

Norfolk Coast Path

Blakeney Freshers



Access
Tested

2017

Route Summary

An accessible 2½ mile linear stretch of the coast path from Blakeney to Cley next the Sea with an optional circular route back which may be difficult for some.

Points of Interest



Bird spotters looking out over Blakeney Freshers



Blakeney Quay

Route Description

This route is an audited section of the Coast Path from Blakeney to Cley next the Sea. It has been audited to support people accessing the countryside and improve quality of life. The walk audit checked for potential accessibility difficulties along the route. Maps are provided on p6 and 7 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 walk follows a loop of the sea wall that prevents salt water from inundating an area known locally as The Freshers. When you are out on this walk you will have a view over salt marsh or fresh water grazing marsh simply by turning around. Bird life abounds here so remember to bring binoculars.

The going is easy along most of the Coast Path around The Freshers with a surface of compacted carstone which is firm with small irregularities. Ramps up to the sea wall present the biggest challenge for people with mobility impairments. The ramp at the Blakeney end is short and gentle but the one at the Cley end is steeper (1:7 for 20 metres).

You can return the way you came or there is an option to return to Blakeney by the road, however this stretch may not be suitable for all as there are numerous kerbs and a long, steep hill.



Route Overview



Start point Start at either the Carnser car park (TG028 441) or Blakeney Village Hall car park (TG 026 437)



Distance: The circular route is 4 miles long. The linear route there and back is 5 miles



Accessible facilities

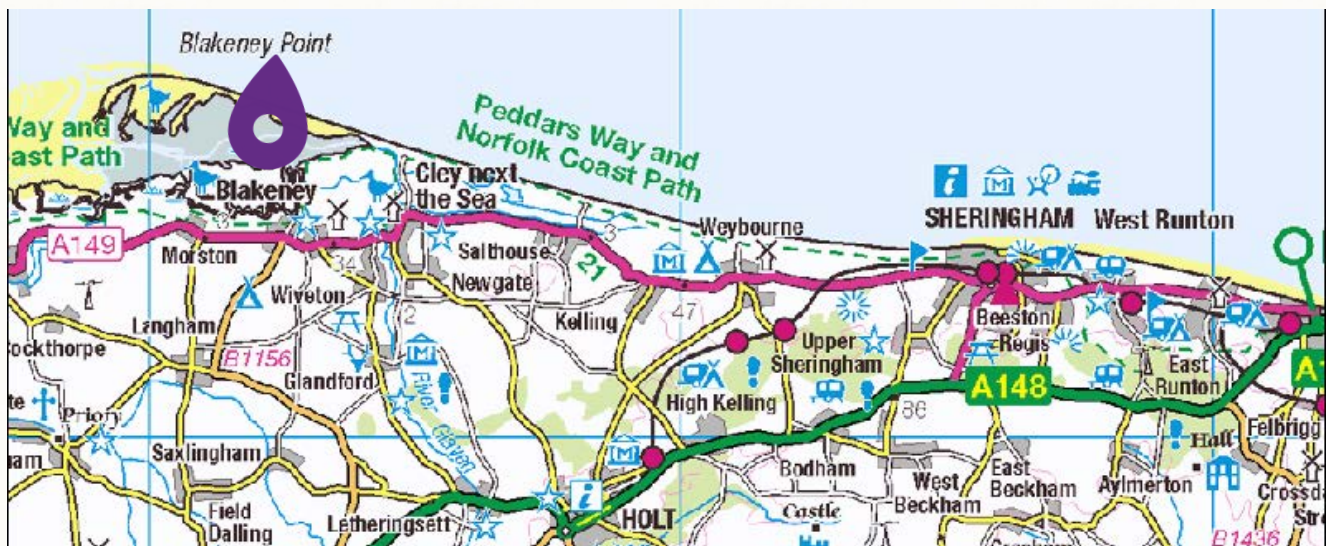
There are accessible toilets at the Carnser

