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk

Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 252, Norfolk Coast East, Cromer & North Walsham, available from Ordnance Survey shop www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

What to expect

Sandy beach with hard sand, grassy clifftop footpath and a short road section.

Facilities

Pubs, cafés, tearooms, accommodation and shops in Mundesley and Happisburgh.