

## Walk 8

# Weavers' Way Potter Heigham

Distance	5.8 miles (9.3 kilometres)
Surface	85% unsurfaced, 15% surfaced - steps, gates
Toilets	Potter Heigham
Refreshment facilities	Potter Heigham
Seating on route	Potter Heigham Staithe

### Start point:

Potter Heigham, Lathams pay and display car park.  
OS Grid Reference TG 418 185.

**N.B.** *In the spring and summer biting insects are common so insect repellent is recommended.*

### Directions:

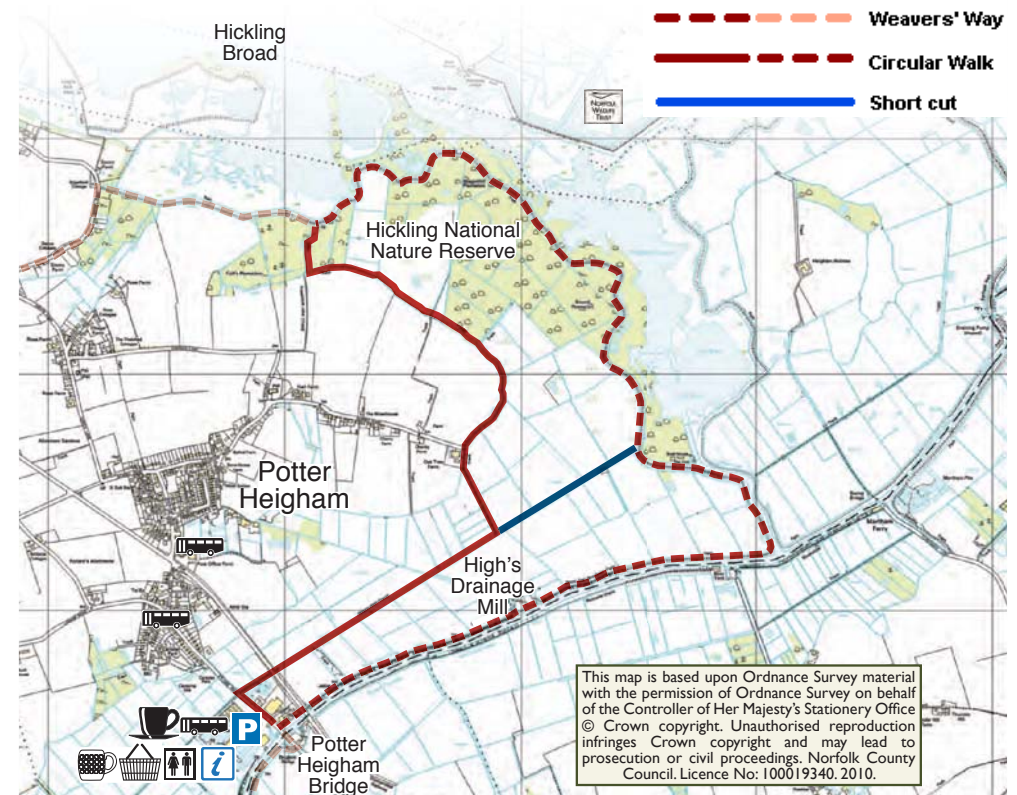
- 1 Follow the road walking away from the river and bridge. After 150 metres turn right onto a public footpath, just before a road bridge over a dyke.
- 2 Follow the grassy track to the A149. Carefully cross the busy road, crossing straight over to the public footpath ahead.
- 3 Continue along the track, known as Middle Wall, passing through grazing marshes on either side. Ignoring all turn-offs to the right, carry along the track until another track enters from the left (signed as a public bridleway). *To cut short the route carry straight on here and follow the instructions from point 9.*

*Potter Heigham bridge*



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

- 4 Turn left along the public bridleway and follow it until the track forks by a house. At this point bear right to follow the track signed as a public footpath. Carry straight on along the tree lined track, with meadows on both sides.
- 5 After a while the track narrows through woodland. Continue along this path, after 175 metres you will cross a bridge and the path then runs between a stock fence and a dyke, with more grazed meadows on your right hand side. These meadows are part of the Hickling National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- 6 Continue to follow this path as it leaves the meadows behind and goes along the edge of a wooded area.



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- 7 At a Hickling NNR sign, turn right following the waymarked public footpath through the wet wood, over the bridge, up a short flight of steps onto the flood bank, which is a public footpath and also the route of Weavers' Way.
- 8 Turn right to walk along the flood bank. To your left beyond the reeds is Hickling Broad. Follow this footpath for nearly 3.5 miles as it winds alongside the broad, passing through gates and the bird hide with views out onto the broad.
- 9 Pass the eel set and the footpath turns to follow the River Thurne, passing Martham boat yards on the opposite bank. You will pass by High's Drainage Mill after which the path runs behind riverside chalets and finally brings you out by the old road bridge over the river in Potter Heigham and turn right to return to your start point.



*Swallowtail butterfly*



*Village sign*

**Points of interest:**

- Hickling National Nature Reserve comprises 600 hectares of open water, reedbed, fen, grazing marsh and woodland and is protected by national and international designations. During the summer you may be lucky enough to see Britain's largest and rarest butterfly, the swallowtail and you should hear the scratchy song of reed and sedge warblers. Keep an eye out for marsh harriers which can be seen gliding over the broad and its reedbeds.

- High's Drainage Mill was built by Stalham millwright, William Rust (originally from Martham) c.1875;
- Potter Heigham is famed for its medieval bridge, believed to date from 1385. The bridge is famous for being the most difficult to navigate in The Broads and is reputedly haunted by a ghostly coach and horses.

