

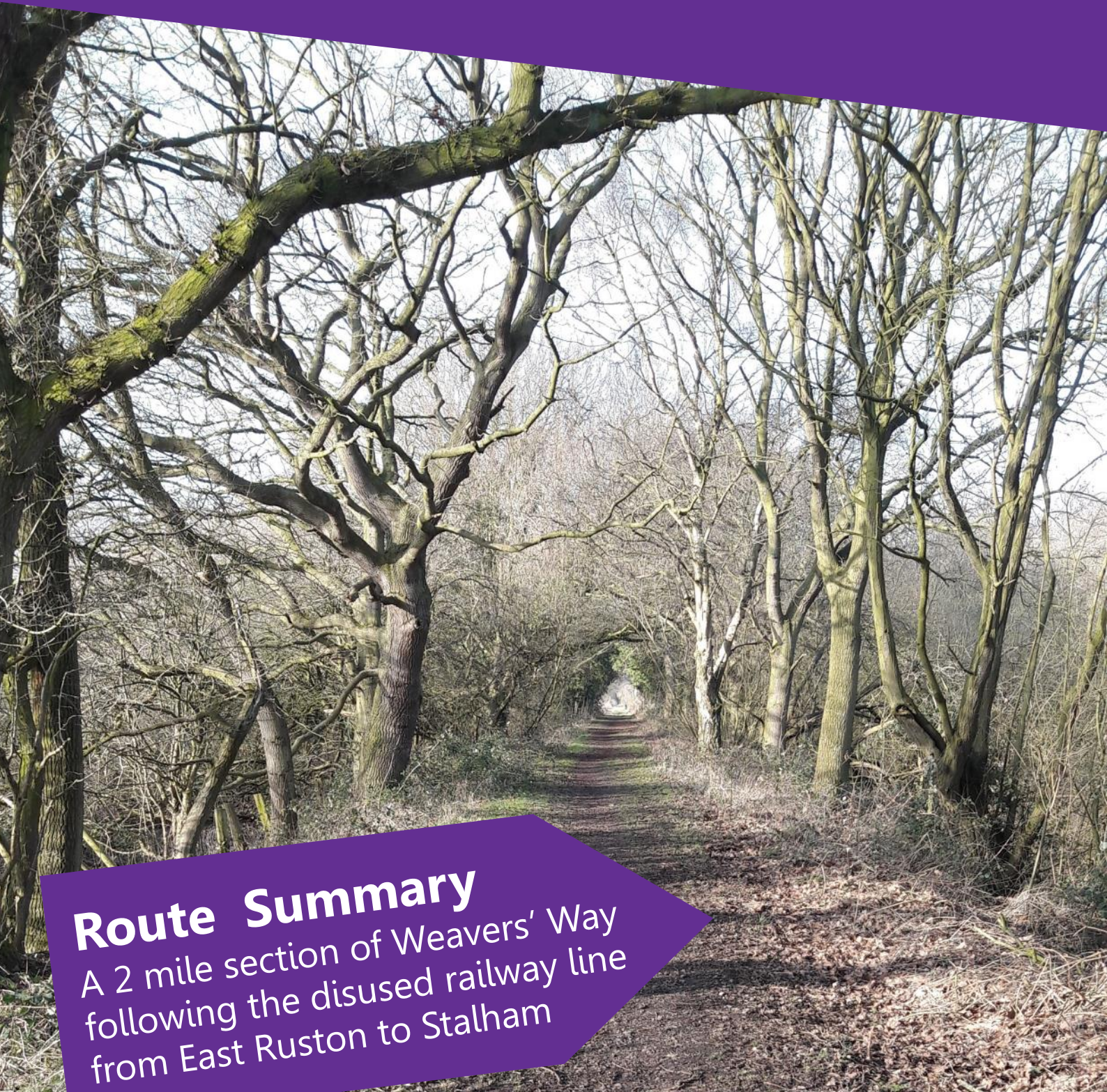
Weavers' Way

East Ruston to Stalham



Access
Tested

2017



Route Summary

A 2 mile section of Weavers' Way following the disused railway line from East Ruston to Stalham

Supported by



Pathmakers



**NORFOLK
TRAILS**

Route description

This walk has been audited to support people accessing the countryside and to improve quality of life. The walk audit checked for potential accessibility difficulties along the route. Maps are provided showing point numbers which correspond to photos and descriptions of these areas so that you can decide if this walk is suitable for you.

The route is a 2 mile section of Weavers' Way from East Ruston car park to Stalham Town Centre. The route follows the disused Midland & Great Northern railway line through woodland and open countryside. You may even spot some of the railway heritage that remains. The trail will then take you through Stalham High Street where there is a variety of shops and cafes to stop for a break after your walk. Stalham Staithe is only a half a mile walk from the high street and is a great place to take in picturesque views of the Norfolk broads. The route ends on Stalham High Street where you could catch the bus back home . Alternatively, you could begin your route in Stalham and make your way along Weavers' Way to East Ruston car park from there.

