

**Length:**  
**14 Miles**



## Along the way

The walk begins in Stalham, which has St Mary's Church that dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and, adjoining its churchyard, the Stalham Firehouse Museum, the second oldest firehouse in England. After leaving Stalham, the route passes Sutton Mill, a nine-floor tower mill that dates from 1789 and is the tallest surviving windmill in England, before arriving at the Greyhound Inn at Hickling Green in the northern half of Hickling village.

From Hickling, the way passes Hickling Heath before leading through Catfield Common, which has interesting plants and birds in its dykes and marshes. South of here, the way joins a footpath that leads along the southern edge of Hickling Broad, a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest that, like other bodies of water in the Broads region, was formed by the flooding of depressions left by peat digging in the medieval period. This important wetland site, surrounded by areas of fen, grazing marsh, damp woodland and the largest expanse of reedbed in England, is home to wildlife rarities like Norfolk hawker dragonfly, swallowtail butterfly and bittern. From the broad, the path continues along the edge of a dyke and past grazing meadows to join the River Thurne where it continues along the river bank to arrive at medieval Heigham Bridge.

At Potter Heigham, the way crosses the medieval bridge, believed to date from 1385, to follow the east bank of the River Thurne past grazing marshes and more drainage mills to reach the small village of Thurne. Across the river is St Benet's Level Drainage Mill, a restored four-storey mill with four sails. At the end of Thurne Dyke, the way passes St Edmund's Church, which has a 14<sup>th</sup> century tower with an eye-level peephole in one of its walls said to align with St Benet's Abbey across the marshes. From the church, the way heads south, criss-crossing fields before returning to the river where it passes three more drainage mills to reach Acle Bridge and crosses to the opposite bank before ending at Acle Dyke

*Further Information on this walk is available in three short sections including more detailed maps. See Short Sections: S6 Stalham to Hickling, S7 Hickling to Potter Heigham, and S8 Potter Heigham to Acle, available at [www.norfolktrails.gov.uk/weaversway](http://www.norfolktrails.gov.uk/weaversway)*



### Walk summary

This walk begins at Stalham from where it leads along lanes past Sutton Mill and through Hickling Green before following a footpath alongside Hickling Broad and the banks of the River Thurne all the way to Acle.

### Getting started

This walk starts in Stalham at the Old Railway Station (TG369252) and ends at Acle Dyke (TG409107).

### Getting there

#### Getting there

**Coach** National Express 308 and 491.  
National express enquires: 08717 818178

[www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

#### Train

Acle Rail Station  
National Rail enquiries: 08457 484950

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

#### Bus service

Stalham – Sanders 6, 34, 36. First 12/12A,  
Acle – 52 Konect Bus, Ambassador Travel 730, First X1.

**Bus stops** Old Rail Station (Stalham) and Kings Head (Acle)

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33

[www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk)

### Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 252, Norfolk Coast East, and Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL40, The Broads, both available from Ordnance Survey shop

[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/)

### What to expect

Mixed surfaces of pavements, country lanes, rural paths, farm tracks and cross-fields. Almost entirely along waterside paths from Hickling Broad onwards. Squeeze stile near Oby and two squeeze stiles near Acle dyke. Binoculars are useful for spotting the waymarks, particularly across Halvergate Marshes.

### Facilities

Pub, café, shops, and accommodation in Stalham.

Pub, cafés, shops and accommodation in Acle.