

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ROUTE OVERVIEW

13.7 miles (22.1km)

This is a very rural section, with no towns along it, and no pubs or shops directly on the route. This limits options to spread this stage over two days, especially since the only pub at North Pickenham, the rough half-way point, was closed at the time of research and publication. The most practical option is either to leave the path at North Pickenham and walk to Swaffham (2.4 miles/3.9km off the route) or to follow the route for another 1.6 miles/2.6km to the A47 services and call a taxi to pick you up from there, returning the next morning.

You will follow the Peddars Way for almost the entire stage. From Great Cressingham it is a steady but comfortable climb by lane to join the Peddars Way, which runs as a quiet lane through a gentle descent to South Pickenham, reached in **2.9 miles**. St Mary's, Houghton on the Hill is another **1.4 miles** along the Peddars Way, shortly after which you follow it across country to descend to North Pickenham, reached in **2 miles**.

On the second half of the stage, the Peddars Way runs Roman-road straight, ascending steadily but comfortably to cross the A47 (in **2.3 miles**) then descending to South Acre (a further **4.2 miles**). The final stretch runs uphill to Castle Acre, reached in **0.9 miles**.

Public transport options

There are no towns or railway stations on this stage and only infrequent community bus services (No 12 between Swaffham & North Pickenham, and the No 32 Swaffham Flexibus via Castle Acre). See also public transport map and table pp29-31.

All villages along the path are accessible from Swaffham (1.5 miles/2.4km off route) by taxi. Try *Swaffham Taxis* (☎ 0800-6129063) or *Al's Cabs* (☎ 01760-720002).

Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Great Cressingham** (see Stage 10, p143)
- **North Pickenham** (after 6.7 miles, 10.8km) The only pub, The *Blue Lion* (☎ 01760-622527, bluelionpub.com) was closed at time of research; check if this has reopened.
- **Swaffham** (on foot after 7 miles/11.3km then off route 2.4 miles/3.9km; by taxi from A47 services after 8.6 miles/13.9km then off route 1.5 miles/2.4km) Two friendly former coaching inns offer options to stay and eat here – there's the *Red Lion* (☎ 01760-721022,

- **Terrain** Following the Peddars Way along quiet lanes, tracks and footpaths over gently undulating country
- **Difficulty** Easy/moderate
- **Cumulative distance from London** 155.8 miles (251.1km)
- **Time** 4 hours 50 mins actual walking time ● **Total ascent** 234m/767ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 236 *King's Lynn, Downham Market & Swaffham*
- **GPX route file & directions*** 511.pdf, 511.gpx, 511.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press> * See pp27-8 for more information on downloads

redlionswaffham.co.uk, 87 Market Pl; open Mon & Tue 6-10pm, Wed-Fri noon-3pm & 6-11pm, Sat noon-midnight, Sun noon-8pm, food Mon-Sat noon-8pm, Sun noon-6pm; 10 en-suite rooms) on the main square; and dating from 16th century, *The George* (☎ 01760-721238, georgehotel-swaffham.co.uk, Station St; open from 11am, food daily noon-2.15pm, 6pm-9.30pm) has 28 en-suite rooms.

● **A47** (after 8.6miles/13.9km) Fast food is available at *Swaffham Services* (motorwayservices.uk/Swaffham) which has a McDonalds and the adjacent garage has Costa Coffee, snacks and toilets.

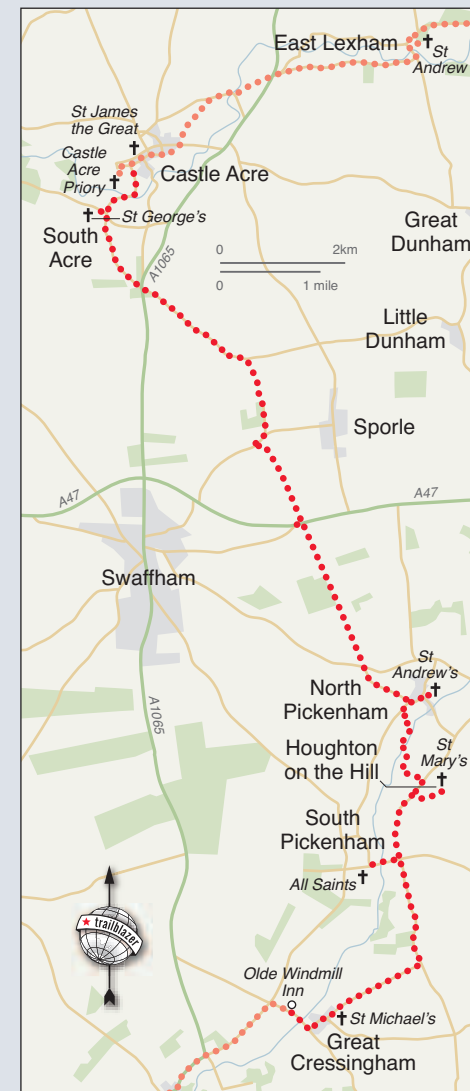
● **Sporle** (after 9.9 miles/15.9km, then off route 0.9 miles/1.4km) If passing through on a Sunday, treat yourself to lunch at *The Squirrel's Drey* (☎ 01760-788101, squirrels-drey.co.uk, 70 The Street; Mon & Tue closed, food Wed-Sat 5.30pm-9.30pm, Sun noon-3pm), a small and cosy family-run pub and restaurant.