Due to the length of the route and the difficult terrain, it is quite challenging for those with mobility and stamina issues . However, the route can be tailored to any distance from the start point that is suitable for you and then head back to your starting point along the route you have taken.

Route overview



Start point: Weavers' Way car park, East Ruston, Chapel Road, NR12 9JP Grid ref: TG3427



Distance: 2 Miles



Accessible facilities:

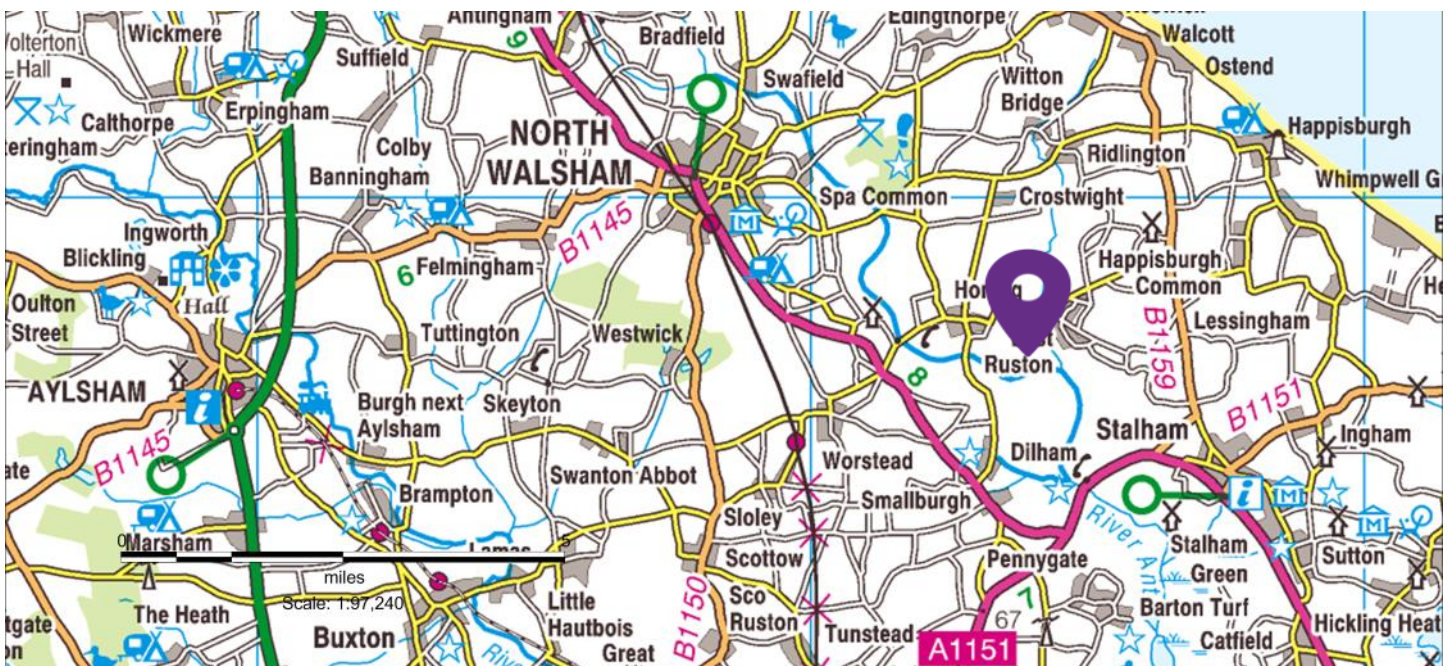
Tesco Superstore, Old Market Rd, Stalham, NR12 9AE