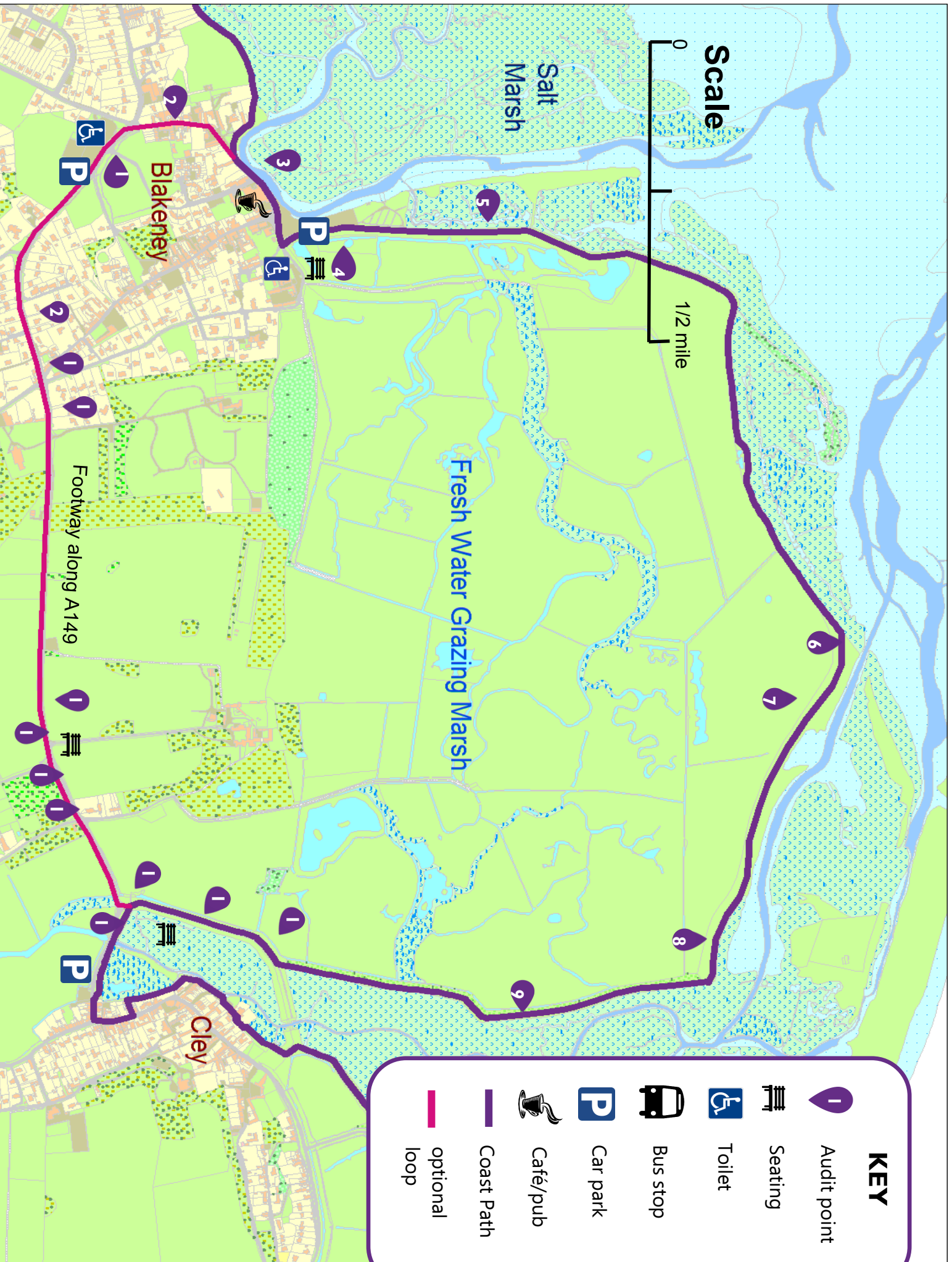


By car: Parking at the Carnser car park



By bus: Catch the Coasthopper from Cromer or Kings Lynn to Blakeney





Scale

0 1/2 mile

KEY

-  Audit point
-  Coast Path
-  optional loop
-  Bus stop
-  Car park
-  Café/pub
-  Toilet
-  Seating

Salt Marsh

Fresh Water Grazing Marsh

Blakeney

Cley

Footway along A149

Accessibility information

1



Start at the Village Hall. There are accessible toilets here with ample parking. Head to the Quay via Westgate Street

