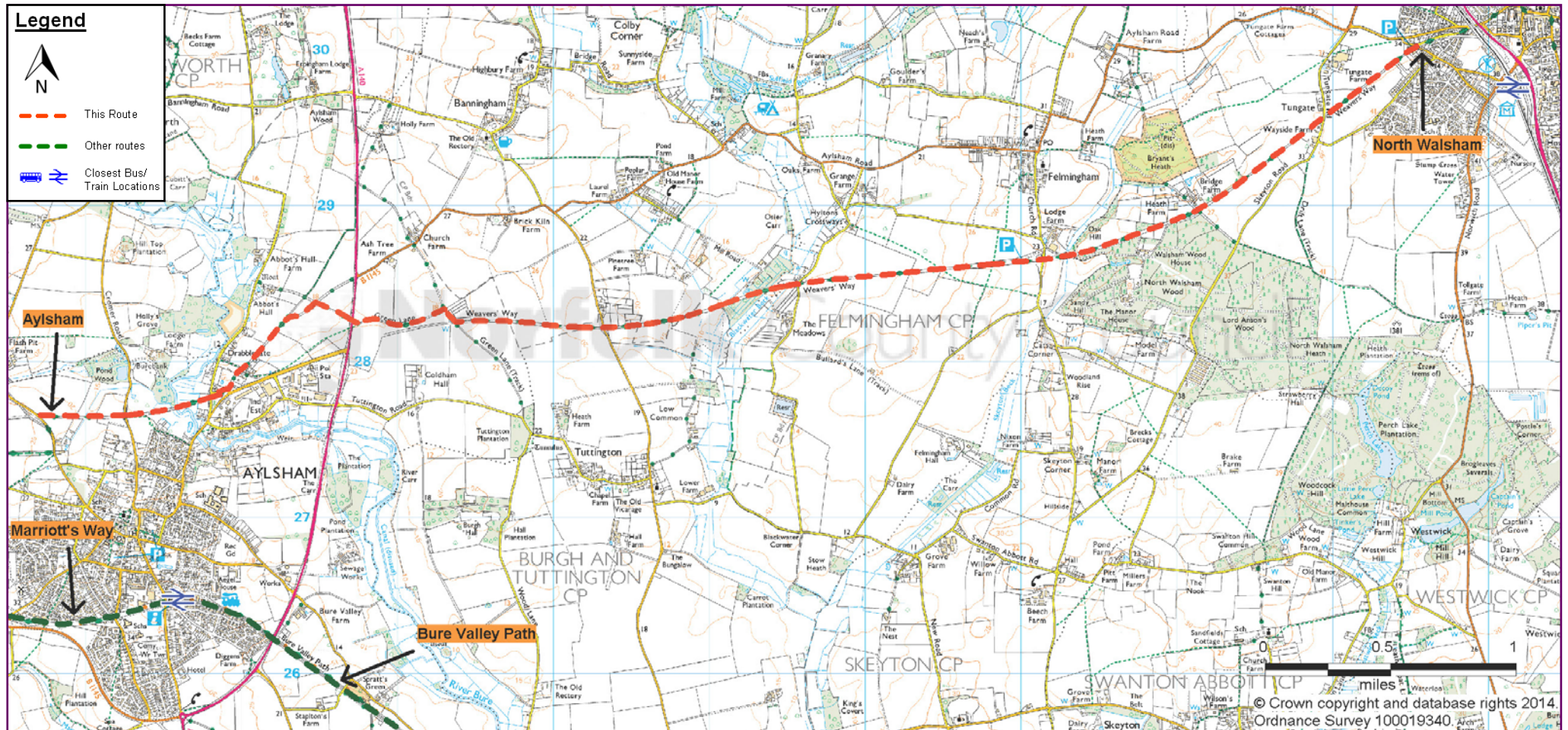


Weavers' Way Cycle Route North Walsham to Aylsham

Length:
6 miles / 12 miles
(return)



Along the way

Adding a short extension to your ride, into North Walsham town centre reveals an impressive octagonal Market Cross with a three-tiered dome at the centre of its market place. This wooden structure was erected in 1602 to replace an earlier cross that was destroyed when the town was wrecked by fire in 1600. It was fitted with its chiming clock in 1899. Standing next to the market place is St Nicholas Church, which dates from the 14th century and is distinctive in having a partially ruined tower, the result of suffering two collapses in the past, one in 1724 and the other in 1836. Before this, the church possessed one of the tallest towers in Norfolk. Nearby is Paston Grammar School, now part of Paston College, which was founded as a free school by Sir Wiliam Paston in 1606 and later attended by Horatio Nelson and his brother William. The present red brick building dates from 1766.

The route begins a little way west of the town centre at Station Road. Leaving North Walsham behind, it follows a dismantled railway line, built in 1883 but closed in 1959, that used to link the town with Melton Constable. The former railway line is now a designated county wildlife site because of its varied grassland vegetation. After passing between fields the route goes through North Walsham Wood and past Lodge Farm before reaching Felmingham Cutting, a butterfly nature reserve where 16 species have been recorded including Small Copper, Painted Lady and Common Blue. Felmingham station can still be seen in place beside the former track bed that now serves as the route of the Weavers' Way.

The cycle route continues west along the dismantled railway line, passing beneath the bridges of a couple of country lanes along the way. Approaching Aylsham, the route leaves the disused railway line to follow a track across the busy A149 and turn left at a crossroads before it rejoins the railway line to cross the River Bure. The route comes to an end a little further on where the Weavers' Way joins the Blickling Road just north of Aylsham town centre.

At Aylsham, you may continue your ride using Marriott's Way (dis-used railway heading to Norwich via Reepeham and Lenwade), the Bure Valley Path (beside the 15 inch gauge railway, heading to Hoveton and Wroxham via Buxton and Coltishall) or Sustrans cycle route 33, which heads to Cromer.



Walk summary

This cycle route follows the route of a former railway, now dismantled, through quiet gently rolling farmland between the north Norfolk market towns of North Walsham and Aylsham.

Getting started

This route starts in North Walsham at the Station Road Car Park (TG275300) and finishes at Aylsham at the junction of Blickling Road (TG186276).

Getting there

Train North Walsham Rail Station

National Rail enquiries: 08457 484950

Aylsham Station (Bure Valley Railway)

Enquires – 01263 733858 www.bvrw.co.uk/index.asp

www.nationalrail.co.uk

Bus service (Service days vary)

North Walsham – Aldborough Community Bus 3 and 6, Sanders (various).

Aylsham - Aldborough Community Bus 1 and 2, Sanders (various), Our bus 291.

Bus stops Bus Shelter (Aylsham) and Market Place (North Walsham)

Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 22 33

www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk

Maps and guides

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

What to expect

Mostly dis-used railway. A short section of track and road near Aylsham. Busy road crossing (A140) near Aylsham.

Facilities

Pubs, cafés and tea rooms, shops and accommodation in Aylsham and North Walsham