

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ROUTE OVERVIEW

15.9 miles (25.6km)

Options to divide this stage are limited. At around 5.5 miles (8.8km) in on today's 15.9 mile stage, Litcham is nowhere near half way, but it does have an inn and a grocery, so is a good place to stock up. Tittleshall is at the half-way point, but has no facilities. See below for taxis covering the route.

From Castle Acre the route follows the Nar Valley Way on a level path close to the river, before a short gentle climb up a lane to East Lexham, reached in **3.7 miles**. Quiet roads take you on to Litcham, in **1.9 miles**, the most substantial village on the stage. It is **2.9 miles** more on level lanes to Tittleshall, the half-way point.

Whissonsett is a further **2.4 miles**, mainly on footpaths, and it is **2.5 miles** more to Colkirk, once again on quiet lanes. Fakenham is reached in another **2.5 miles**.

Public transport options

Again, you are deep in the countryside here. Other than the infrequent No 32 community bus between Castle Acre and Litcham, the only viable transport option on this stage is a taxi. Among operators are *Tiny's Taxis* (☎ 01328-888888, 🌐 www.tinys.org.uk) and *Jak's Taxis* (☎ 01328-887488, 🌐 jaktaxis.co.uk), both based in Fakenham. See also pp29-31.

Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Castle Acre** (see Stage 11, p155)

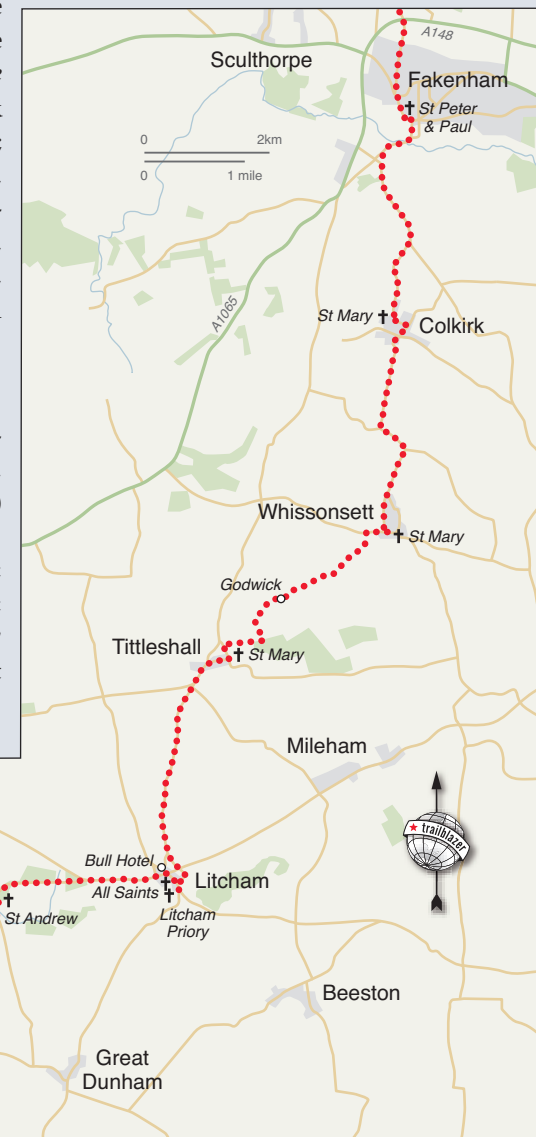
- **Terrain** Following footpaths and quiet lanes over very flat country
- **Difficulty** Moderate
- **Cumulative distance from London** 171.6miles (276.4km)
- **Time** 5 hours 30 mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 218m / 715ft
- **Maps** OS Explorer: 238 *Dereham & Aylsham*, 251 *Norfolk Coast Central*
- **GPX route file & directions*** 512.pdf, 512.gpx, 512.kml at 🌐 <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press> * See pp27-8 for more information on downloads

- **Litcham** (after 5.5 miles, 8.8km) **Stay and eat** at *Bull Inn* (☎ 01328-701340; check with pub for current opening and food hours; 1 Church St), a village inn with rooms.
- **Godwick** (after 9.6 miles 15.4km) *Godwick Hall* (☎ 01328-701948, 🌐 godwickhall.co.uk, Mill Lane; 2 nights minimum) is a possible **accommodation** point if you are prepared to splash out on one of its three swanky shepherds huts.

- **Fakenham Accommodation** options include *Wensum Lodge Hotel* (☎ 01328-862100, 🌐 wensumlodge.co.uk; Bridge St; 17 en-suite rooms) by the river and part of a former mill dating from 1750; and *Erika's B&B* (☎ 01328 863058, 🌐 erikas-bandb.co.uk; 3 Gladstone Rd NR21 9BZ) six en-suite rooms in a modern house close to the town centre. For a **meal** head to *The Crown* (☎ 01328-855278, 🌐 [facebook.com & search The Crown Fakenham](https://www.facebook.com/TheCrownFakenham); 6 Market Pl; open Mon-Sat 10am-late, Sun from 11am, food Mon-Wed noon-2pm, Thur-Sat noon-2pm & 6-9pm, Sun carvery noon-3pm), a friendly, 15th-century local and former pilgrim hostelry.

