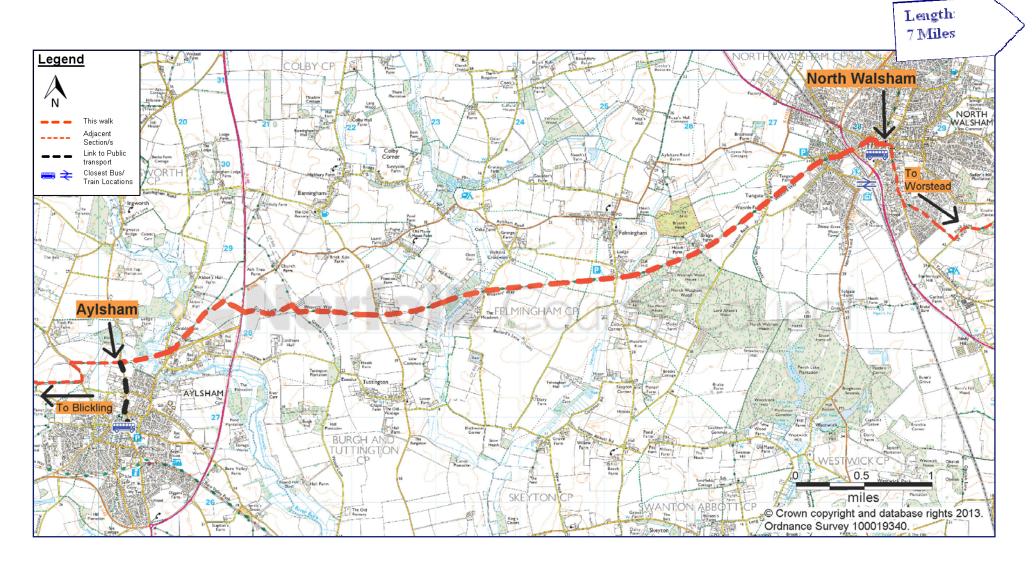
S4

Weavers' Way Short Walk 4 (of 11) Aylsham to North Walsham





Along the way

Starting from the Cromer Road north of Aylsham the way crosses the River Bure by a bridge before leaving the town along the old Banningham Road. After crossing the busy A140 it picks up the route of a dismantled railway, which it follows all the way to North Walsham. This stretch of railway line between Melton Constable and North Walsham was built in 1883 but closed in 1959. The disused railway is now a designated county wildlife site because of its varied grassland vegetation. Further on, close to Felmingham where the path passes through a cutting, is a designated butterfly nature reserve where 16 species have been recorded including Small Copper, Painted Lady and Common Blue. Felmingham station is still in place beside the former track bed that now serves as the Weavers' Way route.

Just after Felmingham Cutting the way passes Lodge Farm and goes through North Walsham Wood before continuing across fields to arrive in North Walsham. After passing beneath the Norwich to Sheringham railway line and the main A149 the way ends at St Nicholas Church next to the market place, which is also the starting point for the Paston Way (which heads back to Cromer).

St Nicholas Church, which dates from the 14th century, is distinctive in having a partially ruined tower. This is the result of suffering two collapses in the past, one in 1724 and the other in 1836. Before this, the church had one of the tallest towers in Norfolk. North Walsham market place has at its centre an impressive octagonal Market Cross with a three-tiered dome. This wooden structure was erected in 1602 to replace an earlier cross that was destroyed when the town was wrecked by fire in 1600. It was fitted with its chiming clock in 1899. Nearby is Paston Grammar School, now part of Paston College, which was founded as a free school by Sir Wiliam Paston in 1606 and later attended by Horatio Nelson and his brother William. The present red brick building dates from 1766.

Walk summary

Following the route of a former railway, now dismantled, for much of the way, this walk passes through quiet farmland between the north Norfolk market towns of Aylsham and North Walsham.

Getting started

This walk starts in Aylsham at Cromer Road (TG192276) and ends in North Walsham at St. Nicholas' Church (TG283302), also the starting point of Paston Way.

Getting there

Train Aylsham Station (Bure Valley Railway) Enquires – 01263 733858 http://www.bvrw.co.uk North Walsham Rail Station

National Rail enquiries: 08457 484950.

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk

Bus service (Service days vary)

Aylsham - Aldborough Community Bus 1 and 2, Sanders (various), Our bus 291.

North Walsham – Aldborough Community Bus 3 and 6, Sanders (various).

Bus stops Bus Shelter (Aylsham) and Market Place (North Walsham)

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

Mixed surfaces of urban paths, country lanes, rural paths (dis-used railway). No stiles on this walk, however there is a busy road crossing outside of Aylsham across the A140.

Facilities

Pubs, cafés and tea rooms, shops and accommodation in Aylsham Pubs, cafés and tea rooms, shops and accommodation in North Walsham

