

Weavers' Way Cycle Route Stalham to Bengate

Length:
4.5 miles / 9 miles
(return)



Along the way

The route begins at the Old Railway Station at the end of Stalham High Street. Further back along the street in the town centre is St Mary's Church, which dates from the 14th and 15th centuries and has a squat tower as the top of the original tower fell down and was never fully rebuilt to its former height. Adjoining the churchyard, in the corner on the High Street, is the Stalham Firehouse Museum, a brick building with a manual pump that is the second oldest firehouse in England.

Leaving Stalham, the route heads northwest to follow a straight section of dismantled railway line and skirt the village of East Ruston after a couple of miles. The route continues alongside the wet grassland of Honing Common and through the woodland of the county wildlife site of Honing Bridge Carr before reaching the former railway platform at Briggate, which once belonged to Honing station. From here it passes beneath a cast iron and brick bridge before crossing the now-disused North Walsham & Dilham Canal. This narrow manmade waterway, Norfolk's only canal and the only one built specifically for wherries, was constructed in the early part of the 19th century to link the Bure and Ant rivers and allow goods to be transported from the bone mills of Antingham northwest of North Walsham to Great Yarmouth via the River Bure. Trade was insufficient to make the venture profitable but the canal survived until the 1920s. The canal is currently only navigable for two miles between Smallburgh and Honing Lock.

The finish point is at the parking area at Bengate (accessed via underpass), where this section of disused railway line ends. Along this final stretch, Worstead Mill, a mid 19th-century four-storey tower windmill with a boat-shaped cap, can be seen across the fields to the north.

The Broads by Bike Route 7 (Stalham, Ingham, Honing, Worstead, Dilham), includes this stretch of Weavers' Way and has two loops taking in the picturesque villages in the area totalling about 33 miles. See their website www.thebroadsbybike.org.uk

Follow back lanes into North Walsham where you can pick up another stretch of Weavers' Way dis-used railway (to Aylsham).

Walk summary

This cycle route starts at the end of Stalham's High Street and follows a disused railway line through arable farmland, heaths and fens. It also crosses the course of the disused North Walsham & Dilham Canal along the way.

Getting started

The route starts in Stalham at the junction with the High Street (TG368252) and finishes at Bengate at the junction with Junction of Farm Road / Yarmouth Road (TG306274), near the A149.

Getting there

Train

North Walsham Rail Station
National Rail enquiries: 08457 484950
www.nationalrail.co.uk

Bus service

Stalham – Sanders 6 and 34, First 12/12A, and Neaves 36.

Bengate - Sanders 6 and 34

Bus Stops - Rail Station (Stalham), Bankside Turn (Bengate)

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

Maps and guides

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

What to expect

Dis-used railway line with loose surface. Gates at road crossings.

Facilities

Pubs, cafés, shops and accommodation in North Walsham and Stalham.