13 BURGH ST PETER ■ Aldeby ■ Toft Monks ■ Wheatacre

Distance: 11 miles (18 km) ■ **Time:** 1.5–2 hours

1 **St Mary's Church's** unusual tower was added in the 18th century. An old reverend's family name was Boycott – a son became a land agent whose actions in Ireland led to the introduction of 'boycott' into the English language.

2 **Aldeby church** (pictured) sits on a raised mound which may be an old defensive earthwork and the oldest evidence of human settlement in the village. The church was originally shared with monks from an old priory. Opposite the church is one of the oldest buildings in the village – the former village pub.

3 **Toft Monks Crossing Cottage** used to house the gatekeeper who manned the railway crossing gates. The Beccles to Great Yarmouth line ran across Aldeby peninsula until 1954. You will see several old railway buildings along the trail.

4 **Aldeby Staithe** – follow the old railway track towards the river (right) past the old swing bridge cottage. Park your bikes at the fishing pits and walk along the grass track to the moorings. You can see the old pillars of the swing bridge that operated in the days of steam locomotives. Watch out for the azure blue of kingfishers that often fly along the river. A half-hour circular walk takes you along the river bank, across the marshes, up into the village, then back past Aldeby Hall and along the track to your bikes.

5 **Stanley Hills** comprise heathland resulting from the Ice Age that was originally used for grazing sheep. Good for birds and reptiles, such as grass snakes and the common lizard. It overlooks Stanley Carrs, a wildlife site owned by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

6 **Aldeby Railway Station** ticket office still exists as a house and the yard and the sidings are now a scrapyard. The railway ran across Haddiscoe Marshes to a wooden platform known as the Haddiscoe High Level Station that actually passed over the Lowestoft line and was reached from the Low Level Station by a wooden stairway.

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