2



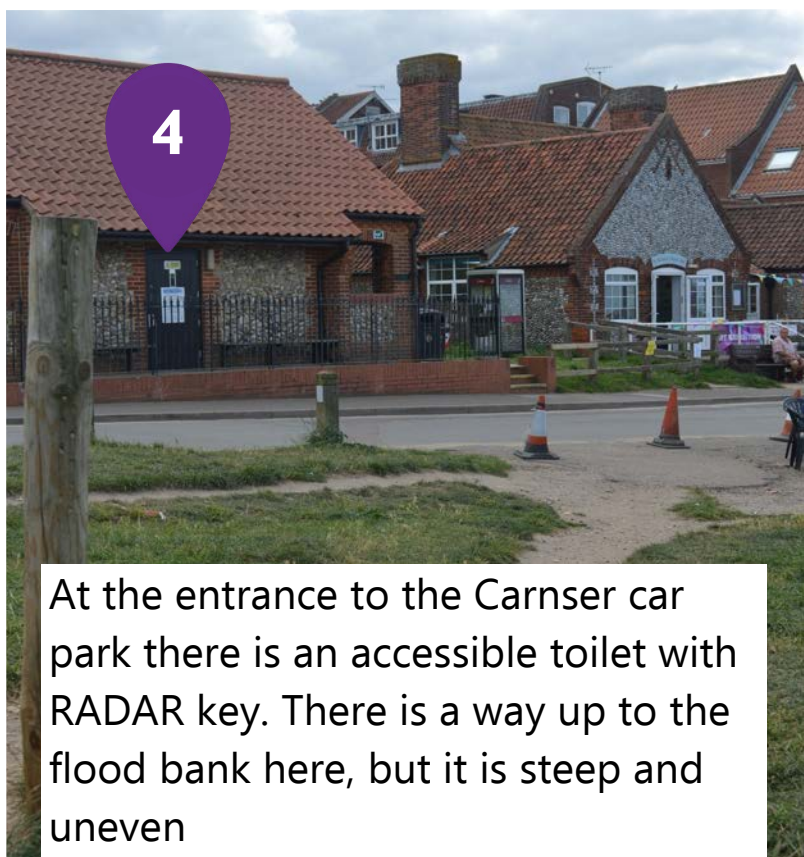
The footway on Westgate Street is too narrow for wheelchair users so use the road for 200m here

3



The footway along the Quay is over 3m wide with a good surface. The Blakeney Hotel is accessible for all

4



At the entrance to the Carnser car park there is an accessible toilet with RADAR key. There is a way up to the flood bank here, but it is steep and uneven



4

There is an accessible ramp up to the Coast Path at the bottom of the car park. At peak times this can be blocked by cars



4

Steps up to the Coast Path from the Carnser . This car park is submerged in extreme high tides



4

The Coast Path goes along the sea defence. The top is level and over 1.5m wide but drops off sharply on each side



5

The track is made of compacted carstone and is firm with small irregularities (less than 10mm)

Accessibility information

6



The new surface stops here and meets an older surface of loose coarser material (20mm diameter)
This runs for ½ a mile

7



Grass stabilises the coarse material over 20mm but presents ruts which are irregular in places

8



The older grassed-over surface continues with loose material around 20mm diameter


9



New surface from this point to the Coast Road (A149)