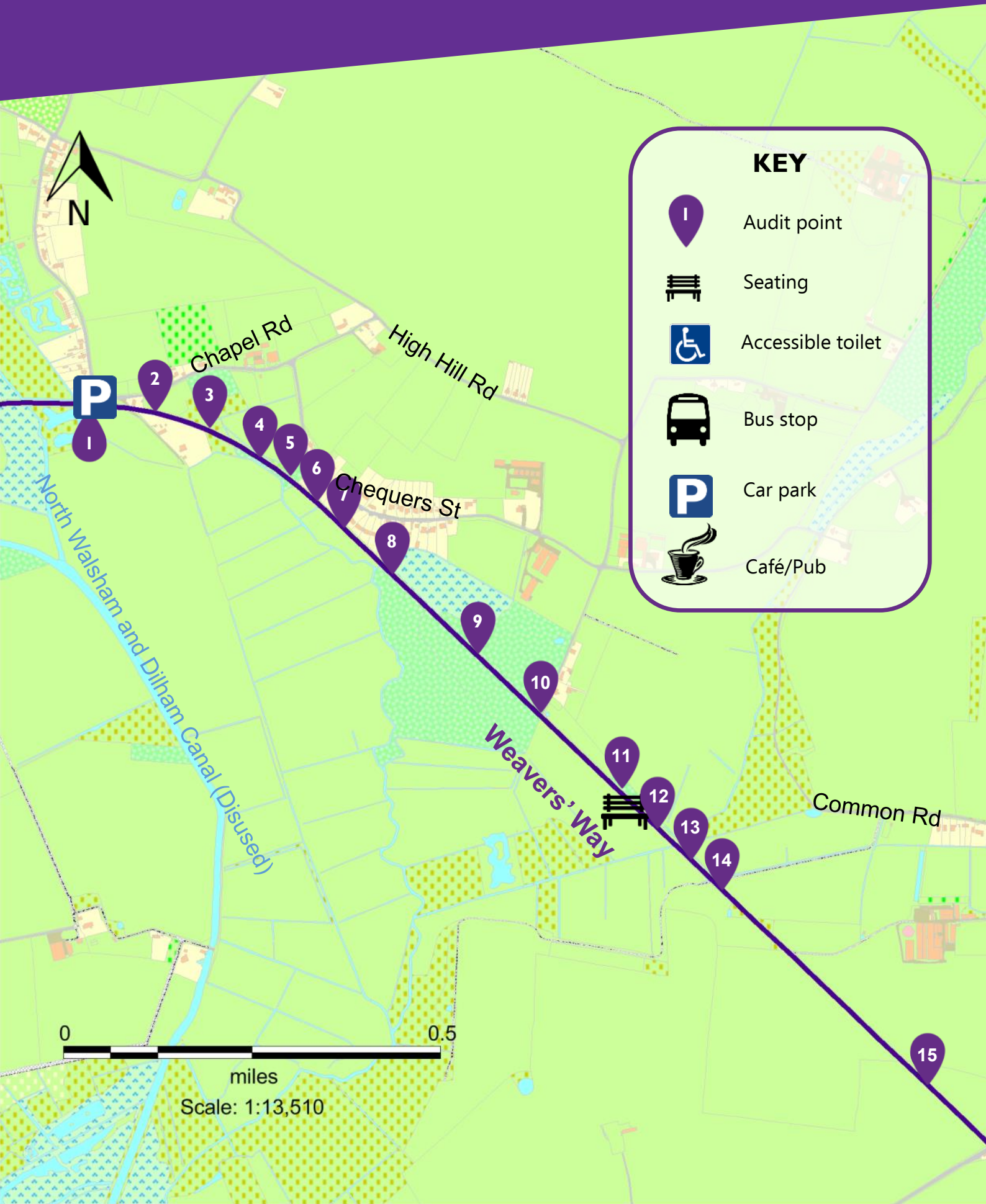
By car: Weavers' Way car park, East Ruston, Chapel Road, NR12 9JP



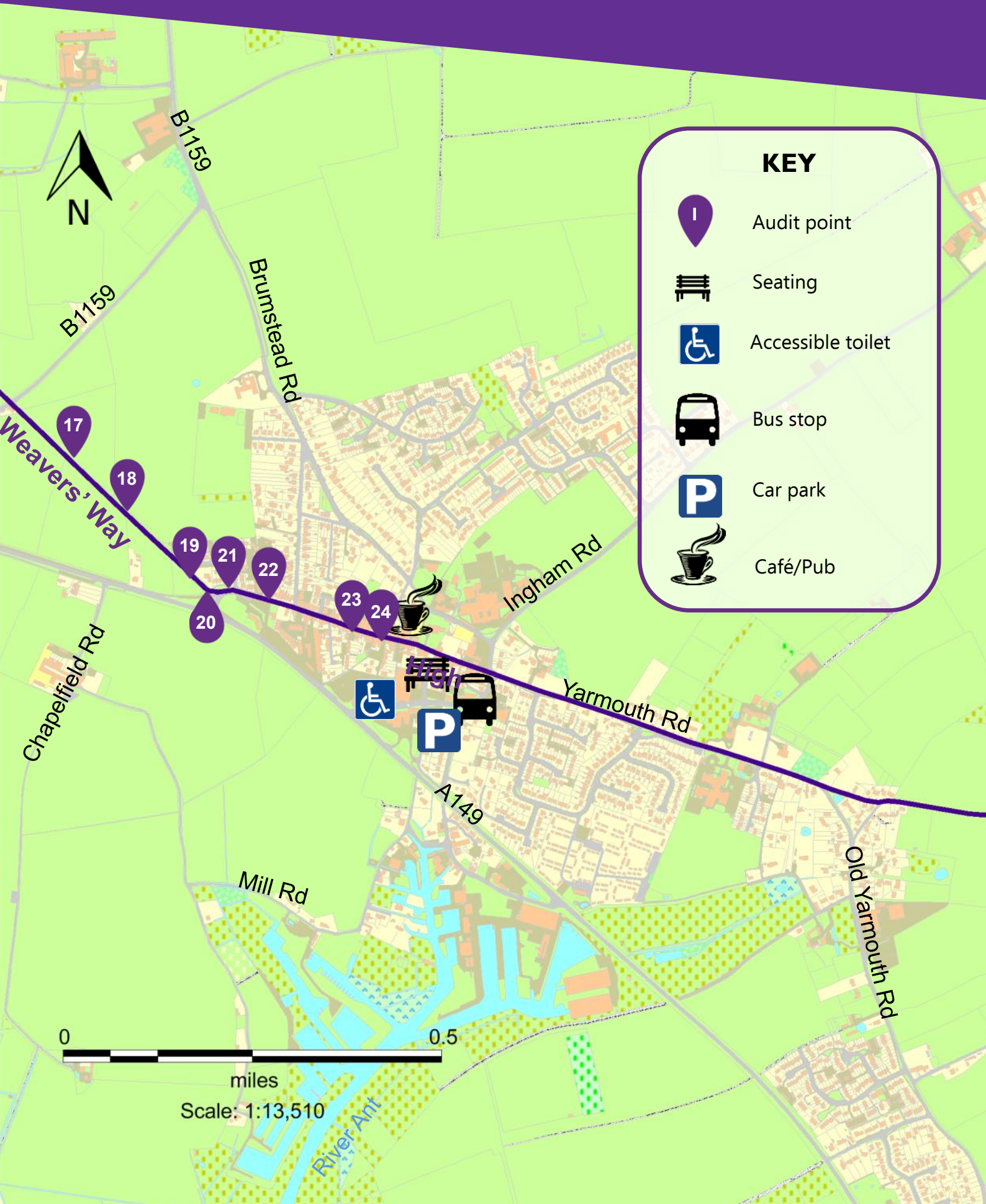
By bus: Stalham High Street travelineeastanglia.co.uk



