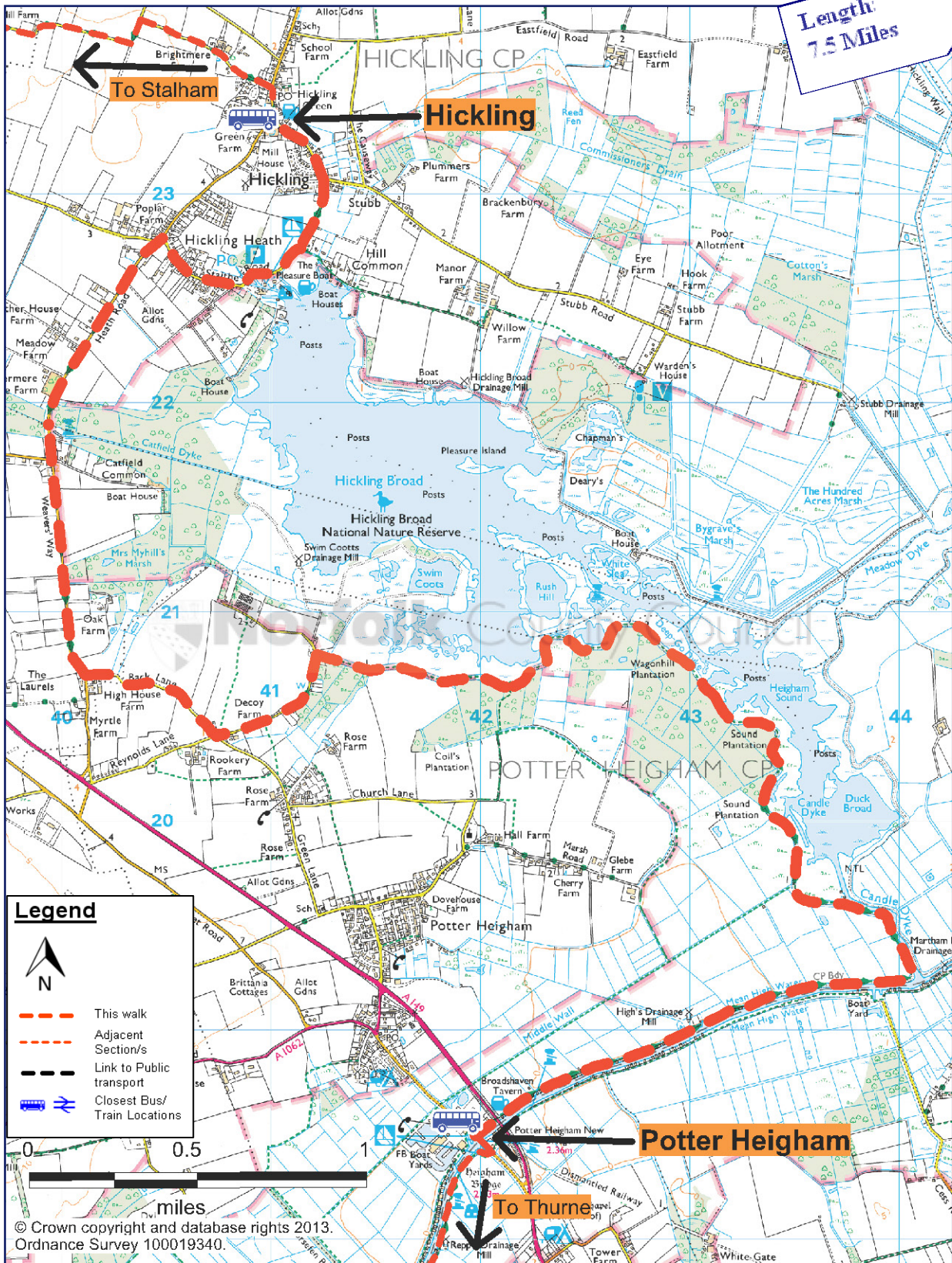


S7

Weavers' Way Short Walk 7 (of 11) Hickling to Potter Heigham

Length:
7.5 Miles



Along the way

The way leads south through Hickling village, passing Hickling Heath before following a minor road through Catfield Common where interesting plants and birds like sedge warbler and reed bunting may be seen in the dykes and marshes. South of Catfield Common, the way turns left along a lane to join a footpath that enters the protected area of the Broads and leads along the southern edge of Hickling Broad, a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The broad is surrounded by areas of fen, grazing marsh and damp woodland as well as the largest expanse of reedbed in England. Like other bodies of water in the region, Hickling Broad was formed by the flooding of depressions left by widespread peat digging between the 12th and 14th centuries. This internationally important wetland site provides suitable habitat for many species of plants, insects and animal, and is home to rarities like Norfolk hawker dragonfly, swallowtail butterfly, marsh harrier, Cetti's warbler, bittern and common crane.

After passing a bird hide overlooking the water at Rush Hill scrape the path continues along the edge of a dyke and the woodland of Sound Plantation, then passes between grazing meadows and Heigham Sound. From here it follows a channel that joins the River Thurne, where the way then turns right to continue on a path along the river bank alongside a line of river chalets to the left and reclaimed marshland to the right. The path diverts along a small inlet past High's Mill, a former drainage windmill now a private dwelling, before continuing to pass under the broad road bridge of the A149 and arrive at medieval Heigham Bridge. The bridge, believed to date from 1385, is well known to sailors for being difficult to navigate. Only small cruisers can pass beneath it at low tide, usually with the assistance of the resident bridge pilot.

Walk summary

A varied walk through the heart of the Broads region that takes in skirts wildlife-rich Hickling Broad before following the bank of the River Thurne to arrive at the medieval bridge at Potter Heigham.

Getting started

This walk starts in Hickling at the Greyhound Inn Public House (TG410233) and ends at Heigham Bridge (TG419814)

Getting there

Bus service

Hickling and Potter Heigham – Sanders 6 & 36

Bus stops The Green (Hickling) and Mill Road (Potter Heigham)

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33

www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk

Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL40, The Broads, available from Ordnance Survey shop

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

What to expect

Mixed surfaces of pavements, country lanes, rural paths and tracks. No stiles on this walk.

Facilities

Pub and accommodation in Hickling.

Shops, café, accommodation and pub in Potter Heigham.