



THE TURKS HEAD

**The Turks Head, Low Road,
Hasketon. IP13 6JG**

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Opening times: -

Monday – Thursday	11:00 until 23:00
Food	12:00 – 15:00 and 18:00 – 21:00
Friday	11:00 until 00:00
Food	12:00 – 15:00 and 18:00 – 21:00
Saturday	10:00 until 00:00
Food	10:00 - 15:00 and 18:00 - 21:00
Sunday	11:00 until 20:00
Food	12:00 – 17:00

Cycle Route 5 – Around the Fynn valley

A circular cycle ride of approximately 21.4 km/13.4 miles that will take you along quiet country lanes through some beautiful Suffolk countryside around the Fynn valley. The route does have two stretches where you will be off road along bridleways, to enjoy the full rural experience.

Fold

Description

As soon as you leave The Turks Head you will be immersed in the beautiful rural Suffolk countryside. Experience an abundance of wildlife around you and wide, open skies above filled with bird song. With luck you will see birds such as Buzzards, Kestrels, Merlin, Kingfisher, Thrushes, Pheasant or Lapwing, whilst at ground level you could be fortunate enough to see Deer, Fox, Badger, Otter, Stoats, Rabbits or Hares.

As you pass between Hasketon and neighbouring Burgh you will pass the very pleasant Grade II listed Hasketon Hall, originally built in 16th Century then added and altered in subsequent centuries. Rising above the landscape is one of the area's more prominent landmarks, Burgh windmill, with its aluminium cap catching the sunlight. Built by a Millwright from Wickham Market in 1824, it stands at 57 feet / 17.37 metres tall, making it an ideal location for the Observer Corps during WW2.

Grundisburgh is the largest village in the area having a population of between 1,500 and 2,000. It is also the setting of the historical novel *A Wicked Deed* by Susanna Gregory. On entering the village, a fine Georgian House will be seen on your right tucked away behind trees; this is the Grade II listed Grundisburgh House. Standing between this magnificent house and St Mary's Church is Tudor house, once owned by the son-in-law of the cook to both Edward IV and Henry VII. First built around 1300, St Mary's Church is well worth a visit.

The journey between Grundisburgh and Tuddenham St Martin goes along a quiet road which allows you to enjoy the openness of the Suffolk countryside. As you approach Tuddenham you will be entering a conservation area. The current small size of the village belies the diverse industry that once existed here, but the local field names provide reminders, such as Osier, Sand Pit, Dove House and Kiln Field. It is also known that there was once a cornmill, windmill, maltings and brick works. St Martin's Church is of Norman design. Within its grounds are interred Carl Giles (and his wife Joan); he will best be remembered as the cartoonist of the Daily Express for several years. There is also a memorial to Sydney Cox, a solicitor who was assisted in the divorce of Wallis Simpson to allow her to marry Edward VIII.

After leaving Tuddenham along the green lane into Rushmere St Andrew you are now entering the suburbs of Ipswich. There has been habitation in Rushmere for over 1,000 years, although due to the ever-increasing population much has changed. The railway line crossed both to and from Rushmere was built by Eastern Union area in 1859.

After crossing the railway towards Playford you get a sense of the beauty of the Fynn valley. Playford Hall is what remains of an Elizabethan mansion, although a farm was present at this location in Norman times. Built in 1595 by Sir Anthony Fenton it fell into disrepair until being refurbished by Thomas Clarkson in the early 1800s. Clarkson was a close friend of Wilberforce and worked with him in the anti-slavery movement.

Bronze Age artefacts have been found in the area around the Bealings villages as well as Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Viking discoveries; fascinating evidence of ancient connections between this peaceful area and continental Europe. The village sign near the bridge depicts a Saxon sword knife that was found within the village. It is also the location of the recently uncovered Neolithic Henge, found when they were preparing to lay electric cables from offshore wind farms. St Mary's Church was built prior to the Norman Conquest. The parents of Thomas Seckford lie within the church and there is also a memorial to him. Thomas Seckford was a senior advisor to Elizabeth I and was a great benefactor to the Woodbridge area including the building of Seckford Hall in the early 1500's. There are picnic tables and benches on the south side of the church.

Waypoint 1

Leave the Turks Head car park and turn right along Low Road. Turn left at the T-junction, then at the staggered crossroad, go right and immediately left. This winding road will take you past Hasketon Hall and you will see Burgh windmill in front. At the crossroads in Burgh turn left down the hill, then left again onto the B 1079 road before turning right into Grundisburgh. In the centre of the village, where the church can be seen, turn right to cross the stream in front of the store.

Waypoint 2

Gradually climb out of the village to see sweeping views of the surrounding countryside then under the electric power cables until reaching a crossroad near Bond's Manor. Turn left towards Tuddenham village. The last part of this road is known as Lark's Hill, where a 250 million-year-old Pliosaurus bone was found in 1999. At the T-junction turn right. Cross the river then cycle up the main road heading towards Ipswich.