Map 1



Map 2



KEY



Audit point



Seating



Accessible toilet



Bus stop



Car park



Café/Pub

0 0.5

miles

Scale: 1:13,510

Audit photos

1



The route begins at the Weavers' Way car park in East Ruston. The surface is uneven and there can be large puddles and mud in some sections

2



There are stones protruding from the surface 1-3cm. The trail width narrows to 50-70cm with some loose material on the surface. There are some muddy sections at intervals for 4m

3



There are large stones protruding 2cm. The trail width increases to 150cm

4



There is a large root 50cm across protruding 5cm



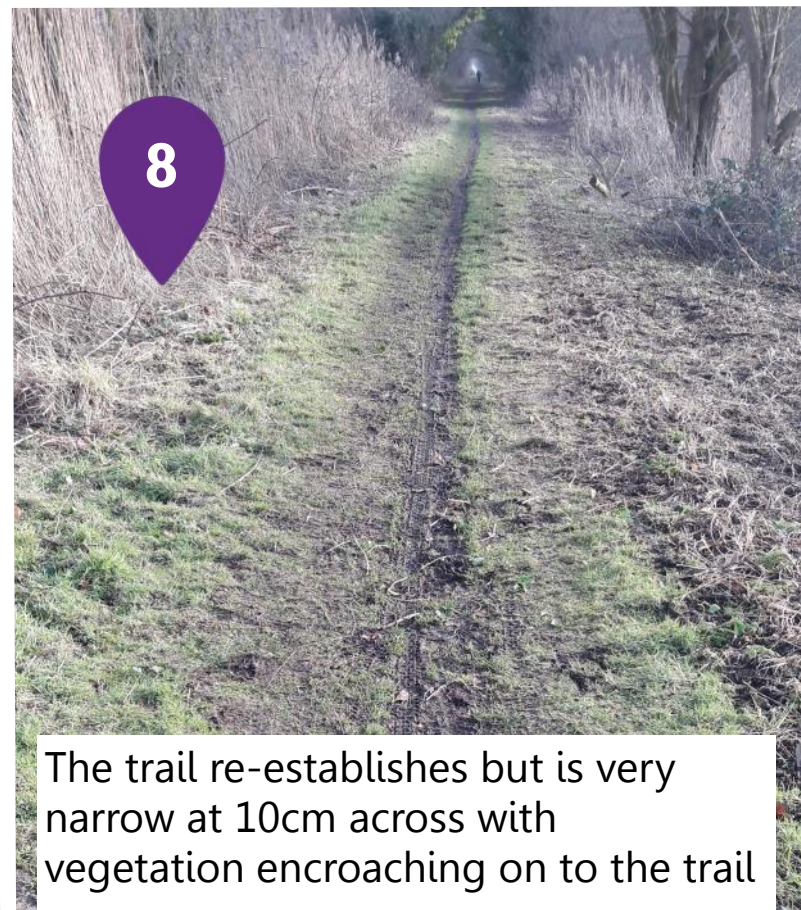
The surface begins to get very muddy for 3m at intervals



