

# MARRIOTT'S WAY MILEMARKERS AND SCULPTURE

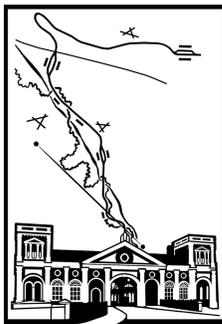
## MILES 0 -10

### **Zipper** mile-marker, Nigel Barnett



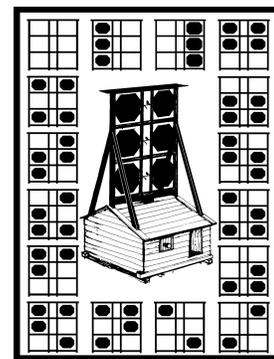
The second set of twenty six mile markers by John Behm with Nigel Barnett was commissioned by Norfolk CC in 2009. Beginning at Norwich the series of mile- posts and plaques are placed at mile intervals, marking the 26 miles to Aylsham, as were the railways measured by mile markers. Nigel Barnett's series of benches are made out of re-used rusted iron, rails and flywheels, picturesquely welded with one taller element besides the bench shape, decorated with John Behm's plaques. Most are informed by the theme of "Movements": railways are about movement, but along the route of Marriott's Way, the walker, cyclist or rider will pass by places associated with widely varying forms of communication, transport, or migration, from the River Wensum to a Roman road, to airfields, and much in between. Each of these was intended to be rubbed, and these notes based on those by John Behm provide background information. They

are accompanied by the drawings used to produce the plaques, although some of these may not yet be in place.



**Mile zero:** The first plaque shows the route of Marriott's Way, together with a Roman road and the pilgrim route to Walsingham, superimposed with an image of the Midland and Great Northern's City Station, which stood in Barn Road, alongside the Wensum. City Station's Italianate building was destroyed in a bombing raid during the Second World War, the site was later redeveloped, the road widened, the roundabout installed. Where once the rather grand, if diminutive, station stood, is now dual carriageway.

**Mile One:** This plaque commemorates the Shutter Telegraph, Britain's first rapid long-distance system of detailed communication. Originally invented for France by Claude Chappe, who coined the word "te'le'graph", it was 're-invented' by the Revd Lord George Murray and the Admiralty commissioned chains of stations from Whitehall, including one to Great Yarmouth early in the nineteenth century. One of its two routes passed south of Lenwade, intersecting Marriott's Way at three points - one very near the site of this sculpture. This plaque shows a cabin with the great frame of the shutter mechanism above, hung with pivoted panels manipulated by ropes inside the station. The system used a code based on 63 combinations of the open and shut shutters, to signal 23 letters. Around the image of the station, the plaque shows combinations forming some of the alphabet.



**Mile Two:** A Norfolk wherry, the broad-beamed shallow-draught barges which plied the Wensum and other rivers, until superceded by the internal-combustion engine. It was easier to move heavy material (or livestock, or people) by water than it was by land. Imagine the effort needed to shift a ton of stone in a wagon over any kind of ground, compared with moving the same load in a boat with a pole, a paddle, or better yet a sail..



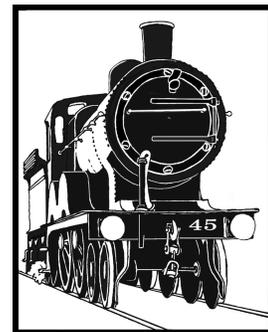
**Mile Three:** *Up and Down Trains.* One steam engine is seen from the footplate of another. There were very few stretches where trains could pass each other at speed, since it was usual to have single lines, with dual tracks normally only at stations. The M&GN pioneered a system of keys which locked sections of single line against other, oncoming traffic, to prevent head-on collisions.