Services

- **Litcham Post office Stores** (☎ 0345-7223344; open Mon-Sat 7.30am-7pm, Sun 9am-1pm; Church St PE32 2NS) grocery with in-store bakery.
- **Fakenham Aldi** (Norwich Rd; Mon-Sat 8am-10pm, Sun 10am-4pm); *The Larder wholefoods store* (☎ 01328-855306, 10 Norwich St; Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun closed.)



		LONDON TO WALSINGHAM CAMINO
		Stage 12: Castle Acre to Fakenham
27 Feb 2023		<p>Updates were made to the downloadable walking instructions, gpx and kml files as follows:</p> <p>Newton Mill: At Newton Mill, at the 1.2mile point, a temporary diversion is in place, taking the Nar Valley Way further down the lane before turning left to shadow the original route, rejoining it at the 1.9mile point.</p> <p>Colkirk: at the 13 mile point there is an amended route through the village of Colkirk, followed by a new route to Hempton Green, on the outskirts of Fakenham, rejoining the original route at the 15.5mile point.</p>
Distance from start	Distance from last direction	Direction
0km	0km	This stage of the walk begins at Castle Acre Priory . From the priory walk north, and turn right onto lane through Castle Acre village.
360yds/330m	360yds/330m	Arrive at St James the Great . To continue, turn right out of the churchyard and walk along High St through the village to Pye's Ln.
620yds/570m	260m/240m	Where High St swings left, continue straight on along Pye's Ln.
880yds/800m	610yds/560m	Just past the ruined castle, where Pye's Ln turns sharp left, continue straight on to take a footpath.
.7mile/1.1km	330yds/300m	Where the path reaches a lane, cross over and continue straight ahead along a narrow lane that reduces to a track as it approaches Broadmeadow Common.
.9miles/1.4km	330yds/300m	Where the track bears left, just before Broadmeadow Common, take the footpath that bears right off the track.
1mile/1.6km	550yds/500m	Ford the stream and continue straight on until you reach a lane.
1.2miles/2km	440yds/400m	When the path reaches a lane, a little before Newton Mill, bear right onto it, passing Newton Mill. NOTE: There is currently a diversion at Newton Mill, but it may be removed at short notice.

		<p>If the diversion is in place, continue along the lane past Newton Mill for 100yds. Look out for a Nar Valley way fingerpost pointing left off the lane.</p> <p>If the diversion is not in place, turn sharp left along the path immediately alongside Newton Mill, with the buildings on your left. There should be a fingerpost with a Nar valley way roundel on it pointing in this direction.</p>
1.6miles/2.6km	660yds/600m	<p>This direction applies while the diversion is in place.</p> <p>Turn left, as indicated by the Nar Valley fingerpost and a hand-made wooden sign reading 'Nar Valley Way Temporary Diversion'. Immediately after turning onto this path, you come to an unsignposted Y junction. Take the right-hand fork of the Y. Continue, skirting the pits on your left, until you reach a track.</p>
1.9miles/3km	440yds/400m	Turn right on the track, and continue until you reach the A1065.
2.1miles/3.4km	440yds/400m	Cross the A1065 and continue down the lane on the other side until you reach a T-junction.
3.5miles/5.7km	1.4miles/2.3km	At a T junction of lanes on the outskirts of East Lexham, turn left and follow Lexham Rd until you reach another T-junction.
3.7miles/6km	220yds/200m	At the T-junction of lanes, turn right.
3.8miles/6.1km	110yds/100m	Turn right onto a farm track to reach St Andrew's, East Lexham's round tower church.
3.9miles/6.2km	110yds/100m	<p>Arrive at St Andrew's, East Lexham.</p> <p>To continue, retrace your steps to the lane, turn right and follow it to the B1145.</p>
4.9miles/7.9km	1mile/1.6km	Where the lane reaches the B1145, Lexham Rd, bear right onto it, and cross over. After a row of houses, a footpath takes you behind the hedge to follow the field margin to the outskirts of the village of Litcham.
5.6miles/9.1km	.7mile/1.1km	Bear right off the B1145 onto a lane into Litcham.
5.8miles/9.3km	220yds/200m	Bear right into Church St for the centre of the village. The Bull Inn is on your left, the village store just after it on your right.
5.8miles/9.4km	110yds/100m	Arrive at All Saints . To continue, turn left out of All Saints and walk down Church St, looking out for Priory Farm on your right, just before the river.
6miles/9.6km	220yds/200m	<p>Arrive at Priory Farm, which was Litcham Priory.</p> <p>To continue, retrace your steps up Church St, looking out for Druids Ln on your right</p>