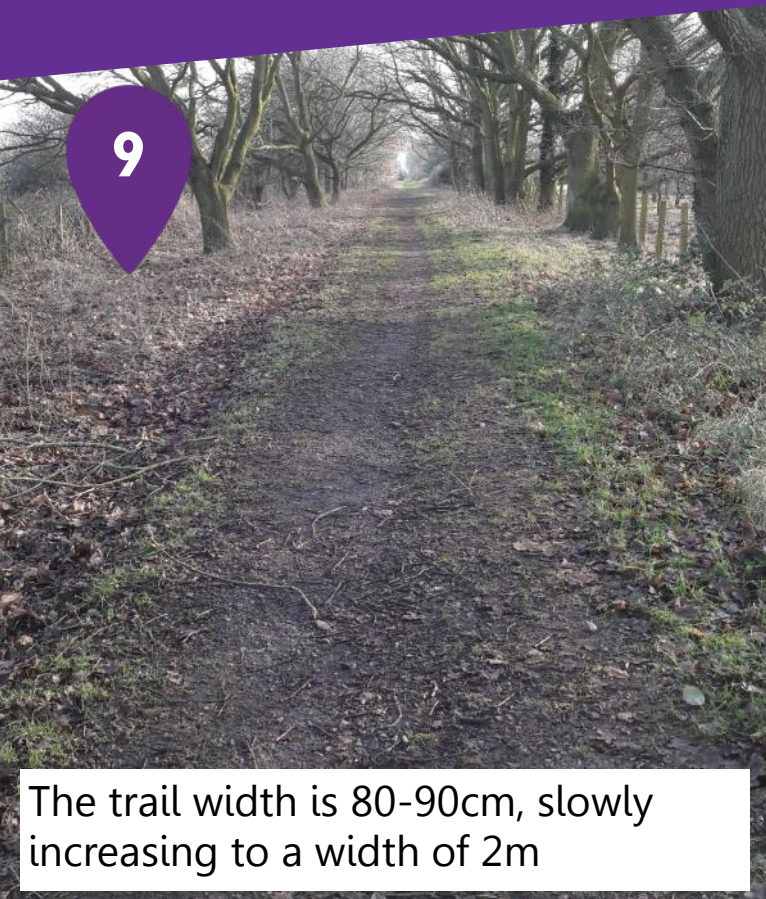
The trail width narrows to 30cm and narrows further to a width of 20cm. The surface is very muddy and stony for 100m



The trail is not well established on this section and the surface is soft grass for 30m



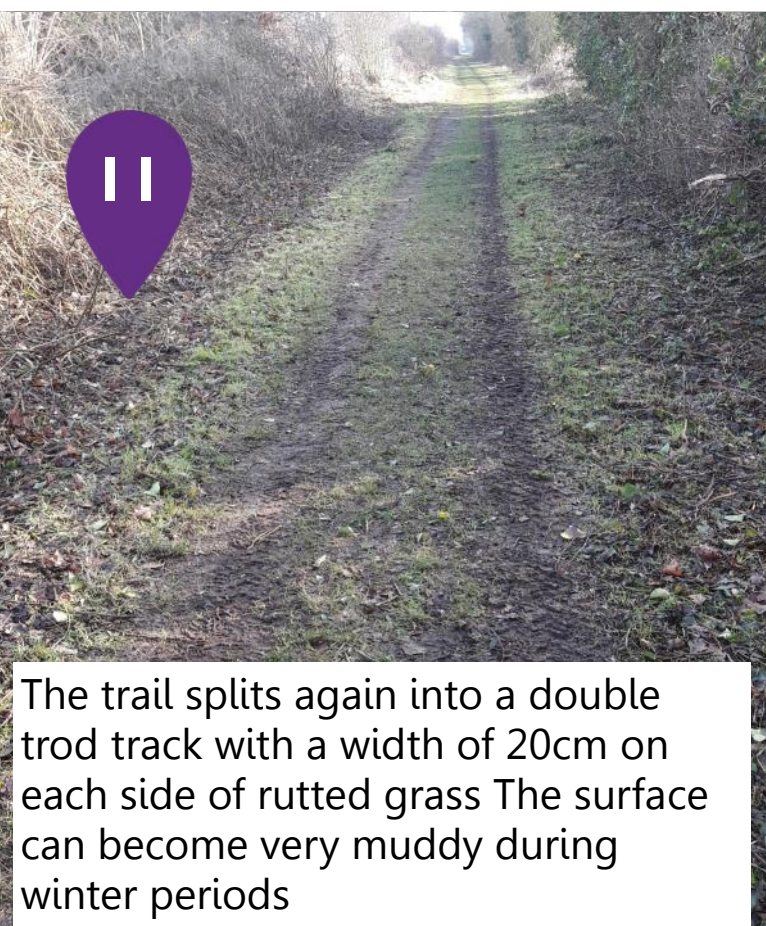
The trail re-establishes but is very narrow at 10cm across with vegetation encroaching on to the trail



The trail width is 80-90cm, slowly increasing to a width of 2m



On the approach to the level crossing the surface is very muddy and there is a slight gradient of 1:11. The road surface over the crossing is compact gravel



