



Binham to Stiffkey via Cockthorpe

Linear walk using Holt to Wells-next-the-Sea bus service to reach Binham Priory. A gentle walk takes you through rolling countryside, across a disused airfield runway, then through a secluded common to Stiffkey

Getting started

This superb linear walk requires a little planning to make an adventure of the day by using public transport. Check out current bus timetables on the [Traveline website](#) or ring 0871 200 22 33.

Suggested travel based on the current timetable: use the Holt to Wells-next-the-Sea [Sanders](#) 46 bus service to Binham (this service is Monday to Friday only). After looking around Binham Priory (free entry), walk from Binham to Stiffkey and to return catch the [Coasthopper](#) Wells to Sheringham bus in Stiffkey. For Holt change at Morston or Blakeney onto Service 46 or at Sheringham Sanders service 5.

Ordnance Survey Norfolk Coast Central Explorer map number 251 covers this area.



Cockthorpe Common

Refreshments

There are several cafes, restaurants and public houses to choose from at the start and finish of the walk in Holt, Wells-next-the-Sea and Sheringham, as well as several shops to buy tasty picnic ingredients to take with you.

Close to the bus stop in Binham is The Chequers Inn, the home of Front Street Brewery. No booking is needed if you wish to have lunch before the walk. In Stiffkey village there is the Red Lion PH

What to expect

Allow at least 2.5 hours for this 5.3 mile walk. Start by looking around Binham Priory, an English Heritage site which is open all year. The walk then follows quiet country roads and public footpaths across a disused Second World War airfield, down through the beautiful Cockthorpe Common, beside Stiffkey Fen before finishing up with a short section of the Norfolk Coast Path.

There is a bit of a hill near the start. Look out for signs requesting that dogs be kept on leads.



Langham Airfield and Trainer Dome



Along the way . . .



Cockthorpe Common
Vanessa Brumby

The landscape

After walking through rolling farmland and crossing the disused runway and perimeter tracks of Langham Second World War Airfield, you reach Cockthorpe Common. This common is set in a beautiful valley with grazed pasture at the bottom and arable fields lining the upper slopes.

The walk follows the edge of Stiffkey salt marshes. The scenery here is very different from the agricultural feel to the start of the walk, with an expanse of exposed marshlands where natural forces predominate. This shifting mosaic of coastal wetland habitat is a National Nature Reserve of international ecological importance.

Explore more . . .

Bring your binoculars and allow enough time for a spot of bird watching. Stiffkey Fen, about a mile before the end of the walk, is a good place to stop. You start to see glimpses of the fen through the hedge-lined path just after crossing the main road on your way to the Norfolk Coast Path. The best views are from the top of the bank which overlooks the fen and adjacent marshes. The fen, formed from an arable field, is an area of fresh water lagoon and islands and attracts a great variety of bird life throughout the year.



Stiffkey Fen



Binham Priory

Along the way . . .

The medieval landscape of Binham is dominated by the stunning Benedictine Priory founded in the late 11th Century and is one of the best preserved monastic ruins in Norfolk. The nave of the priory is still in use as the parish church of St Mary's and well worth a visit. Its dissolution in 1539 led to the decline of the small medieval market town of Binham. The ruins beside the church are owned by Norfolk Archaeological Trust and under the guardianship of English Heritage.

If history is your interest then [Rescue Wooden Boats](#) museum at Stiffkey and the [Langham Dome](#) on the former Langham airfield may interest you.

The **Norfolk Coast area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)** is one of 42 AONBs in England and Wales, which together with 13 national parks comprise our finest landscapes, rich in wildlife and cultural heritage.

The **Norfolk Coast Partnership** is funded by Defra and local authorities to bring local organisations together to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty and promote its sustainable use and enjoyment.



Walk instructions

1 Start this walk at the bus shelter on Front Street, Binham. From the bus stop, walk down the hill, turn left just after The Chequers public house and walk up to the priory on Warham Road.

After looking around the priory ruins, leave via a gate behind the priory and walk across the field. Climb the stile out of the field and turn left at the road junction. Walk up the hill.

2 As the road bears sharp left continue ahead onto a public footpath, this is signposted on the right hand side of the road. Keep the hedge on the right at the start. The footpath is almost a straight line over a disused airfield and through a meadow grazed by horses: several waymark posts indicate the direction.

3 Climb the stile out of the field, cross the road in Cockthorpe and walk down the lane opposite, the public footpath along this lane opens out into Cockthorpe Common.

Enjoy a walk through the secluded common in the valley, crossing the bridge on the left as the common winds around to the right. Follow the footpath beside the River Stiffkey on the left.

Just before reaching the busy main road, turn right: there is a permissive path beside the hedge to keep you away from the traffic. Continue along this path to the end.

