

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ROUTE OVERVIEW

Stock up with provisions before you leave Bury St Edmunds today as there are no shops or pubs on this stage and only one place to stay at the halfway mark.

From Bury St Edmunds the route heads out through the suburbs, following the St Edmund Way long distance path alongside the River Lark and then cross country to Culford, reached in **5.6 miles**. From here, leaving the St Edmund Way, a short stretch along a paved B road takes you to Brockley Corner (**1.1 miles**), after which the route follows byways and green ways.

In another **4.3 miles** there is an opportunity to split the stage by turning right along the Icknield Way for a B&B at New Zealand Cottages. If you continue, it is a further **1.9 miles** to the village of Barnham, after which a **1.5 mile** stretch along the A134, on pavements most of the way, then a grass verge, takes you to Barnham Cross Common. The final stretch takes you over Barnham Cross Common and then along the River Little Ouse to reach Thetford in a further **1.9 miles**.

Public transport options

Public transport options are better for this stage, with **train** stations in both Bury St Edmunds and Thetford. Although there are several **bus** services to and from both these towns, the only ones that call at midway points on the stage are the No 84/86, which stops in Barnham, and the infrequent No 332 via Culford. See also public transport map and table pp29-31.

For a **taxi** try Bury St Edmunds-based **A1 Cars** (☎ 01284-766777, 🌐 a1cars.co.uk) or

16.3 miles (26.3km)



- **Terrain** Mainly riverside and sandy forest tracks over almost entirely flat country
- **Difficulty** Moderate
- **Cumulative distance from London** 116 miles (187km)
- **Time** 5hrs 30mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 133.4m, 437ft
- **Maps** OS Explorer 211 *Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket*, 229 *Thetford Forest*
- **GPX route file & directions*** 508.pdf, 508.gpx, 508.kml at 🌐 <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press> * See pp27-8 for more information on downloads

there's **A2B Taxis** (☎ 01842-755222, 🌐 www.a2btaxisthetford.co.uk) or **Perry's Taxis** (☎ 07985-386059, 01842-769686, 🌐 perystaxis.co.uk), both based in Thetford.

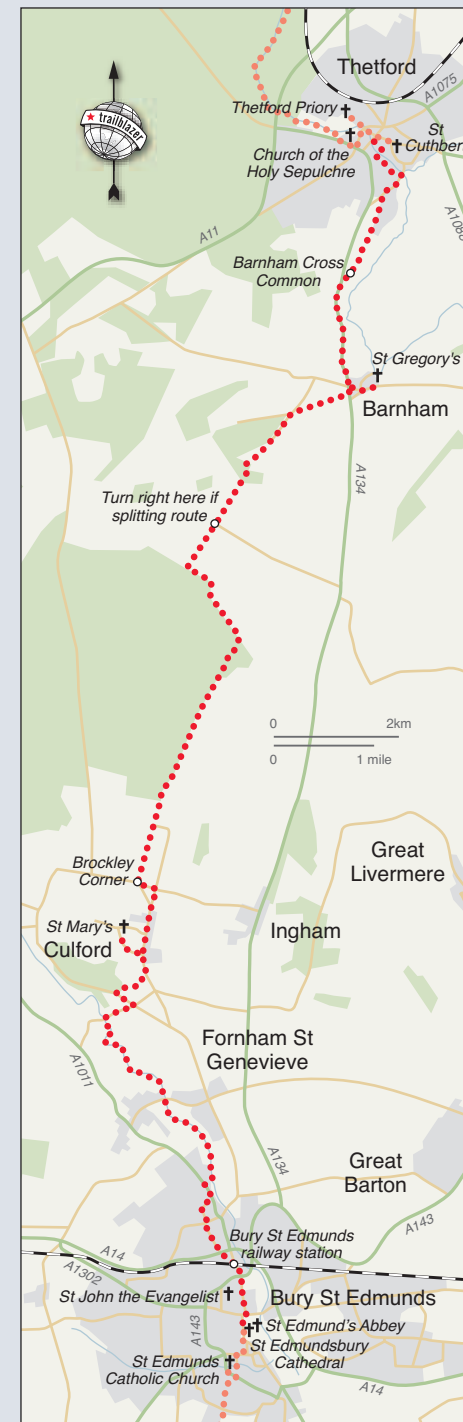
Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Bury St Edmunds** (see Stage 7, p109)
- **Near Barnham** (after 10.6 miles/17km) *The Mill B&B* (☎ 01842-890212, 🌐 themillbandb.com, New Zealand Cottages, Barnham). This B&B has four en-suite rooms and is conveniently located 800yds off the route if you would like an overnight stay within the stage. Alternatively, taxis (see above) could be ordered to collect you from Culford or Barnham.

