

Along the way

This walk begins by heading north to Beach Road, where it passes the village's tiny maritime museum located in a former coastal lookout building. Continuing past the Ship Inn (thought to date from the 18th century), the route then cuts down to the beach and runs southeast beneath cliffs that have Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status because of their geological sediments. Further on, the route passes below Mundesley Holiday Camp, the first purpose-built fully catering holiday camp in Norfolk.

Just after passing Bacton Gas Terminal, the route leads inland towards the small medieval Church of St Andrew. A little further on at Hall Farm House the way leads northwest towards Paston village to arrive at Paston Great Barn. This 16th-century barn was built by the Paston family, wealthy local landowners who were also responsible for the famous *Paston Letters* written in the 15th century. The barn, a scheduled listed building with a magnificent hammerbeam roof, is a designated SSSI because of its rare barbastelle bats, one of only three maternity roosts in Britain.

Leaving Paston, the route crosses the route of a disused railway line before reaching Knapton where the village's 15th-century Church of St Peter and St Paul has a double hammerbeam roof decorated with wooden angels.

From Edingthorpe, the next village, (home to the round-towered All Saints' Church), the way leads west to join the route of a disused railway line. Knapton Cutting at the beginning of this section is designated a butterfly reserve while Pigney's Wood a little further on is managed by North Norfolk Community Woodland Trust and serves as a haven for wild flowers, butterflies and birds.

Crossing the course of the North Walsham and Dilham Canal, the route leaves the path of the railway line to follow Mundesley Road into North Walsham centre where the Paston Way ends at St Nicholas Church next to the Market Place. The Weavers' Way also passes through here and can be followed either west to Aylsham or east to Stalham. The Market Place's distinctive wooden Market Cross was erected in 1602 to replace an earlier structure that was destroyed by fire in 1600.

Further information on this walk is available in two short sections including more detailed maps. See short sections: S3 Mundesley to Paston and S4 Paston to North Walsham available at www.norfolktrails.gov.uk/pastonway

Walk summary

Follow the beach from Mundesley southeast to Bacton Green and head inland to reach Paston Great Barn. Then pass through Knapton and Edingthorpe before following a disused railway line into North Walsham.

Getting started

This walk starts at High Street, Mundesley next to Gold Park (TG311366) and ends at St. Nicholas' Church, meeting the Weavers' Way (TG283302).

Getting there

Train North Walsham Rail Station
National Rail enquiries: 08457 484950.
<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>

Bus service

Mundesley – Sanders 5, 34, 35B, 55
North Walsham – Aldborough Community Bus 3 and 6, Sanders Coaches (various),
Bus stops Esplanade Bus Shelter (Mundesley) and Market Place (North Walsham)
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

Pavements, beach walk with access ramps (**please check tide times**), crossfield paths, country lanes. Short walk along busy road with no pavement at Paston (300 metres). Disused railway with eight sets of stairs.

Facilities

Pubs, cafés and tea rooms, accommodation, shops, museums in Mundesley and North Walsham.