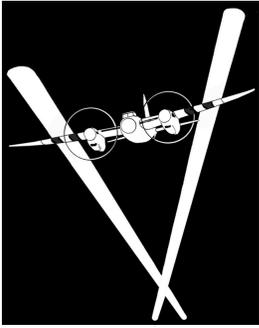
**Mile Four:** This image shows the decorated hilt of an Anglo-Saxon sword, found at Costessey, as a reminder of the coming of the Angles and Saxons from North Germany, and of the violence that marked their conquest of the Romanized British peoples, descendants of Boudicca and her tribe, who lived here at the time.



**Mile Five:** One of two pilgrims, shown in the style of an early woodcut, uses his staff as he walks while his companion carries a parcel on his. They are debating, either fine points of belief, or where they'll spend the night. Pilgrimage, the long walk to a holy place is an important part of many religions. Walsingham was an important shrine, famed for it's Holy House. It was also part of "The Milky Way", a medieval route visiting holy houses dedicated to the Madonna. The stretch of the Marriott's Way at which this sculpture is found parallels, and intersects, the pilgrim route from Norwich to Walsingham

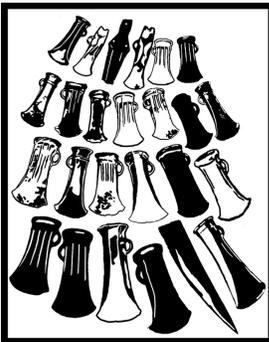
**Mile Six:** William Marriott was the supervising engineer of the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway for about 40 years, operating from headquarters at Melton Constable. A man of tremendous energy, enthusiasm and application, he designed everything. Bridges, the single-line key system, mail- bag collection gadgets and locomotives. This plaque illustrates a typical M&GN 4-4- 0, steam loco, named after the layout of the wheels. The M&GN locos were numbered between 1 and 99, rather than named. Here number 45 steams up the line toward Melton Constable.





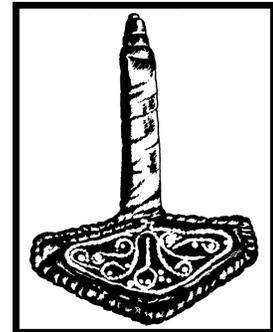
**Mile Seven:** During World War Two, both the RAF and the US Army Air Force built airfields throughout Norfolk, and the route of Marriott's Way is near four airfields: Horsham St. Faith's, Attlebridge, Oulton and Swannington, close enough to the line for coal trains to deliver to the airfield. Swannington was home to Mosquito Fighter-Bombers, and one can be seen between two crossing searchlights, making the pattern of the 'stave and crotchet' used in the design of the runways to allow take off and landing regardless of the direction of the wind.

**Granite slab** on bank on right from Norwich, Les Bicknell and Keith Rackham, inscribed *KAAH-KAAH*, perhaps referring to a rook's call



**Mile Eight:** The Wensum River valley has been the site of many archaeological finds, more especially of Bronze age axe-heads. Some were a ritual offering to the gods, while others were deposited by the maker or trader in bronze tools, secreting his stock against uncertain times. As there was no source in East Anglia of the raw ore to produce bronze, metal goods had to be imported, by foot, in bulk: this image suggests the flow of bronze tools into Norfolk over the course of the Bronze Age.

**Mile Nine:** The North German invaders of the early medieval period, the Anglo-Saxons and the Danish Vikings, brought with them unfamiliar forms of worship, including devotion to Thor. His followers wore a pendant depicting the "Thor Hammer". The finely-wrought example with inlaid silver decoration from which this image is drawn is now in the Norwich Castle Museum, but it was found near here, at Great Witchingham.





**Mile Ten:** Here near Lenwade, Marriott's Way passes both a round barrow cemetery group and the Foxford Henge monument, part of the 'ritual landscape' of the Wensum valley uncovered by recent research. These barrows and Henges played a significant part in the devotion to the gods demonstrated by the scattered populations of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages in the valley of the Wensum.



**Green granite Monolith,** Les Bicknell and Keith Rackham near Lenwade bridge inscribed with early versions of the river Wensum's name: Wensum/ Wenson/ Weneson/ Weysum/ Wantsume/ Winsder/ Wentsat