



Workhouse Walk – Gressenhall

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 Mitford and Launditch Incorporation bought Chapel Farm in Gressenhall and built a House of Industry on the site between 1776 and 1777.

In 1801 there were 670 people being housed in the House of Industry.

After the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, the workhouse was adapted to meet the new requirements. This included segregated accommodation and yards.

During the First World War the workhouse held prisoners of war. It became a Public Assistance Institution in 1930.

In 1948 it became Beech House, County Care Home for the Elderly. The care home closed in 1975.

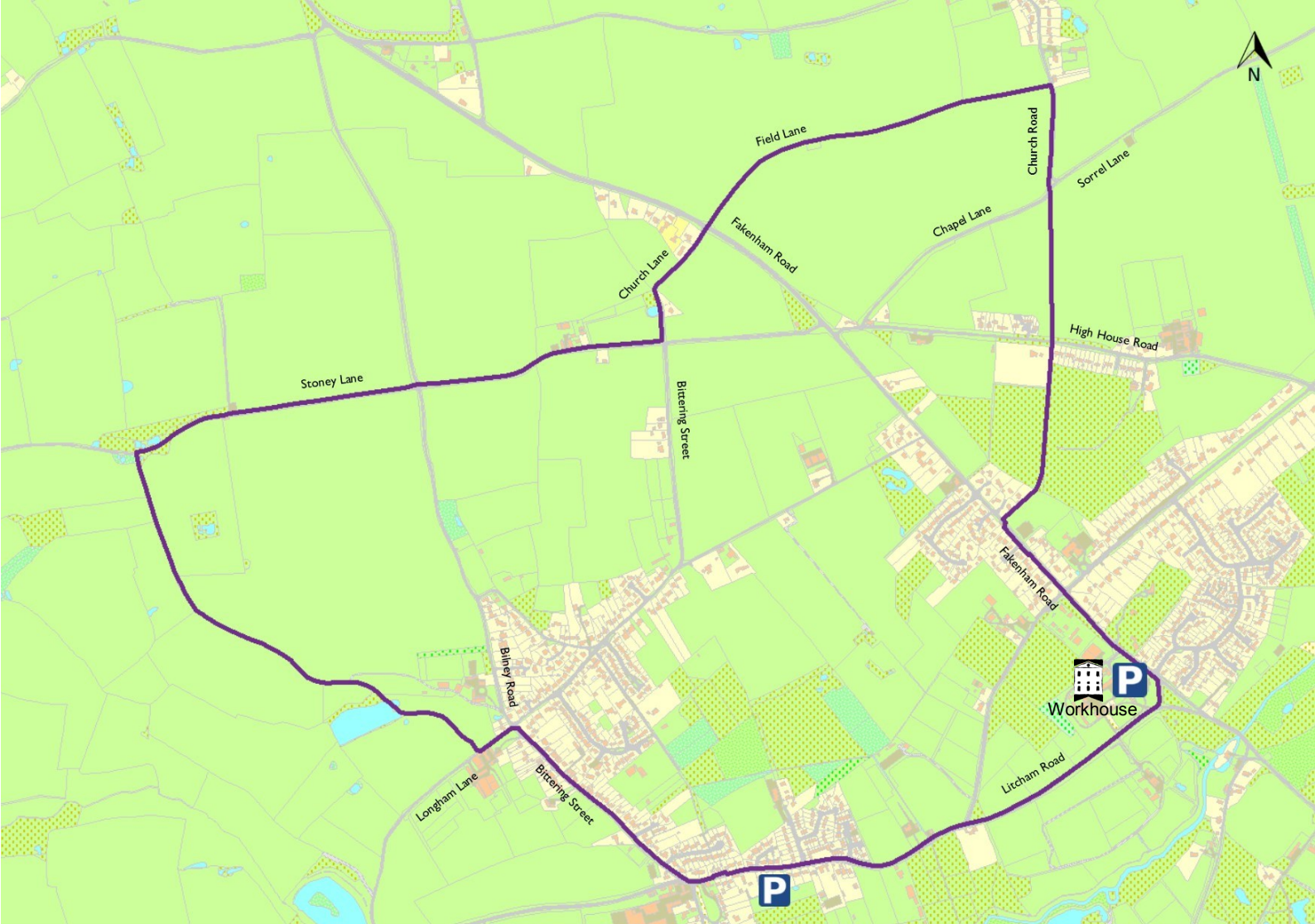
The building became a museum in 1976.

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



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Start Point – Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse or Gressenhall Green (when museum closed)

Grid Reference – TF974171 (Museum) TF965165 (Green)

Distance - 4.5 miles

Start at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse and turn right on to Fakenham Road.

Turn right at the island on to Litcham Road, passing Gressenhall Farm on your left and continuing to walk to Gressenhall village. You are now on the Nar Valley Way.

At the fork in the road, turn right on to Bittering Street and follow the road for approximately 600 yards. At the crossroads, turn left on to Longham Lane. Manor Farm is on your left.

After approximately 100 yards, turn right on to a restricted byway between the hedgerows opposite Manor Farm.

Continue on this track for just over half a mile. Turn right at the end on to Stoney Lane.

At the crossroads continue straight on.

Pass Vale Farm and at the crossroads, turn left on to a lane. Follow this lane for a short distance and then cross straight over the B1146 to Field Lane. Follow Field Lane for approximately half a mile and then turn right on to Church Road.

After approximately 250 yards, you come to an island junction with Chapel Lane. Follow the footpath straight ahead which crosses the field. The public footpath should be sign posted.

Cross High House Road and follow the footpath straight on through woodland. Follow the path as it passes some houses and the playing field behind St Mary's County Primary School.

Turn left on Fakenham Road. Cross to the pavement on the other side where safe to do so and continue to walk back to the museum. Turn right in to the museum entrance.