PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ROUTE OVERVIEW 15.6 miles (25.1km)

This stage is well supplied with pubs and neatly divides in half at Mundford which has good facilities to stay and eat plus a shop for provisions, but very little in the way of bus services – taxis are the best way to leave or rejoin the route.

The first half of this stage, starting from Brandon railway station, is almost completely flat. It is a **1.7 mile** walk, mainly via farm tracks to Weeting, and St Mary's church and Weeting Castle. A further **2 miles** on forest tracks takes you to the Stump Cross, the remains of a huge medieval pilgrim waymarker. It is a further **3.2 miles** in forest to Mundford, where the Crown Hotel offers an ideal lunch point, or overnight stay if you are splitting this stage into two.

The second half of the stage is again mainly on the level, initially alongside the A1065, on pavement, verge and forest margin, for **1.9 miles** until you reach the Desert Rats Memorial. From here the route runs through woodland, followed by a short section on the verge of the A1065, before a brief, steady climb on a footpath to All Saints', Hilborough, reached in a further **4.9 miles**. The final stretch is again along pavement beside the A1065, then a short walk on the verge, followed by quiet lanes and a gentle climb to Great Cressingham, reached in another **1.9 miles.**

Public transport options

Brandon, at the beginning of this stage, has both a **train** station and **bus** services (No 84/86 from Bury St Edmunds and No 200/201 from Thetford) but from there you're heading deep into the countryside again. The only bus service along the route is the No 40 which calls infrequently in Mundford. See also public transport map and table pp29-31.

Taxis are the best option. Among local firms are ***Carters Brandon Cars*** (☎ 01842-811430, 💻 cartersbrandoncars.co.uk).

Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Brandon** (see Stage 9, p133)
- **Mundford** (after 7.3 miles/11.7km) The welcoming ***Crown Hotel and Restaurant*** (☎ 01842-878233, 💻 the-crown-hotel.co.uk, Crown Rd; open Mon-Sat 11am-11pm, Sun noon-10.30pm, food daily noon-3pm, 6.30pm-9pm) serves good **pub grub** and has 40 en-suite **rooms**.

- **Terrain** Mainly forest tracks and quiet lanes over almost completely flat land
- **Difficulty** Moderate
- **Cumulative distance from London** 142.1 miles (229km)
- **Time** 5hrs 10mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 141metres (462ft)
- **Maps** OS Explorer *229 Thetford Forest, 236 King's Lynn, Downham Mkt & Swaffham*
- **GPX route file & directions*** 510.pdf, 510.gpx, 510.kml at 💻 https://trailblazer-guides.com/press * See pp27-8 for more information on downloads

- **Hilborough** (after 13.8 miles/22.2km) ***The Swan Inn*** (☎ 01760-756380, 💻 facebook.com/hilboroughswan, Brandon Rd; open Mon-Sat 11.30am-11pm, Sun 11am-11pm, food Mon-Sat 9am-9pm, Sun noon-8pm;), a pleasant village inn with eight en-suite rooms.
- **Great Cressingham** With 15 en-suite **rooms** and hearty **pub grub**, the 17th century ***Olde Windmill Inn*** (☎ 01760-756232, 💻 oldewindmillinn.co.uk, Water End; daily noon-10pm, food daily noon-2.30pm & 5.30-9pm) has been run by the same family for 55 years. It also has a Caravan Club **campsite**.

Services

- **Mundford** Invaluable **convenience store** Yallops Mundford & Post Office (☎ 01842-878287, St Leonards St; Mon-Sat 6am-8.30pm, Sun 8am-5pm), on the village green.

		Stage 10 Brandon to Great Cressingham 2025 revise
Distance from start	Distance from last waypoint	
0	0	From Brandon railway station walk out to High St and turn right to cross the railway lines. Cross over (CAUTION: BUSY ROAD) and turn almost immediately left into Brandon Rd. Look out for Fengate Drove, a turning on your left.
275yds/250m	275yds/250m	Turn left into Fengate Drove. At first this is a tarmacked road but reverts to an earth track.
.7mile/1.1km	930yds/850m	Follow the track as it bears right and takes you through the hamlet of Fengate, and out to Shadwell Cl.
1.1miles/1.7km	660yds/600m	Go straight on, on the pavement, past Shadwell Cl, and into Hockwold Rd. Follow Hockwold Rd into the village of Weeting, until it reaches Park View and turns right.
1.2miles/1.9km	220yds/200m	Don't turn right, but continue straight on along Park View until you reach a turning on your right called The Row.
1.3miles/2.1km	220yds/200m	Turn right into The Row, which reaches a crossroads, with Park View running left to right and All Saints ahead of you.
1.4miles/2.2km	110yds/100m	Continue into All Saints.
1.5miles/2.4km	220yds/200m	At a Y junction, both branches of road ahead of you are called All Saints. Take the right hand option bears left, and continue straight on up the lane ahead of you, signposted Weeting Castle. It becomes Castle Close. The few remaining stones of All Saints church are behind the houses in the field to your right, accessed via a footpath leaving the left hand branch of all Saints a few yards past this junction.
1.8miles/2.9km	550yds/500m	Arrive at St Mary's Church and Weeting Castle.

