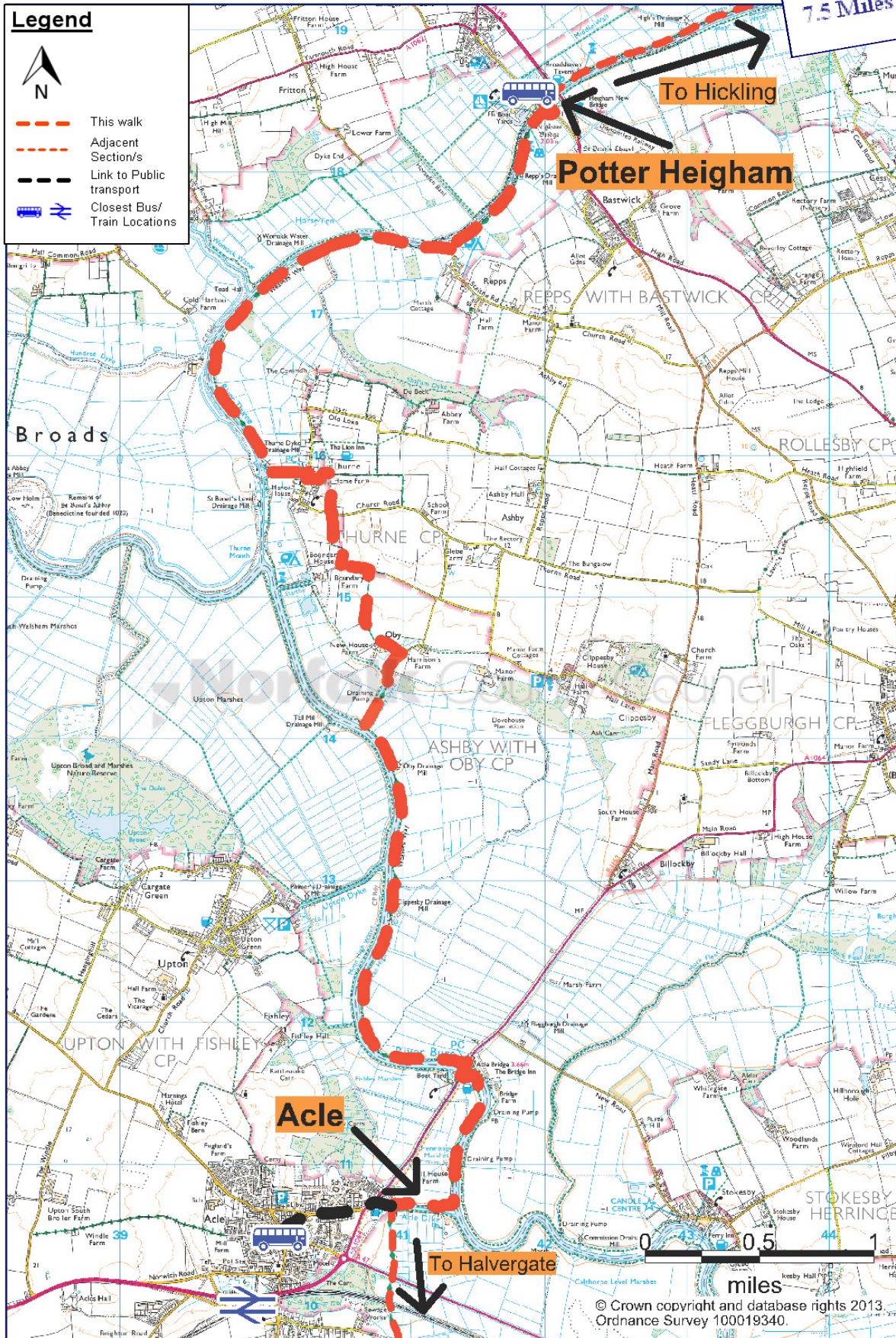


Weavers' Way Short Walk 8 (of 11) Potter Heigham to Acle

Length:
7.5 Miles



Along the way

The first part of this section follows the east bank of the River Thurne past grazing marshes to reach the village of Thurne. Along the way it passes the National Nature Reserve of Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes to the north of the river and Shallam Dyke Marshes to the south, both of which are internationally important for wetland birds. Not long after leaving Heigham Bridge, the way passes The Old Mill, a former drainage mill that has been converted into holiday accommodation. Another drainage mill, the white-painted Thurne Dyke Mill, stands at Thurne where the way leads inland along a dyke. The four sails of this restored 1820 mill can be seen turning on regular open days in summer. Just across the river is St Benet's Level Drainage Mill, another restored four-storey mill with four sails and a boat-shaped cap. The ruins of St Benet's Abbey, which contain the brick tower of a windmill, can also be made out in the distance.

After heading along the Staithe at Thurne and then passing the Lion Inn at the end of Thurne Dyke the way cuts through to arable land, before turning south to pass St Edmund's Church, which has a rebuilt 14th century tower. The west wall of the tower has an eye-level peephole that is said to align with St Benet's Abbey across the marshes. The church is also the site of an intriguing ritual burial that took place in 1654 when Richard Ferrer was buried covered in an ox hide, complete with horns, in order to confuse future antiquaries.

Leaving the church, the way heads south, criss-crossing fields before reaching another dyke that leads back to the river. From here it passes near three more drainage mills: Upton Black Drainage Mill, a capped black-tarred brick tower on the other side of the water, Wiseman's Oby Mill, a derelict brick tower, and Clippesby Mill, another capped brick tower dating from 1830. At Acle Bridge, the way crosses to the other bank before finishing at the end of Acle Dyke

Walk summary

A waterside walk nearly all the way, with mills a-plenty, following the east bank of the River Thurne to the outskirts of Acle with just a small diversion across farmland near the confluence with the River Bure at Thurne

Getting started

This walk starts at ends at Heigham Bridge (TG419814) and ends at Acle Dyke (TG409107).

Getting there

Coach National Express 308 and 491.
National express enquires: 08717 818178.
www.nationalexpress.com

Train Acle Rail Station
National Rail enquiries: 08457 484950.
www.nationalrail.co.uk

Bus service

Potter Heigham – Sanders 6 and Neaves 36.
Acle – 52 Konect Bus, Ambassador Travel 730, First X1. **Bus stops** Mill Road (Potter Heigham) and Kings Head (Acle)
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

Mostly riverbank path with a short section of pavements, country lanes, and cross-fields. Squeeze stile near Oby and two squeeze stiles near Acle dyke.

Facilities

Shops, café, accommodation and pub in Potter Heigham. Camping and caravan park in Repps-with-Bastwick.
Pub in Thurne.
Camping and caravan Park in Oby.
Pubs, cafés, shops and accommodation in Acle.