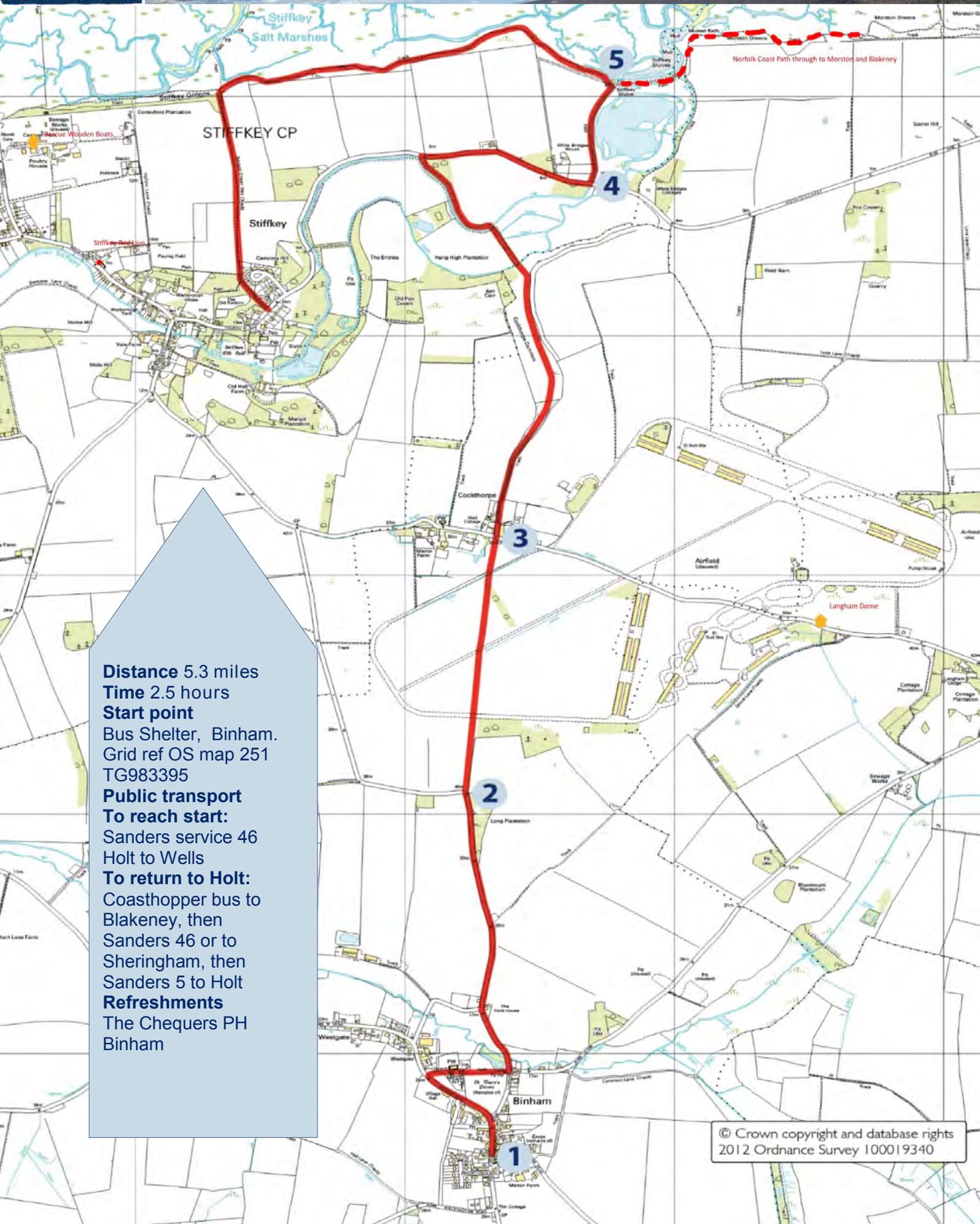
4 Cross the road at the end to the footpath opposite; a wooden fingerpost indicates the direction next to the bridge. Follow the path beside the river and reed bed, you can catch a glimpse of Stiffkey Fen just behind the reeds on the right.

5 Climb the steps at the end and turn left on reaching the Norfolk Coast Path. Follow this for approximately 1 mile turning first left onto the public bridleway to Stiffkey: this starts between the National Trust Stiffkey salt marshes and Norfolk Coast Path Morston/Wells signs.

Turn left at the road and walk to the Stiffkey Coasthopper bus stop.

Explore More tip still have some energy left?
Stay on the Norfolk Coast Path for another 4.5 miles to walk into Wells or by turning right as you join the coast path at Stiffkey Fen and walk through to Morston or Blakeney (catch the Sanders 46 back to Holt if this was your starting point)





Distance 5.3 miles
Time 2.5 hours
Start point
 Bus Shelter, Binham.
 Grid ref OS map 251
 TG983395
Public transport
To reach start:
 Sanders service 46
 Holt to Wells
To return to Holt:
 Coasthopper bus to
 Blakeney, then
 Sanders 46 or to
 Sheringham, then
 Sanders 5 to Holt
Refreshments
 The Chequers PH
 Binham

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