11 BUNGAY ■ Geldeston ■ Beccles ■ Barsham ■ Ilketshall St Andrew

Distance: 25 miles (40 km) ■ **Time:** 4–4.5 hours

Bungay
A fine market town with a fascinating history. A market has been held on Thursdays on the site of the Buttercross since 1382 - and Thursday is still market day today. You can visit the ruins of the castle (built by Hugh Bigod) and the staithe, mooring place and destination of the wherries. A town guide is available at the castle and the town hall.

1 **Old railway line** – at this point you are cycling on the bed of the old line and you can see the old post and wire fence that kept people and animals off the rail tracks.

2 **Ellingham Mill and Lock** – the lock is to the right of the sluice. Leave your bike next to the sluice and you can walk alongside the lock on the land between the two structures.

3 **Geldeston Lock** – the Locks Inn was first licensed in the 1600s and in the early 1900s it became a well-known wherryman's pub. In the 1960s, the landlady lived upstairs in winter in case of flooding, and even today the pub has limited opening times in winter. The first of the wherry locks can be seen in front of the pub – it's a wherry-shaped structure best seen off the small metal footbridge. Follow the path for a good view from the large wooden bridge.

4 T**own Reach and Beccles Quay** – as you cross the Beccles Old Bridge, there's a good view along Town Reach. At Gillingham Dam, Hippersons offer day boat hire and glamping.

5 I**lketshall old commons** – the next part of the route takes you across several old commons, the traditional areas around villages available for the local people to graze animals and collect hay and wood. Look out for the sign (■) on Mill Road to find out more about the commons.

6 **Mettingham Castle** is another castle built by Hugh Bigod in his quest to rule over East Anglia. The outer walls are wellpreserved and the main entrance is very imposing. In private ownership.

7 **Wainford Lock** is the third and final lock on the trail and the most difficult to see as it is now a sheet-piled channel alongside the old mill building. It is to the left of the sluice as you look from the road.

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Ellingham
Geldeston
Gillingham
Broome
Ditchingham
Ellingham Mill and Lock
Geldeston Lock
Beccles Quay
Wainford Lock
Barsham
Beccles
Bungay
Ilketshall St Andrew
MILL ROAD
LANE
GELDESTON ROAD
OUNBURGH ROAD
GILLINGHAM DAM
RAVENSMERE
BAKERS LANE
CHURCH LANE
LODDON ROAD
A143
River Waveney
LOW ROAD
DEER ROW
B1062
ANGLES WAY
RECTORY LANE
CASTLE ROAD
CLARKE'S LANE
HALL ROAD
MILL LANE
POLLS LANE
CROMWELL ROAD
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
N
0 Kilometres 1 2
0 Miles 0.5 1