		To continue, turn right out of the church and continue along the lane until you reach Home Farm.
1.9miles/3.1km	220yds/200m	At Home Farm you will need to bear left, along a track signposted 'Please use the new route' and with a roundel for Weeting Circular Walk. This route takes you in a loop around the farmyard and returns you to the straight line you had been following before it at a crossroads of tracks.
2.1miles/3.4km	330yds/300m	Although there is no sign at this point, you should turn left at the crossroads of tracks. Continue until the path divides. Grid ref: TL 7775 8953
2.2miles/3.6km	330yds/300m	Where the path divides, bear left, and continue until the path enters forest. Grid ref: TL 7782 8977 **Please note** that the next section through forest follows forestry tracks, of which there is a network. There are no signposts at the points that follow, so you will need to judge by distance. Grid references are included at key points to help you navigate. Should you miss a turn, it is worth bearing in mind that the route follows a broadly north-easterly direction, to reach Mundon. If all else fails, you can bear east to reach the A1065, and proceed along the grass verge.
2.4miles/3.9km	330yds/300m	Shortly after entering the forest, you reach a T-junction, where you should turn right. Grid ref: TL 7758 8981 The path is dead straight from here, and marked as Pilgrim's Walk on OS maps. Continue until you reach another T-junction, close to the point marked Mount Ephraim on OS maps.
3.6miles/5.8km	1.2miles/1.9km	At this T-junction you should turn left for Weeting's Stump Cross. Grid ref TL 7762 9163
3.8miles/6.2km	440yds/400m	Arrive at the Stump Cross. Grid ref TL 7735 9138 To continue, retrace your steps to the T-junction at the top of Pilgim's Walk.

4.1miles/6.6km	440yds/400m	Continue straight on at the T-junction, and proceed until you reach a junction where three other tracks diverge from the one you are following.
4.7miles/7.6km	.6mile/1km	Two tracks run off to your left from this point, one to the right. You should take the second of these tracks on your left, which angles off at about 120degrees. Continue until you reach another junction. Grid ref TL 7854 9152
5miles/8.1km	.9miles/1.4km	At the next junction, Grid ref TL 7897 9177 go straight on, and continue until the next junction of tracks Grid ref TL 7908 9206
5.2miles/8.4km	330yds/300m	At this junction, a crossroads, the way directly ahead is blocked, so you will need to take the option that goes slightly to the left of straight ahead, rejoining the original route as described in the following directions. Continue until you reach the next crossroads of tracks. Grid ref TL 7908 9206
5.4miles/8.7km	330yds/300m	Turn right at this crossroads, and continue until the next junction.
5.5miles/8.8km	110yds/100m	At this crossroads, grid ref TL 7915 9235, turn left, now back on your original path, ignoring a turning on your left, to the next crossroads, grid ref TL 7917 9266 This is just south of the name Ickerbuilding on the OS Explorer map.
5.6miles/9.1km	330yds/300m	Turn right at this junction and continue, ignoring a turning on your right, until you see a turning leaving to your left. Grid ref TL 7957 9260
5.9miles/9.5km	440yds/400m	Turn left here, and continue straight on until you reach the A134, on the outskirts of Brandon. Grid ref TL 7977 9363
6.6miles/10.6km	.7miles/1.1km	Turn right onto the A134, cross over, and look out for St Leonard's St, a turning on your left.
6.8miles/10.9km	330yds/300m	Turn left into St Leonard's St, and look out for turning on your left called Church Ln.
6.9miles/11.2km	110yds/100m	Turn left into Church Ln.
7miles/11.3km	110yds/100m	Arrive at St Leonard's, Mundford. To continue, retrace your steps to St Leonard's St and turn left.
7.1miles/11.4km	110yds/100m	Continue along St Leonard St as it bears right at its junction with West hall Rd and takes you to the small green at the centre of Mundford village.