● **Thetford Stay** at *The Bell Hotel*, (☎ 01842-754455, 🌐 greenekinginns.co.uk/hotels/the-bell-hotel-thetford, King St; bars open daily 7am-11pm, **food** daily 7am-9pm) an old coaching inn at the centre of this ancient market town; or reliable chain hotel *Travelodge* (🌐 travelodge.co.uk; Bridge St) located on river, right by the junction of Stages 8 and 9. **Food** options include *Central Café & Restaurant* (☎ 01842-760101; daily 8am-5pm; 1 Whitehart St) which is very popular with locals; and *Tall Orders* (☎ 01842 766435, 🌐 facebook.com/TallOrdersThetford; Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm, Sun closed) at; 24 King St, which offers coffee, cakes, breakfast and light meals.

Services

- **Bury St Edmunds** (see Stage 7, p109)
- **Thetford** Stock up at **supermarket** Tesco Express (daily 6am-11pm) on Norwich Rd or Aldi (Mon-Sat 8am-10pm, Sun 10am-4pm) on Lime Kiln Ln). If you need a **laundrette** there's aptly named The Laundrette (☎ 07779-136495; daily 7am-9pm) at 39 Icknield Way).



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| | | LONDON TO WALSINGHAM CAMINO |
| | | Stage 8: Bury St Edmunds to Thetford |
| Revised 27.4.23 Amendments in red | | I have made a substantial adjustment to the route north of Culford, cutting out the village of Barnham and avoiding any walking along the A134, where verge-side hedges have been left to grow to the extent that you can no longer walk along the grass on some stretches. The revised route is on forest tracks. Missing out Barham is a shame. If the highway people clear the verge, I will reinstate the original route. This adjustment adds about 0.5 of a mile to the route. |
| Distance from start | Distance from last waypoint | |
| 0km | 0km | From the Abbey Gate, turn right into Angel Hill, and follow it as it turns 90 degrees right, looking out for Northgate St, on your left. The route follows the St Edmund Way long-distance footpath. |
| 175yds/160m | 175yds/160m | Turn left into Northgate St, and continue until you reach a roundabout, where the A1302 crosses left to right. |
| 930yds/850m | 750yds/690m | At the roundabout continue straight on along the A1101, Fornham Rd, passing the railway station on your left, until you reach Maltings Way (which may be labelled Malthouse Lane on some maps), a turning on your left. |
| 0.7miles/1.1km | 275yds/250m | Turn left onto Maltings Way, and continue until you reach a T-junction, where Thingoe Hill crosses left to right. Ahead of you is a footbridge over the A14. |
| 0.8miles/1.3km | 220yds/200m | Take the footbridge over the A14. On the other side, continue straight on along Northgate Ave until you reach Tollgate. |
| 1.3miles/2.1km | 880yds/800m | Turn right into Tollgate, then first left into Philip Rd. Continue until you reach Rosemary Rd, a turning on your right. |
| 1.4miles/2.3km | 220yds/200m | Turn right into Rosemary Rd, and continue, at the end of the road, along a footpath that takes you out onto Mildenhall Rd. |
| 1.5miles/2.5km | 220yds/200m | Turn left along Mildenhall Rd. Look out for a footpath leaving to your right, between two garages: Bury Motor Company and Baker Bodycraft. There is a Footpath sign at this point. |