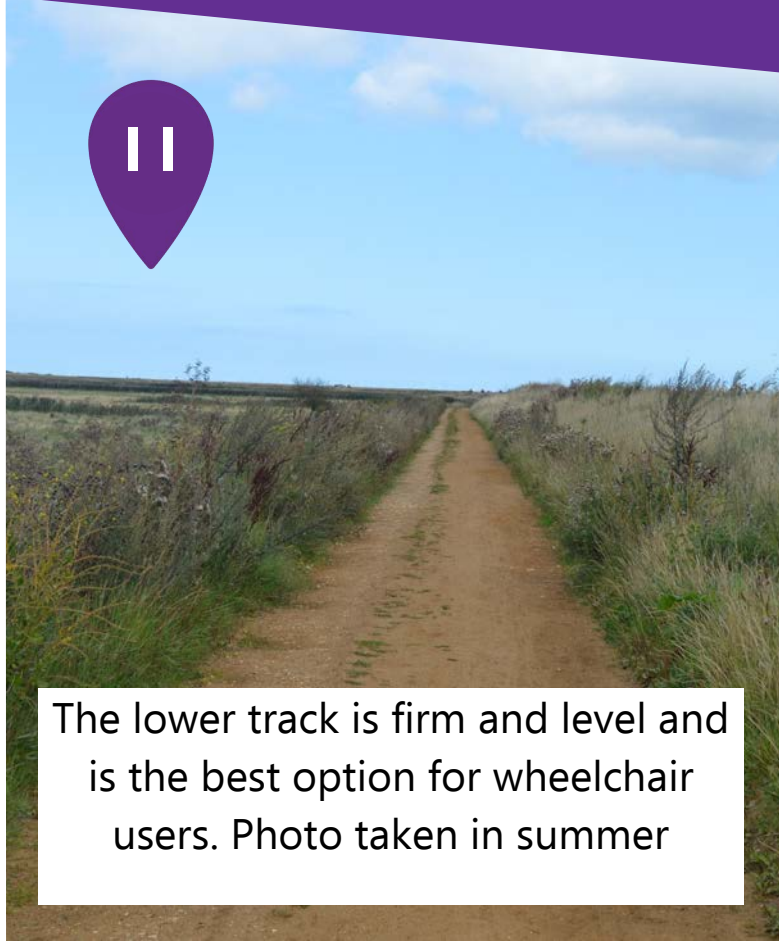
10



The coast path climbs onto another flood bank here. It was resurfaced in 2017 but is a steep (1:7 for 5m)



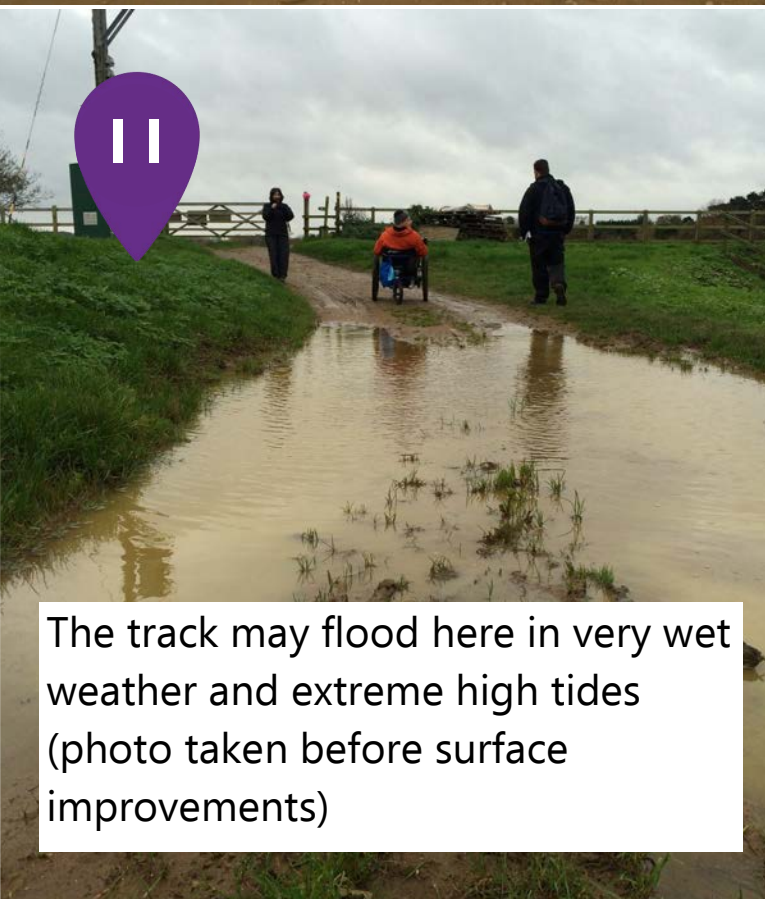
11



The lower track is firm and level and is the best option for wheelchair users. Photo taken in summer




11



The track may flood here in very wet weather and extreme high tides (photo taken before surface improvements)



12



Just before the junction with the road the higher and lower tracks merge. There is a bench here