6.1miles/9.8km	220yds/200m	Turn right into Druids Lane and follow it as it makes a right-angled turn left and brings you to the B1145.
6.3miles/10.2km	440yds/400m	Cross straight over the B1145 and continue along Back Ln.
6.4miles/10.3km	110yds/100m	Continue straight on where Back Ln joins Tittleshall Rd, which becomes Litcham Rd.
7.8miles/12.6km	1.4miles/2.2km	At a junction, where a lane joins from the right and a footpath from the left, continue straight on along Litcham Rd.
8.1miles/13.1km	550yds/500m	At a staggered junction, with Mileham Rd joining from the right and Heath Ln slightly later from the left, keep straight on towards Tittleshall, on what is now Fakenham Rd.
8.4miles/13.5km	440yds/400m	Where Wellingham Rd joins from the left, and Fakeham Rd goes straight on, bear slight right on High St to continue into Tittleshall.
8.6miles/13.9km	440yds/400m	Where High St meets Church Rd at a T-junction, turn left. St Mary's church Tittleshall is on your right.
8.7miles/14km	110yds/100m	Arrive at St Mary's , Tittleshall. To continue, turn right out of St Mary's.
8.8miles/14.1km	110yds/100m	At the T junction on the outskirts of Tittleshall, where Church Ln joins Fakenham Rd, turn right onto a footpath, marked with a fingerpost. The Ordnance Survey shows a right of way running diagonally left across this field, and the path is often marked through the crop by the farmer. If there is no clear diagonal path, or it is very muddy, you might prefer to follow the field margin. If you do, turn left at the foot of the field until, in the next corner, you see a stile to your right. If you use the diagonal option, the path will lead straight to the stile on the far side of the field. The following distance points relate to walkers using the latter.
9.2miles/14.8km	770yds/700m	Go right over the stile. In the next field, the OS shows a path running diagonally across. However, this is not evident on the ground. The field margin is well walked, despite a sign saying the Permissive Path here is no longer operational. Walk the margin on your right then, after turning left at the corner of the field, look out for a stile about half way along this margin.
9.5miles/15.3km	550yds/500m	Climb the stile into the next field, and Godwick's ruined church tower comes up on your right.
9.6miles/15.4km	110yds/100m	Arrive at Godwick's interpretation board
9.7miles/15.7km	330yds/300m	Leave the village site, crossing over the stile and through a succession of fields.

10.5miles/17km	.8mile/1.3km	Where the footpath meets a farm track on the outskirts of Whissonsett, turn left onto it. Then, after 30yds, take the footpath on your right, leading diagonally across a field to Mill Ln, and the village.
10.7miles/17.3km	330yds/300m	When the path joins Mill Ln, turn right onto it, passing London Rd on your left, until you reach the churchyard of St Mary's, also on your left.
10.9miles/17.5km	220yds/200m	Arrive at St Mary's , Whissonset. To continue, retrace your steps and turn right into London St.
11.3miles/18.2km	770yds/700m	Where New Rd joins from the right, bear left to follow the lane you are on, which is now named Colkirk Rd. Continue until a T-junction, where Oxwick Rd runs right to left.
11.8miles/19km	880yds/800m	Turn left into Oxwick Rd. This becomes Whissonsett Rd.
12.2miles/19.6km	660yds/600m	Where Whissonsett Rd bears right at the T-junction of lanes before Manor Farm, bear right to remain on it towards the village of Colkirk.
13miles/21km	.8mile/1.4km	At the staggered T-junction in Colkirk, turn left onto School Rd, then right onto Gormans Ln until it reaches Church Rd. You will see St Mary's on the far side of Church Rd.
13.1miles/21.1km	110yds/100m	Arrive at St Mary's , Colkirk. To continue, return to Church Rd and turn right onto it. The lane becomes a byway, with a fingerpost reading 'Restricted Byway' after you pass its junction with Gormans Ln.
13.8miles/22.3km	330yds/300m	Continue along the byway as it bears slight right.
14miles/22.5km	330yds/300m	Continue along the byway as it bears left, a less distinct track branching off to the right, until, at a T-junction, you reach a lane.
14.1miles/22.7km	220yds/200m	Turn right on to the lane. There are wide verges on either side, but the one on the right-hand side is best. Continue until you reach the A1065.
15miles/24.1km	.9mile/1.4km	Turn right onto the A1065, following the pavement on the right-hand side, until you reach Hempton Rd.
15.1miles/24.3km	220yds/200m	Turn right to follow Hempton Rd across Hempton Green, continuing straight on over a crossroads, until you reach Dereham Rd, B1146.
15.6miles/25.2km	.5mile/900m	Turn right onto Dereham Rd, B1146
15.9miles/25.6km	440yds/400m	Cross the River Wensum.

16miles/25.7km	110yds/100m	At the mini-roundabout, go straight on into Bridge St.
16.1miles/25.9km	220yds/200m	When Bridge St meets Market Pl at a T-junction, turn left. Look out for the church of St Peter and St Paul, the tower of which appears over the rooftops to your right.
16.2miles/26km	220yds/200m	Arrive at the church of St Peter and St Paul , where this stage ends.