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| 1.7miles/2.8km | 330yds/300m | Turn right onto the footpath, which will bring you out on the bank of the River Lark. Continue along this footpath as you pass through Suffolk Golf and Country Club, until you reach the B1106 road. |
| 2.8miles/4.6km | 1.1miles/1.8km | Cross straight over the B1106 and continue along the riverside footpath on the other side. Continue until you pass Ducksluice Farm. |
| 3.6miles/5.8km | 0.7miles/1.2km | At Ducksluice Farm, follow the footpath as it switches from the left to the right bank of the river, and continue until you reach Mill Rd. |
| 4.2miles/6.7km | 990yds/900m | Turn right into Mill Rd, and continue until you reach a crossroads of lanes. |
| 4.5miles/7.2km | 550yds/500m | Turn left at the crossroads and continue to Little Farm, where the St Edmund Way leaves the lane on your right. |
| 4.7miles/7.6km | 440yds/400m | Turn right on the St Edmund Way footpath, which follows a track that skirts Duval's Plantation (on your left). Continue for 100yds, until a path forks right off the track. |
| 4.8miles/7.7km | 110yds/100m | Take the footpath that bears right off the track. Continue, with woods on your left and fields on your right, until you reach the B1106. |
| 5.1miles/8.2km | 550yds/500m | Turn left onto the B1106, and continue until you reach the entrance to Culford School, on your left. |
| 5.3miles/8.5km | 330yds/300m | Turn left, and follow the drive through the grounds of Culford School until you reach St Mary's church, on your left. |
| 5.6miles/9km | 550yds/500m | Arrive at St Mary , Culford. The route leaves the St Edmund Way at this point. To continue, retrace your steps back to the school entrance and turn left on the B1106, using the pavement on the right-hand side and continue until the road swings left and a lane goes straight ahead. |
| 6.4miles/10.3km | 0.8miles/1.3km | Take the lane that goes straight on, signposted Ingham and Thetford, and walk up the crossroads. |
| 6.5miles/10.5km | 220yds/200m | Turn left at the crossroads, signposted West Stow and Mildenhall, following the road until the point at which it rejoins the B1106, where a track marked Byway and The Hill turns right. |
| 6.7miles/10.8km | 330yds/300m | Take the track on your right marked Byway and The Hill. The route passes initially through open country before running with a wood called Deal Furze to your left. Continue until, approaching Culford Heath, you reach a road sign indicating restrictions on motor vehicles. |

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| 8.9miles/14.3km | 2.2miles/3.5km | Continue straight on past the road sign indicating restrictions on motor vehicles, the track now running through a wood to emerge at Happi Holme. |
| 9.4miles/15.1km | 880yds/800m | At Happi Holme, turn left, the track here called Elveden Rd. There is a red arrow in a yellow roundel indicating 'Byway'. Continue until you reach a T-junction of tracks. |
| 10.3miles/16.6km | 0.9miles/1.5km | At the T-junction of tracks keep straight on along what is now the Icknield Way trail, a green-on-white fingerpost indicating the way. This is a revision of the route, which no longer passes close to The Mill B&B . If you are splitting your journey there, you will need to follow Google Maps or similar to navigate there from here. |
| 10.7miles/17.2km | 880yds/800m | Bear right at the Y-junction of tracks, signposted Icknield Way Trail until you reach at T-junction at Barrows Corner |
| 11.5miles/18.5km | .8mile/1.3km | At The T-junction, turn right, staying on the Icknield Way Trail. Continue until Elveden Rd crosses you path. |
| 13miles/21km | 1.5mile/2.5km | Cross Elveden Rd and continue along the Icknield Way Trail on the other side. Continue until the track bears sharp right. |
| 13.9miles/22.4km | .9mile/1.4km | Follow the Icknield Way Trail as it bears sharp right. Continue until you reach the A134 |
| 15miles/24.3km | 1.2mile/1.9km | Cross the A134 and go through the kissing gate on the other side onto Barnham Cross Common. There are no clear paths at this point but if you head in a generally north-easterly direction you will pick up a rough track that takes you through the common to Nuns' Bridges Rd on the outskirts of Thetford. |
| 16miles/25.8km | 1mile/1.6km | Turn right on to Nuns' Bridges Rd and continue until a bridge takes the road over the River Little Ouse. |
| 16.3miles/26.2km | 550yds/500m | On the far side of the River Little Ouse, turn left to take a tarmacked path (Spring Walk) to continue with the river on your left. Continue until you reach a wider tarmacked path (Bridges Walk) crossing left to right. |
| 16.5miles/26.7km | 550yds/500m | Turn right onto Bridges Walk and walk until you reach School Ln. |
| 16.6miles/26.8km | 110yds/100m | Turn left into School Ln and, when School Ln swings right, just past a car park, take a path that bears slight left until you reach a T-junction at Riverside Walk. |
| 16.7miles/27km | 220yds/200m | Turn left onto Riverside Walk, crossing over the river, then turning right on the far bank. Continue until you reach Bridge St. |

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| 16.8miles/27.1km | 110yds/100m | Arrive at Bridge St, where this stage of the pilgrimage ends. Cross left over the river for Thetford town centre. |
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