● **Castle Acre** With atmospheric rooms and good food, the 16th century *Ostrich Inn* (☎ 01760-755398, theostrich.pub, Stocks Green; open Tue-Sun noon-10/11pm, Mon closed, food Tue-Sat noon-8pm, Sun noon to 6pm) is a former coaching inn overlooking the village green. Alternatively, former pub the *Old Red Lion* (☎ 01760-755557, oldredlion.org.uk; Bailey St) is now a hostel with private rooms and dormitories. For

other accommodation options in and near the village see castleacre.info/accommodation.htm. Takeaway food is on offer at *Castle Acre Fish and Chips* (☎ 01760-755234; Tue-Fri noon-2pm, 4pm-8pm, Sat 11.30am-2pm, 4pm-8.30pm, Sun & Mon closed) is at Foxes Meadow, off Back Lane.

Services

- **Swaffham** has supermarkets Waitrose (Mon-Sat 7.30am-8pm, Sun 10am-4pm) on Castle Acre Rd, and Tesco (Mon-Sat 6am-10pm, Sun 10am-4pm) at 15 Brocks Rd.
- **Castle Acre** Stock up on essentials at convenience store Spar (Mon-Sat 6am-8pm, Sun 8am-6pm) on Back Lane.



		LONDON TO WALSINGHAM CAMINO
		Stage 11: Great Cressingham to Castle Acre
Route revised 27.4.23. Amendments in red		Two minor adjustments to take footpaths alongside lanes, not impact on distance walked
Distance from start	Distance from last waypoint	
0	0	Turn left out of the <i>Olde Windmill Inn</i> and walk down the lane to Gt Cressingham, looking out for The Street, a turning on your left. The lanes on this stage are narrow, but traffic is very light, and there is generally a verge you can step on to if necessary.
440yds/400m	440yds/400m	Turn left into The Street, until you reach St Michael's church , where the road divides and Priory Drove goes left.
880yds/800m	440yds/400m	To continue from St Michael's church , take Priory Drove, and continue until you reach a T-junction, with Caudle Hill crossing right to left.
1.5miles/2.5km	1.1miles/1.7km	Turn left into Caudle hill. You join the Peddars Way here, and there is a fingerpost bearing a purple roundel for this long-distance path at this point. Continue until you see a road sign for South Pickenham pointing left.
2.6miles/4.2km	1.1miles/1.7km	To visit All Saints, South Pickenham, turn left here.
2.9miles/4.7km	550yds/500m	Arrive at All Saints , South Pickenham. To continue, retrace your steps to Caudle Hill.
3.2miles/5.2km	550yds/500m	Turn left onto Caudle Hill, looking out for a sign indicating the footpath goes behind the hedge.
3.7miles/6km	880yds/800m	Take the footpath, signposted Peddars Way
3.8miles/6.2km	220yds/200m	Where a farm track crosses the path, turn right out onto the lane A white-on-black fingerpost points up a rising track on the other side of the lane to St Mary's Church. There is also a Bridleway fingerpost at this point. Take the track to reach St Mary's Houghton on the Hill.