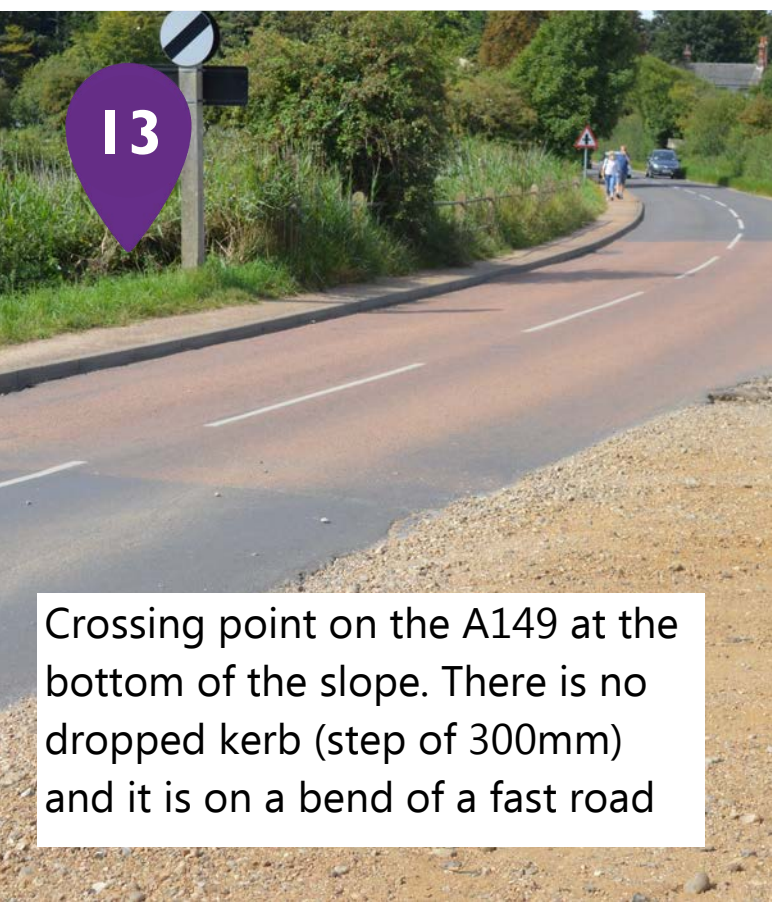
Accessibility information



Between the field gate and the fence there is a gap of 900mm



The slope down to the road is a steep 1:7 for 20m. Wheelchair users are advised to return back along the sea wall



Crossing point on the A149 at the bottom of the slope. There is no dropped kerb (step of 300mm) and it is on a bend of a fast road



Pavement here narrows due to encroachment by grass (restriction of 600mm)



13

Just before Howe Hill there is a dropped kerb and drain cover together which are difficult to negotiate in a wheelchair



14

The start of Howe Hill is a sustained 1:7 gradient for 200m. The hill is impossible for wheelchair users to ascend without assistance



15

The path up the hill narrows to 700mm with erosion presenting an irregular surface with cross gradients of 1:15 in places