The trail splits again into a double trod track with a width of 20cm on each side of rutted grass. The surface can become very muddy during winter periods



The trail has been encroached by surrounding vegetation. The double trod track is not well established and is very stony



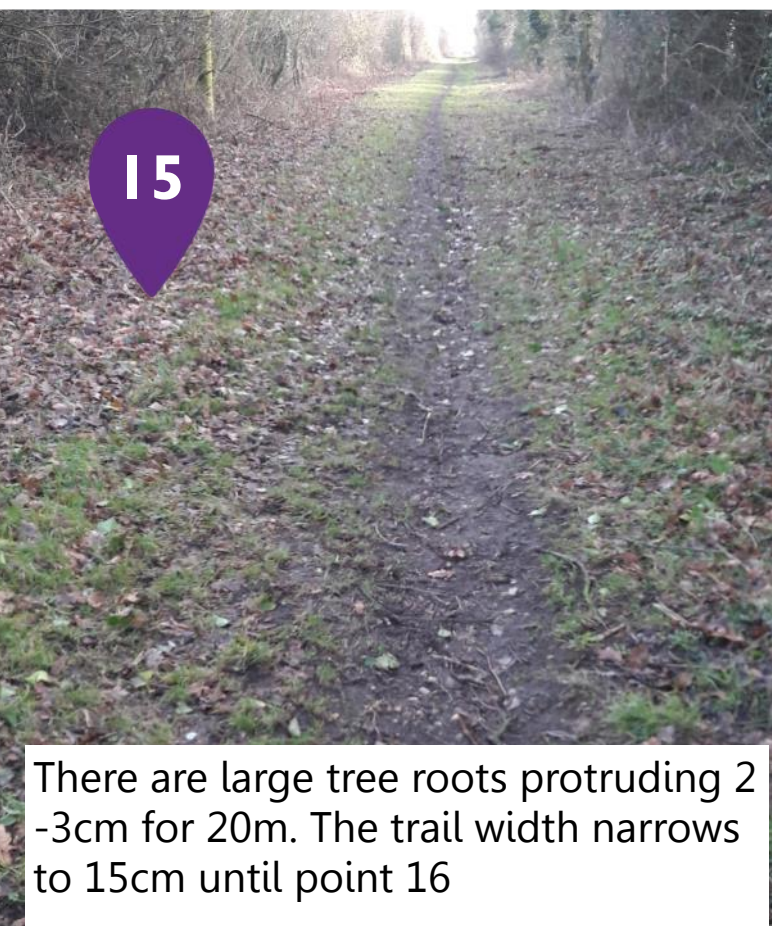
13

There is double trod track with a width of 30-50cm each side of the rutted grass. There is a large tree root 1m wide protruding 2-3cm from the surface



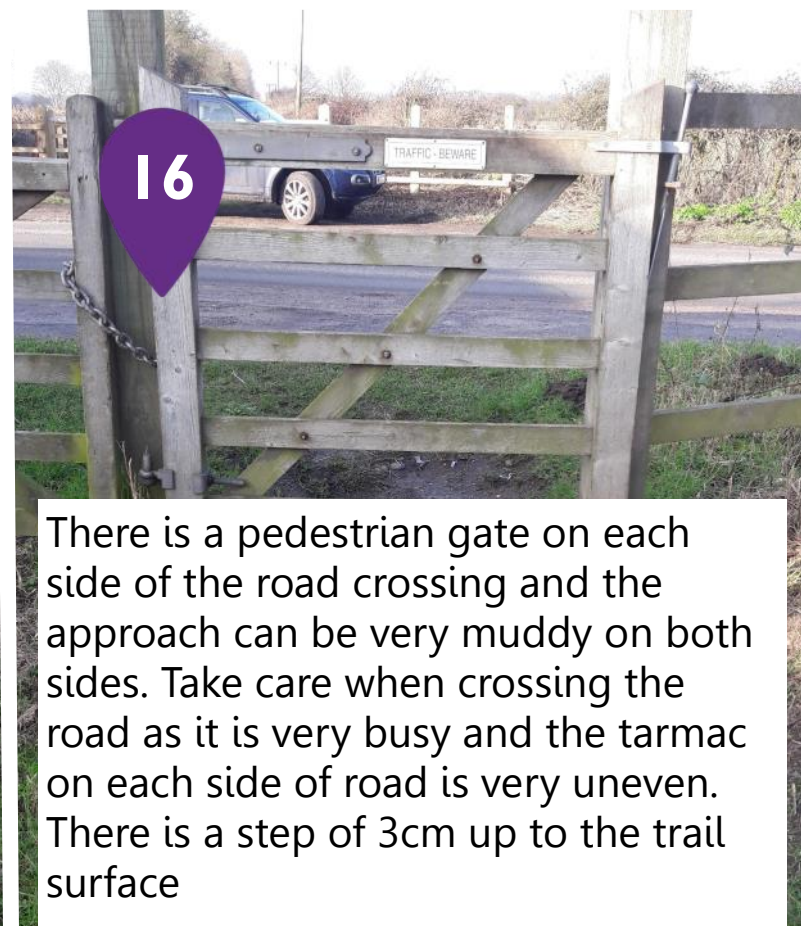
14

It is very muddy on the approach to the level crossing which has a very uneven tarmac surface. The track width after the crossing is 20cm width for 50m