Waypoint 3

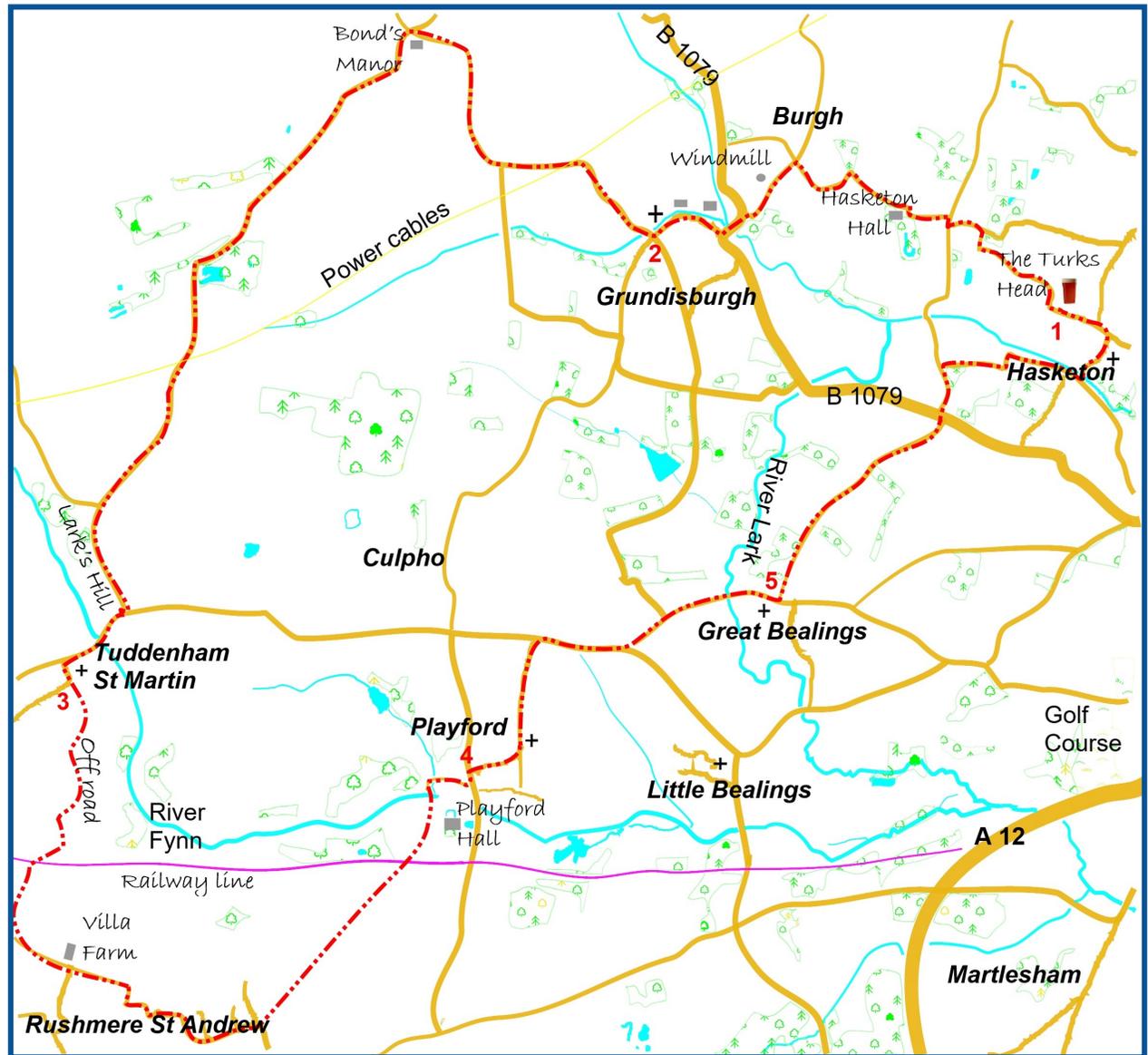
After climbing out of the village fork left at the sharp right-hand bend to go along a marked brideway immediately adjacent to a modern house behind a red brick wall. The next section will take you along a green road around fields to return to tarmac road near the white water tower. Follow the road to the junction adjacent to Villa Farm, then take the left fork. Pedal onwards to the estates that now make up this side of Rushmere St Andrew. Turn right onto The Limes then left onto Rushmere Street. Follow the road around to the right and then turn left onto Playford Lane, at the end of the lane continue along the Bridleway. Cycling through the village of Playford, you will pass the historic Playford Hall and cross the river Fynn before returning to tarmac road, bringing you out opposite Playford village hall.

Waypoint 4

Take Church Lane, diagonally to your left, and follow it up out of the village passing St Mary's church with its impressive Lychgate. Within the churchyard there is an obelisk in memory of Thomas Clarkson, *The Friend of Slaves*, and graves to other members of the family. Also graves of the Airy family who lived in the area, Sir George Airy was the person behind the establishment of Greenwich Mean Time. Carry on up the road to the crossroads to turn right along Boot Street. Just after going over the small bridge crossing the river Lark St Mary's church will be seen on the right, the resting place of many of Thomas Seckford's family.

Waypoint 5

Turn just after the church along Hasketon Road, the top of which is an expansive viewpoint. At the crossroads with the B 1079 road go straight across up Mill Lane, then first right onto Riverside. Follow this twisting road to Church Lane at a small bridge, turn left up Church Lane then left again at the top. The Turks Head will be found a short distance further on where our staff will be happy to serve you with refreshments after your expedition.



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