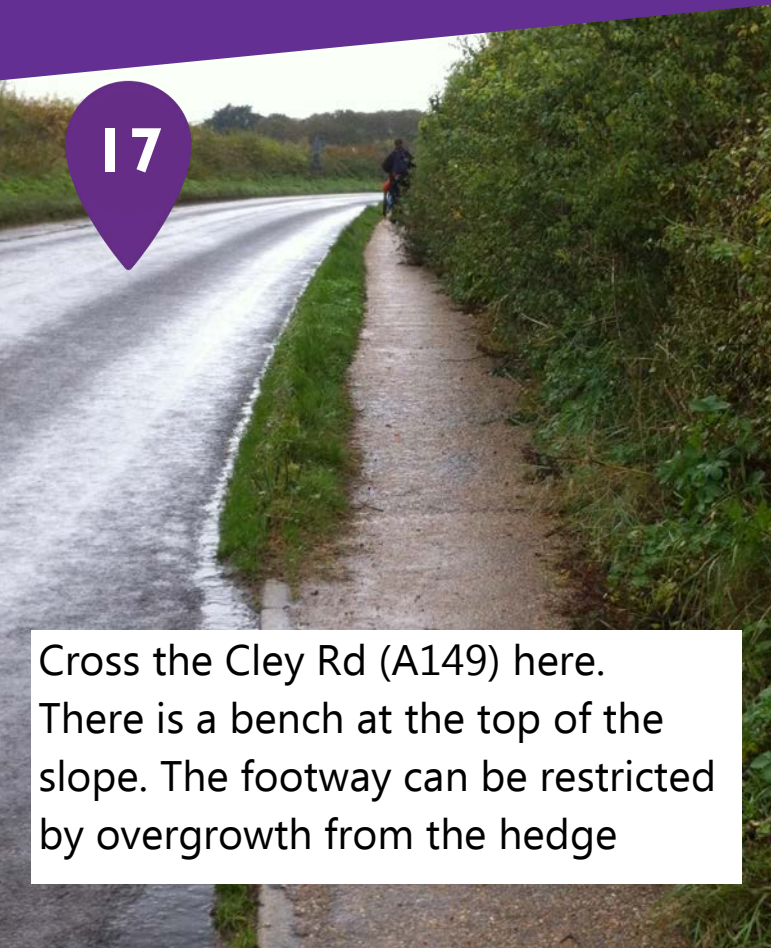


16

At the top of the hill there is a path around a hedge which makes the road crossing safer. There is a 1:12 ramp here for 5m

Accessibility information

17



Cross the Cley Rd (A149) here. There is a bench at the top of the slope. The footway can be restricted by overgrowth from the hedge

18



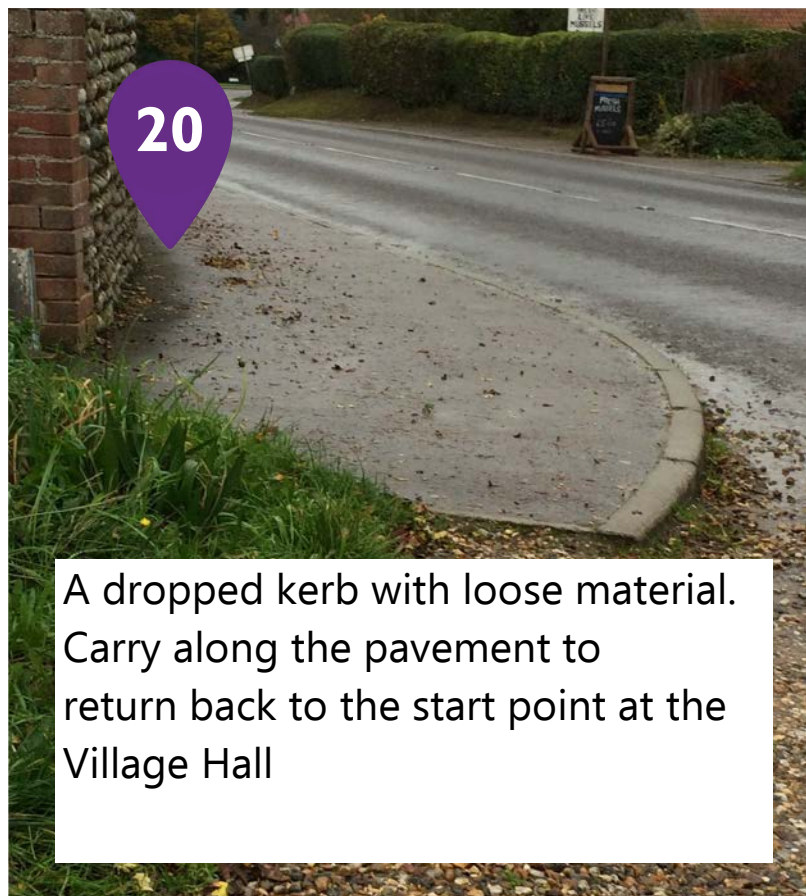
A kerb here presents a step of 50mm and is close to a drain cover with gaps of more than 20mm

19



The footway back to Blakeney has three road crossings with dropped kerbs that measure 30mm

20



A dropped kerb with loose material. Carry along the pavement to return back to the start point at the Village Hall



Disclaimer

Please bear in mind that 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 individual to decide whether or not the route is suitable for their ability.

Try More Trails

Why not explore other parts of the Norfolk Coast Path? The Quay at Wells is very accessible and there is more flood bank to explore at Thornham.

More walks in these places are highlighted in this Access Tested series and can be found at www.norfolktrails.co.uk



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