

Coast Path Stretch 2 Section 1 (of 2) Sea Palling to Caister-on-Sea





Along the way

From the village of Sea Palling, the Coast Path follows the landward side of a dune ridge that characterises much of the stretch north of Great Yarmouth. This section of trail winds through grassland and scrub, as well as shady thickets of trees. The latter are popular with birdwatchers, especially during the winter when these offer birds shelter from the cold wind.

Rising briefly from the toe of the dunes at Poplar Farm, the route offers far-reaching views inland and along the coast where a number of churches can be seen, as well as Happisburgh's famous lighthouse, before dipping down once more to follow a well-trodden path between tall sand dunes and grazing marsh. Here, the route passes the much loved grey seal colony, which draws thousands of visitors each winter when the seals come ashore to breed. From here, the route soon arrives at the Winterton-Horsey SSSI, an internationally significant site home to dragonflies, rare butterflies, the natterjack toad and a little tern colony.

At Winterton Ness, the path takes to the dunes, for panoramic views over land and sea. After passing the village of Winterton-on-Sea itself, at around the walk's halfway point, the path enters 'The Valley,' a long meadow bordered by ferns. With views along its length, it's another great place for birdwatching, with raptors often seen hunting above.

Onto the beaches of Hemsby, California and Scratby, sandstone cliffs replace the dunes found elsewhere, adding an extra degree of separation from the villages above. In the autumn and winter, you may well find that you have this whole stretch of beach to yourself, a serene landscape of sea and sand. At higher tides, an alternative route can be found from Hemsby to California, and is waymarked from both sides.

For further information please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/trails



Sheltered scrub and woodland to windswept golden beaches.

Getting started

The Walk starts from Beach Road, Sea Palling.

Getting there

Sanders bus service 34 stops at the Sea Palling bus terminus on Clink Road, Sea Palling and the 8 Bus Stops at Second Avenue, Caister-on-Sea. Car Parking is available on Clink Road, Sea Palling and at the east end of Second Avenue, Caister-on-Sea (charges apply in both locations).

National Rail enquiries: 08457 484950.

www.nationalrail.co.uk/

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33. www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk

Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL40, The Broads, available from Ordnance Survey shop www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite

What to expect

A variety of walking surfaces, from grass and hard-pack dirt to soft sandy beach.

Facilities

Sea Palling offers a bar, camping and caravan accommodation, shops, cafes and restaurants, and Caister offers much more of the same. Cafes at Winterton and Hemsby, around the halfway point, break the route up nicely. There are public toilets at the route's start point and end point, as well as en-route at Winterton and Hemsby.



