Along the way

Sharing part of its route with the longer Happisburgh Circular Walk, this route still has much to offer.

Leaving Happisburgh by the cliff top path, you’ll be walking above the site where early human footprints (over 800,000 years old) were found in sediment on the beach in 2013, famously the earliest evidence of human occupation found outside of Africa.

Further along the cliff are the remains of a World War II radar station, which stand in contrast to the surrounding farmland.

Heading inland you’ll soon pass Walcott’s Church of All Saints, which is worth a visit for its bright and airy interior. The church is heavily Victorianised, with the screen being one of its few remaining medieval features. However, unlike its larger neighbour at Happisburgh, All Saints is home to some modern features dating from the 1920s, such as an art nouveau brass lectern, and art-deco organ.

The larger St Mary’s Church at Happisburgh is prominent throughout much of the walk. Located on top of a hill, this 15th Century church is an important landmark for travellers on both the sea and dry land.

You are also treated to views of the iconic lighthouse. It is the oldest working lighthouse in East Anglia and the only independently run lighthouse in Great Britain. Built in 1790, regular open days are held throughout the year, allowing you to climb to the top and enjoy the spectacular views.

There were originally two lighthouses at Happisburgh, lined up to mark safe passage through the treacherous shallow sands offshore. Remains of the ‘lower lighthouse’ can still be seen on the beach depending on the tides and shifting sands.

Walk summary

A varied walk along clifftop paths and across farmland punctuated with World War II buildings, churches and the iconic lighthouse.

Getting started

The walk starts and finishes the Beach Road car park, Happisburgh (TG384308).

Getting there

Happisburgh can be reached via Sanders 34 bus route, with stops on The Street, by the primary school. The Beach Road car park is open year round (charges apply).

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

Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 252, Norfolk Coast East available from Ordnance Survey shop www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/

What to expect

Clifftop paths, footpaths and quiet lanes.

Facilities

Tearooms and Hillhouse pub in Happisburgh. Lighthouse Inn at Walcott. Public toilets are located in the Happisburgh Beach Road car park.