4.3miles/6.9km	770yds/700m	Arrive at St Mary's . To continue, retrace your steps to Caudle Hill.
4.7miles/7.5km	660yds/600m	Turn right onto Caudle Hill, and continue until you see a Peddars Way fingerpost pointing left off the lane onto a footpath.
4.8miles/7.8km	330yds/300m	Turn left, following the Peddars Way sign. Walk downhill along the field margin until you reach the far side of the field, where a Peddars Way sign points right.
5.1miles/8.2km	440yds/400m	Turn right, following the Peddars Way sign, and continue as the path bears left, crossing the River Wissey, then right. Three further turns – left, right, left – take you to South Pickenham Rd.
5.8miles/9.4km	220yds/200m	Turn right onto South Pickenham Rd, and walk in to North Pickenham, where you reach The Street.
6miles/9.7km	330yds/300m	Turn right into The Street and continue until, before the Blue Lion pub, the road divides. Keep to the left of the Blue Lion, into Hillside, and look for a track on your right leading to St Andrew's.
6.2miles/10km	330yds/300m	Arrive at St Andrews , North Pickenham. To continue, retrace your steps to the Blue Lion.
6.3miles/10.2km	220yds/200m	Arrive at the Blue Lion . Continue to retrace your steps on The Street, passing South Pickenham Rd, walking until you reach a crossroads. North Pickenham Rd crosses left to right, Procession Ln goes straight on. From here, you are back on the Peddars Way.
7miles/11.3km	0.7mile/1.1km	<i>If you would like to split the route and overnight at Swaffham, you can divert there from this point. It is a walk of 2.4miles/3.9km. To Swaffham: Turn left here on North Pickenham Rd. Continue for 2.2miles/3.5km until you reach White Cross Rd. Turn left into White Cross Rd. In 400yds/440m you will reach London St. Turn right here for Swaffham town centre.</i> <i>To regain the main route, retrace your steps along White Cross Rd and, when you reach North Pickenham Rd, turn left. Walk for 400m/440yds until you reach Norwich Rd. Turn right into Norwich Rd. Continue for 1.3miles/2.1km until you reach the A47 at a roundabout. Cross over to</i>

		<p><i>the north side of this road and turn right. You will regain the main route in 100m/110yds at Procession Ln, the Peddars Way. Turn left into Procession Ln and pick up the directions below.</i></p> <p>To continue on the main route: Go straight on along Procession Ln, now a track and signposted Peddars Way. Continue until you reach the A47.</p>
8.5miles/13.8km	1.5miles/2.5km	At the A47, Peddars Way (signposted) goes straight on, but it is easier and safer to cross by turning left and walking 100yds up to the roundabout.
8.6miles/13.9km	110yds/100m	<p>At the roundabout, use the traffic island between lanes to cross over.</p> <p>There is a service area at this point with a McDonalds.</p> <p>To continue, walk back along the A47 to the continuation of the Peddars Way and turn left to follow it. Where the route swings left to join Sporle Rd, look out for a turning on your right, signposted Peddars Way.</p>
9.7miles/15.6km	1.1miles/1.7km	Turn right into Sporle Rd, looking out for Palgrave Rd, a turning on your left.
		<i>If you wish to visit the Squirrel's Drey gastro pub in Sporle (see book for details) go straight on at this point. The pub is in the northern part of the village (turn left in Sporle to reach it) and 0.9miles off the route. Then retrace your steps.</i>
9.8miles/15.8km	220yds/200m	Turn left into Palgrave Rd, continue to Southacre Rd, close to Great Palgrave.
10.6miles/17.1km	0.8miles/1.3km	Turn left into Southacre Rd, passing through the hamlet of Great Palgrave (signposted Peddars Way). Look out for a Peddars Way fingerpost that directs you onto a footpath behind the left-hand hedge.
11.2miles/18.1km	0.6mile/1km	Take the footpath behind the hedge and follow it until it rejoins the lane, after which you continue to the A1065 at Bartholomew's Hills
11.8miles/19.1km	0.6mile/1km	Cross the A1065 and take South Acre Rd, on the opposite side, signposted Peddars Way. Continue until you reach a crossroads, where South Acre is signposted to the left.
12.7miles/20.4km	0.8miles/1.3km	If you are visiting St George's church in South Acre, turn left at this crossroads, leaving the Peddars Way.
12.8miles/20.7km	330yds/300m	Arrive at St George's , South Acre.

		To continue, retrace your steps to South Acre Rd and turn left, regaining the Peddars Way. The lane dips down steeply to ford the River Nar (there is a footbridge) and then turns left to climb up to Castle Acre village.
13.7miles/22.1km	0.9mile/1.4km	Arrive at Castle Acre.