7.2miles/11.7km	330yds/300m	Arrive at the village green, with the Crown hotel and post office/convenience store. To continue, walk to the left of the Crown, along Crown Rd, and follow it to the junction with the A1065, Swaffham Rd.
7.3miles/11.8km	110yds/100m	Turn left into Swaffham Rd, and continue along the pavement until you cross the River Wissey. The former pilgrim chapel is on the left-hand side, just after you cross the river.
7.8miles/12.4km	660yds/600m	Arrive at the former pilgrim chapel of Our Lady and St Michael, now Bridge House. To continue, walk on, looking out for Ashburton Rd. Note: We are following this route to avoid a stretch walking alongside the A1065 but, if you prefer, you can stick to this road, walking along the left-hand verge and shaving .7mile off the length of this stage. However, be warned that the verge is narrow for the first 300yds, and the traffic fast. After this initial stretch, you may be able to walk along the field margin to your left. The notes from here assume you are not doing that.
8miles/12.8km	440yards/400m	Turn right into Ashburton Rd and walk on, looking out for St Peter's church, on your right.
8.4miles/13.5km	770yds/700m	Arrive at St Peter's church. Continue along Ashburton Rd, looking out for a footpath fingerpost on your left.
8.6miles/13.9km	440yds/400m	Turn left at the fingerpost, passing into a field, with the end of a hedge in front of you. Walk to the right of the hedge, as directed by a small roundel on a pole, taking heed of a 'Private Keep out' sign to the left of the hedge. Walk along the field margin to a wood.
8.8miles/14.2km	330yds/300m	At the wood, despite a small roundel on a pole indicating the path runs straight ahead into the wood, the way is blocked. Turn left, walk along the field margin for 20yds and take a new path on your right. It runs parallel to the old route. Continue until you reach a path crossing left to right.
8.8miles/14.4km	220yds/200m	Turn left on this cross-path and keep to it, ignoring a path leaving at narrow angle to your right after 30yds, until you reach the edge of a reservoir, and a path that crosses left to right in front of you.

9.4miles/15.2km	880yds/800m	Turn right on this path, skirting the reservoir, and walk until you reach Swaffham Rd.
9.6miles/15.5km	330yds/300m	Cross over Swaffham Rd and turn right. This is woodland, so you can walk along, parallel with the road but at a comfortable distance from it. Look out for the Desert Rats Memorial, a tank on a plinth, at the roadside.
9.9miles/15.9km	440yds/400m	At the Desert Rats memorial, turn left and follow the concrete track past a touring caravan park on your right until you reach a crossroads of tracks.
10.3miles/16.6km	770yds/700m	Turn right at the crossroads, following a twin track, one half concreted, the other not, gently uphill. Look out for a faint path into the forest, obscured by trees, leaving to your left just after a patch of open ground.
10.6miles/17km	440yds/400m	Turn left on this faint track through the forest, until you reach a crossroads of tracks
10.6miles/17.4km	440yds/400m	Turn right at this crossroads of tracks, following a broad earth track. When it takes a right-angle turn left, keep straight on along a narrow path until you reach a lane.
11.5miles/18.5km	.7miles/1.1km	Turn right along the lane and continue until you reach the junction with the A1065.
12.4miles/20km	.9miles/1.5km	At the junction with the A1065, cross straight over and continue along the B1108 towards the village of Bodney. Note: We are following this route to avoid another stretch walking alongside the A1065 but, if you prefer, you can turn left at this junction and walk along the grass verge to Hilborough. This is not recommended as the verge is soft and uneven and the traffic fast. The notes from here assume you are not doing that. As the lane drops down and you see the village of Bodney ahead of you, look out for a lane on your left.
13.2miles/21.3km	.7mile/1.3km	Turn left into the lane, and follow until it reaches the A1065 on the outskirts of Hilborough.
13.9miles/22.4km	990yds/900m	Turn right onto the A1065, walking along the grass verge until pavement starts as you reach Hilborough. Look out for a track on your right, with a sign that says ‘To Church’
14.1miles/22.7km	330yds/300m	Turn right down the track

14.3miles/23.1km	440yds/400m	Arrive at All Saints To continue, leave by the gate to the west of the church and take the faint path that turns sharp left outside the churchyard, descending to your right at an angle of roughly 45degrees, and returning you to the A1065 adjacent the entrance to Hilborough Hall.

14.6miles/23.5km	440yds/400m	Turn right on the pavement alongside the A1065. Continue through the village.
14.9miles/24km	550yds/500m	Arrive at The Swan hotel, Hilborough. To continue, turn right out of the Swan. The pavements ends here and you have a short stretch on the grass verge. Look out for a lane leaving the A road on your right.
15.3miles/24.6km	660yds/600m	Turn right into the lane, signposted Gt Cressingham. Note: At this point, the A road turns sharp left, so the lane you take actually heads straight on. There is also a lane on your right at this point, Home Ln, which you should not take. Continue until you reach a crossroads.
16.1miles/26km	.8mile/1.4km	Turn right at the crossroads, signposted Gt Cressingham.
16.3miles/26.3km	440yds/400m	Arrive at the Olde Windmill Inn, where this stage ends.