

TWO STATIONS



5 miles



Cattle and children at Reepham market square. Image courtesy of Reepham Archive.

Reepham is a quaint, characterful market town, which has no fewer than 61 listed buildings. It hosts a weekly morning market, and has various eateries and independent shops.

The 'Great Fire of Reepham' in 1543 caused extensive damage to the village. If you look closely, however, many of the Georgian and Victorian buildings around the Market Place retain aspects of the flint and brick of earlier times.

Reepham was served by two stations, each on a different line. Reepham Station, to the north, on the Great Eastern Railway; and, Whitwell & Reepham Station, to the south, on the Midland & Great Northern.

The hardworking labourers who built these railways in the 1880s were known as 'Navvies'. The Navvies worked long, hard hours, often far from home, constructing embankments and laying track. The lodgings of the teams that laid the line at Reepham neighboured a bakery. This allowed them to supplement their usually limited diet of bacon and vegetables, and occasional poached game, with freshly baked goods.

Eade's Mill stands over a tributary of the River Wensum. A waterwheel provided power until about 1948; the mill operated using electricity until the mid-1970s when milling stopped altogether.

The mill was in a ruinous state by the early 1990s. It was subsequently converted to residential use. In 2012 the entire building was almost lost in a major fire. It was saved only by the actions of 50 or so firefighters who attended from crews across the county.

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Square: the village sign at Reepham. Circle: wild strawberries.

Reepham has a curious case of three churches in one churchyard; All Saints (now ruined), St Michael's, and St Mary's. Look for the Reepham town sign on your walk; it depicts triplets of churches, villagers, cows and sheep, as well as three ladies, referring to the local myth that three sisters were responsible for building the churches.

Good to Know: Reepham has central parking. Patrons can use the facilities at Whitwell & Reepham Station (NR10 4GA) or Kerri's Farmhouse Pine (NR10 4LJ). An infrequent but reliable bus service connects Reepham with Norwich. Reepham has several pubs, shops and delicatessens.

Do take particular care along road-side stretches of this walk.

Visit: www.whitwellstation.com and www.kerrispinefurniture.co.uk

