



# Workhouse Walk – Great Yarmouth

Workhouses provided care for people who were poor and needed help. They were set up by the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. Every town and village in the country was supposed to send their poor to a workhouse.

There were 22 workhouses in Norfolk. Each workhouse served a group of 40 to 50 parishes known as a Union.

Life in the workhouse was supposed to be tough. Workhouse food was boring, families were split up and adults had to work to help pay for their keep. It was hoped that people would only come in to the workhouse if they were desperate.



The Yarmouth Poor Law Union was formed in 1837 and the Union workhouse was built the following year.

The Norfolk County Surveyor, John Brown, designed the workhouse as well as others in Blofield, Henstead and Docking. It could house 300 inmates.

Lorina Bulwer was an inmate of the female lunatic ward from 1896 to 1912. During this time she stitched several letters to describe her feelings about being there.

Only some workhouse buildings still remain. Northgate Hospital now occupies the former workhouse site and uses some of these buildings.

There is some evidence of use during World War Two as a military training site.

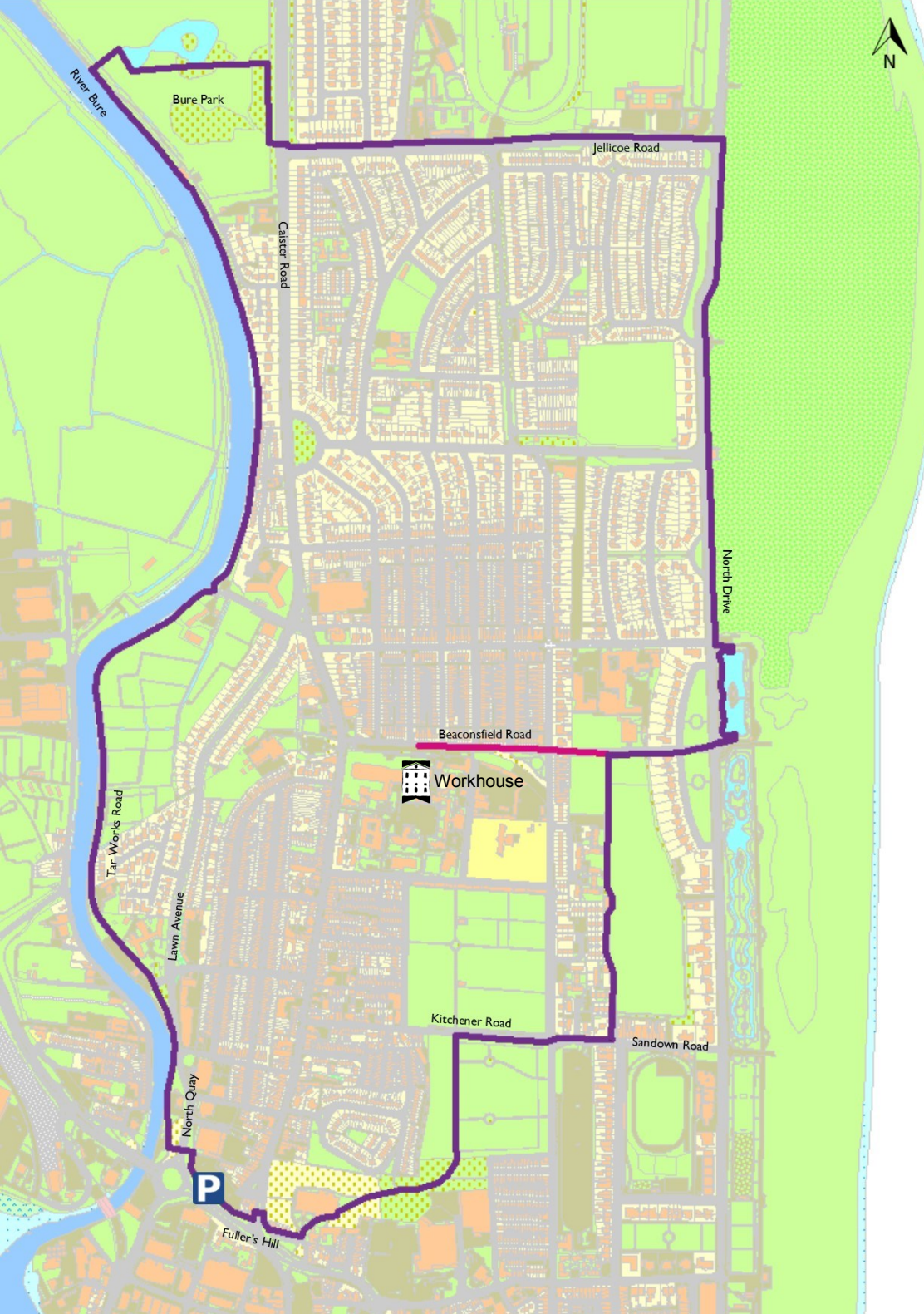
This walk was developed as part of the *Voices from the Workhouse* redisplay project at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse. For more information visit [www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Gressenhall](http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Gressenhall)



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**Start Point – St. Nicholas Church**  
**Grid Reference**  
**TG524080**  
**Distance – 3.9 miles**

Walk around the back of the church and follow the main path through the cemetery. Turn right onto Kitchener Road and cross at the end onto Sandown Road opposite.

At the junction with Wellesley Road, take the road almost opposite and cross into Beaconsfield Recreation Ground.

At the end, turn right onto Beaconsfield Road. (For the workhouse, turn left and follow along Beaconsfield Road to Northgate Hospital which used to be the workhouse).

Turn left the T-junction into North Drive. Cross the road to walk through the boating lake gardens adjacent to the road. Continue ahead at the end of the boating lake, keeping the sea on your right.

Turn left onto Jellicoe Road; walk on the right hand side for good views of the Great Yarmouth race course.

At the T-junction, cross Caister Road and enter Bure Park. Walk over the footbridge and turn right. Bear left after a short distance to walk across the park; pass the lake on your right and exit via the concrete steps (a little to the right of the lake).

Turn left at the River Bure.