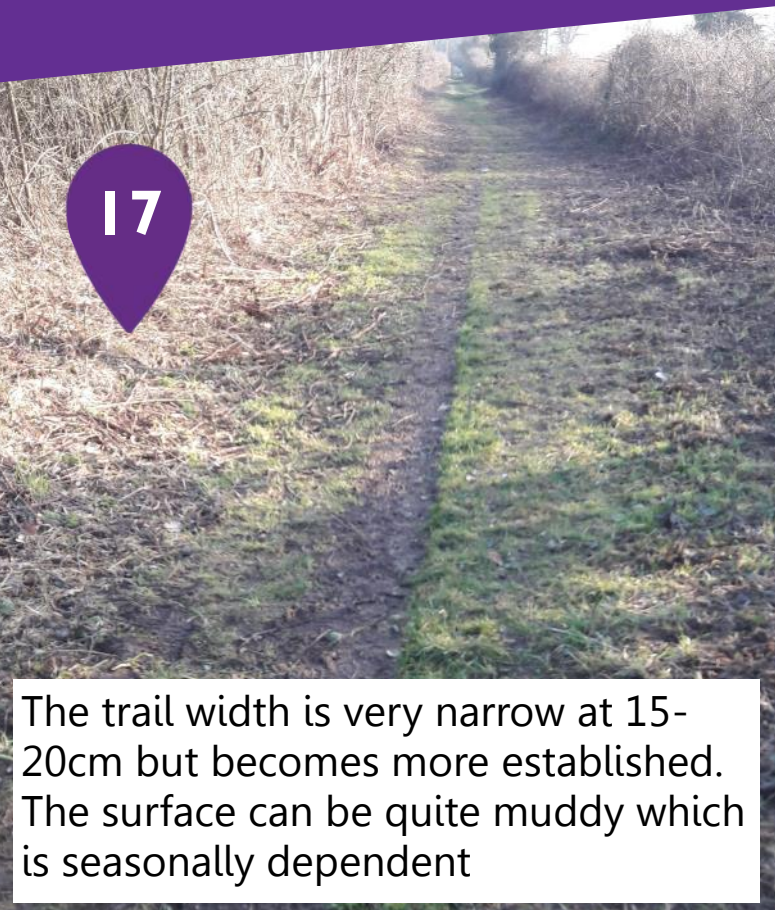
15

There are large tree roots protruding 2-3cm for 20m. The trail width narrows to 15cm until point 16



16

There is a pedestrian gate on each side of the road crossing and the approach can be very muddy on both sides. Take care when crossing the road as it is very busy and the tarmac on each side of road is very uneven. There is a step of 3cm up to the trail surface



17

The trail width is very narrow at 15-20cm but becomes more established. The surface can be quite muddy which is seasonally dependent



18

On the approach to the road crossing, the trail width is 50cm. There is a 90cm width restriction through the pedestrian gate.



19

There is a change of surface to rough and worn out concrete and very unlevel for 5m. The concrete surface levels out to as you join the footpath

