

S6

Norfolk Coast Path

England Coast Path Stretch 1

Short Walk 6 (of 7) Happisburgh to Cart Gap



Length:
1 Mile



Along the way

The walk begins in Happisburgh on Beach Road. It leads out along the cliffs past Happisburgh's iconic red and white banded lighthouse, the oldest working lighthouse in East Anglia. The five-storey building was constructed in 1791 in response to a severe storm in 1789 that wrecked 70 ships and claimed 600 lives.

A number of wreck sites lie off this stretch of coast including the wreck of the Revenue cutter 'The Hunter', which sank in 1807 and formed a sand bar until it was blown up in 1903. Before the lighthouse was built the most effective guide for navigation along this coastline was the tall tower of the village's St Mary's Church, standing 180 foot above sea level. Although the lighthouse's red and white bands are a familiar sight these days, during the years of World War II it was painted in camouflage pattern.

The clifftop path leads beside arable fields and grassy areas that in summer are enlivened with the song of skylarks and the harsh scream of swifts. Wheatears are frequently seen along the cliff top here too.

One of the clifftop fields passed has a square pillbox, a remnant of the coastal defences that were constructed as an anti-invasion measure during World War II. Another polygonal pillbox can be seen a little further south next to a track.

A large number of flint tools dating from between half a million and 700,000 years ago have been found on the beach beneath the cliffs here. Because of the large number of tools discovered, this is considered to have been an important stone-working and butchery site, one of the earliest of its kind in northwest Europe.

The walk ends next to cliff top cottages at Cart Gap car park.

Walk summary

This short clifftop walk between Happisburgh village and Cart Gap car park takes in fine views of the northeast Norfolk coastline and Happisburgh's iconic lighthouse.

Getting started

This walk starts at Beach Road, Happisburgh (TG383308) and ends at Cart Gap car park (TG397299).

Getting there

Bus Service: (Service days vary)

Happisburgh – Sanders 34 and 36

Bus Stops: Post Office (Happisburgh)

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33.

www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk

Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 252, Norfolk Coast East, Cromer & North Walsham, available from Ordnance Survey shop www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

What to expect

Grassy clifftop footpath and stone track

Facilities

Pub, accommodation and shop in Happisburgh, café at Cart Gap