Norfolk Coast Path
England Coast Path Stretch 1
Short Walk 6 (of 7) Happisburgh to Cart Gap

Legend

This walk
Adjacent Section/s
Closest Bus/Train Locations

Norfolk Coast Path
Norfolk County Council
NATIONAL TRAIL
part of the
England Coast Path
The walk begins in Happisburgh on Beach Road. It leads out along the cliffs past Happisburgh’s iconic red and white banded lighthouse, the oldest working lighthouse in East Anglia. The five-storey building was constructed in 1791 in response to a severe storm in 1789 that wrecked 70 ships and claimed 600 lives.

A number of wreck sites lie off this stretch of coast including the wreck of the Revenue cutter ‘The Hunter’, which sank in 1807 and formed a sand bar until it was blown up in 1903. Before the lighthouse was built the most effective guide for navigation along this coastline was the tall tower of the village’s St Mary’s Church, standing 180 foot above sea level. Although the lighthouse’s red and white bands are a familiar sight these days, during the years of World War II it was painted in camouflage pattern.

The clifftop path leads beside arable fields and grassy areas that in summer are enlivened with the song of skylarks and the harsh scream of swifts. Wheatears are frequently seen along the cliff top here too.

One of the clifftop fields passed has a square pillbox, a remnant of the coastal defences that were constructed as an anti-invasion measure during World War II. Another polygonal pillbox can be seen a little further south next to a track.

A large number of flint tools dating from between half a million and 700,000 years ago have been found on the beach beneath the cliffs here. Because of the large number of tools discovered, this is considered to have been an important stone-working and butchery site, one of the earliest of its kind in northwest Europe.

The walk ends next to cliff top cottages at Cart Gap car park.