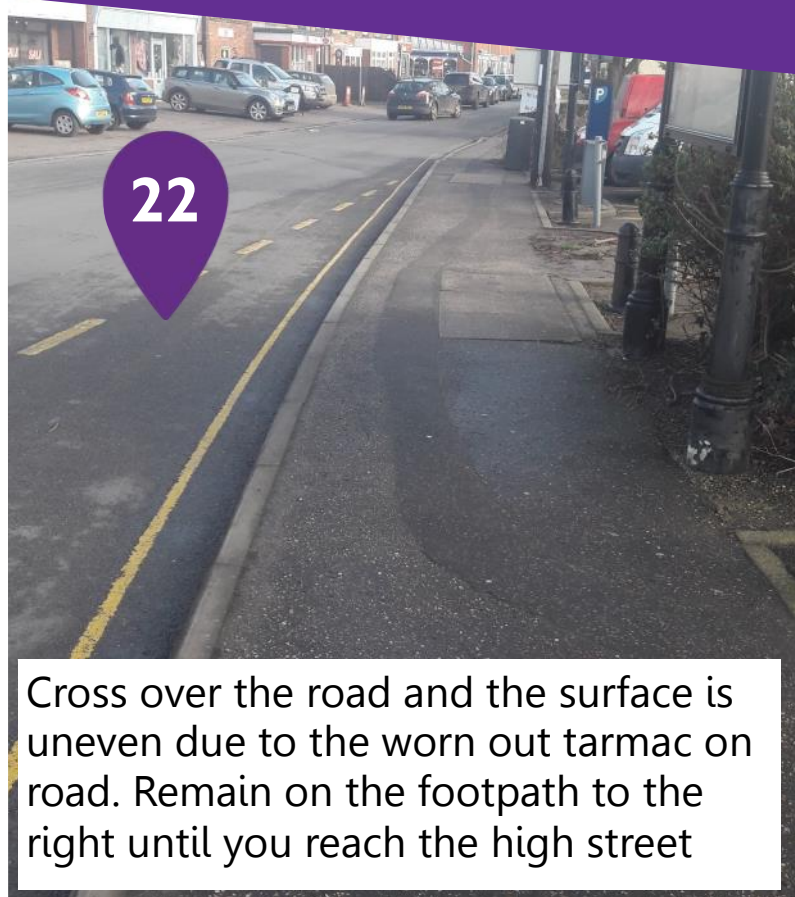


20

The surface is flat paved concrete on the footpath to Stalham High street. Stick to the left hand side as the footpath on the right side of the road is very narrow



There is a slight cross gradient of 1:16 at the dropped kerb at the road crossing which has a 1cm step down to the road surface



Cross over the road and the surface is uneven due to the worn out tarmac on road. Remain on the footpath to the right until you reach the high street



There is a drain grate in the centre of path with gaps between the plates around 1.5cm for 42m



The route ends here on Stalham high street where there are shops, cafes, a public house and a bus stop

Points of interest



Church of St Mary

Stalham Trail Board : *The Railway*

Stalham Railway Station opened on July 3rd 1880. It was a single line track with double tracks only in the stations. Initially there were six trains each way daily and three at weekends between Stalham and Great Yarmouth. It was named the Yarmouth & North Norfolk Light Railway.



Stalham Railway Station in it's heyday

In 1893 it became part of the Midland & Great Northern Line (affectionately known as the Muddle & Get Nowhere Line). This gave a direct line to the Midlands from Yarmouth Beach Station via Melton Constable. This opened up the Broads and, in particular,

the Norfolk Coast to thousands of 'working class' holidaymakers. 'Specials' were laid on direct from the Midlands taking hundreds of people on what became the famous 'seaside holiday'. As many as a 100 trains ran in a day.

Goods trains ran daily except Saturdays in the summer because of the high volume of holiday trains. This was the main form of haulage in those days and took over from wharves. Fresh strawberries and blackcurrants in season were sent by local growers to Rowntree's factory in York. Potatoes, potatoes, other vegetables seasonal fruit, grain and hay were sent to various destinations all over the country. These were put on a parcel train at dinner time to arrive for the next day's markets. This train also brought the mail to local post offices. Sugar beet was sent to Cantley Factory and on Mondays some cattle sold by Jonathan Howlett at Stalham Saleground also went by train.



View from the railway bridge looking towards Great Yarmouth



Passengers waiting on the Public Convenience side of the track



Changes and their workers

Agricultural workers looking for a secure future emigrated mostly to USA. They took a train from Stalham to London and, some, continued to Southampton where they caught sailing ships. Populations of villages fell between 1850 and the 1900s as villagers emigrated. The local emigration agent was at Ludham. In 1872 Edwin Jeary left for the USA. He sent £20 a year to Stalham for the poor.

In 1931 Stalham won the Best Kept Station Award. The staff comprised 4 clerks, 3 porters, 2 signalmen, 4 gang workers and the station master. The Station closed on February 18th, 1959.



The railway workers, a gang and his dog pose for the camera

Part of The Weaver's Way and the A149 use the route of the old railway line. Behind you was the Railway Bridge and Station.



Several people waiting to catch a train from Stalham Station in the dark days of their emigration journey

STALHAM TOWN COUNCIL



JARROLD The John Jarrold Trust

NORWICH TOWN CLOSE ESTATE CHARITY

The Norwich Freeman's Charity

Railway heritage



Stalham Staithe



Museum of the Broads



Pathmakers

Connecting Norfolk countryside & communities

Pathmakers is the charitable arm of the Norfolk Local Access Forum and its purpose is to make a lasting and worthwhile difference to the quality and provision of public access to the countryside in Norfolk for outdoor recreation. Pathmakers seeks to address inequalities of access provision; to encourage new users to the path network; to help local communities with path improvements and with tackling the management of local routes; and to find resources for projects which support these aims.

www.pathmakers.org.uk

Try More Trails

Why not explore other access tested routes along Weavers' Way? You could try Felmingham to North Walsham, North Walsham to Honing or Honing to East Ruston.

Or why not try another long distance trail? You could try Marriott's Way or Paston Way, also in North Walsham.

To find out more visit.. **www.norfolktrails.co.uk**

Disclaimer

The information given for this route is based on findings on the day of the audit and may vary according to the time of year and the weather. This document gives information about the condition of trails, in order to help people choose routes to explore, but it is up to the user to decide whether or not the route is suitable for their ability.



To find out more about Norfolk Trails
visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/trails