Waveney Ramblers Halesworth 7 Huntingfield and Cookley

Track: TM 34206 73818 GPX for SatNav 5.1 Miles Updated: 2023

This walk starts from Huntingfield village hall car park in the centre of the village opposite the Huntingfield Arms pub. Turn right out of the car park, pass the village sign and take the road signed Walpole and Halesworth. Cross the bridge and where the road bends right, turn left into the drive to Huntingfield Hall. Before you reach the hall, take the way-marked grassy path on your right that runs uphill past the fenced-off ancient Queen's oak on your right. A wounded deer is said to have sheltered here after being shot by Queen Elizabeth I whilst she was staying at the hall with her cousin Lord Hunsdon.

Continue straight uphill, with new plantations to left and right. When you reach a concrete drive, follow this down to the road ahead. Going down the hill there are fine views of Cookley church nestling in among a small cluster of cottages. At the road turn right and after about 150 yards, turn left up a field-edge path. At the top of the field take the grassy track left at a small clump of trees. After about 80 yards turn right and follow the field-edge track up the slope with hedge on your right. Keep going ahead, ignoring all side tracks, until the end of the right-hand hedge. Here continue your direction ahead with the hedge now on your left. After passing a partly-enclosed pond, turn left onto a waymarked field-edge track with hedge on right.

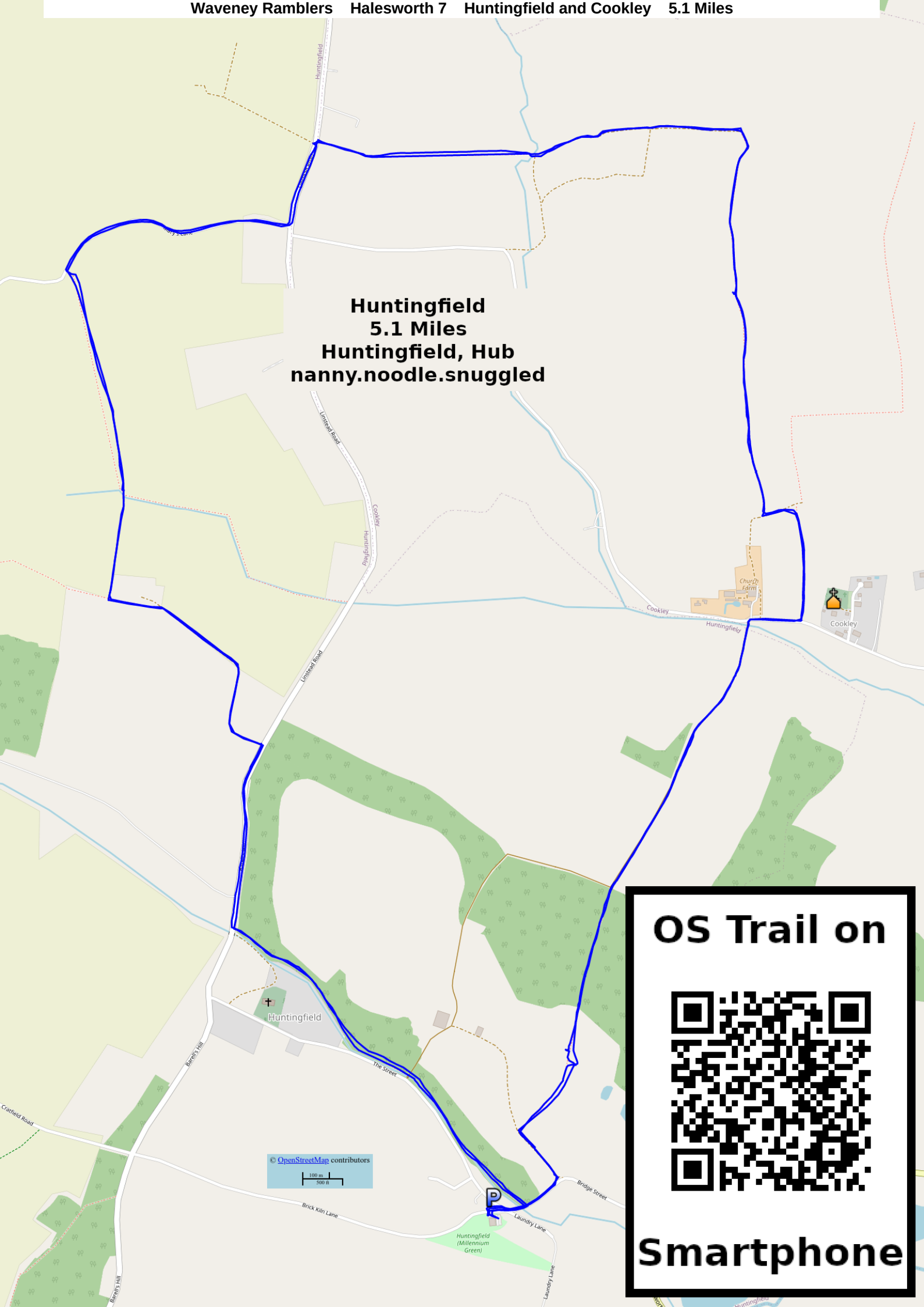
Follow this ahead, ignoring all side tracks, until you reach a small meadow with a dilapidated barn at the bottom right-hand corner. Follow the left-hand edge down to some scrubland in the corner. When you reach a five-bar gate at Bush Farm, take the waymarked path to the right. (Ignore the first path to the right that goes to Linstead.) Go through some bushes, cross the ditch and emerge into an arable field. Turn left up this field aiming for a tall tree, just to the left of a farmhouse, which you will soon see on the horizon. The tree you are targeting is at the end of a hedgerow. Pass this and cross footbridge into a meadow. Continue ahead to a road and turn left for about 150 yards. When you reach a postbox on the left, turn right into Mary's Lane (not marked), which is signed to Cratfield and Linstead Magna.

Follow this winding lane for about 300 yards and, at the second right-hand bend, take the path left at a clump of trees around a pond. Ahead of you, across the field in the distance, is a tall clump of trees and a lower group to the left. Walk across the field, which may well be cropped, aiming for the lower clump of trees which is at the end of a long hedgerow. When you reach the trees continue ahead on the field-edge path with hedge on left, until you reach a cross-hedge with Towranna Farm on your left. Turn left at the oak tree and pass the farm with hedge on your left. When you reach the farm track follow this ahead, pass a bungalow on your left to reach the road. Turn right and go downhill (BarelPs Hill). Pass Old Mill House and entrance drive to Manor Farm, both on your right. Soon after you reach a signed footpath on your left.

* At this point you might wish to make a short detour to visit HuntÃ‚-ingfield Church. If so, take the road ahead and turn left to soon reach the church, which is well worth a visit. The church is renowned for its brightly-painted nave and chancel roofs. These were painted in the I 850s and 60s by Mildred Holland, the rector's wife, whose colourful work is a real labour of love.

Cross the bridge and follow a delightful path that runs parallel to the stream all the way to the village centre. The path widens to run through some attractive beech trees. If you are doing the walk in the spring, the many daffodils here are an extra pleasure. When you reach the road, turn right and retrace your steps to the start. The Huntingfield Arms makes an excellent stopping point for lunch.

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Huntingfield
5.1 Miles
Huntingfield, Hub
nanny.noodle.snuggled
Limstead Road
Cookley
Huntingfield
Church Farm
Cookley
Huntingfield
Barrell's Hill
The Street
Cratfield Road
© OpenStreetMap contributors
100 m
500 ft
Brick Kiln Lane
Bridge Street
Laundry Lane
Huntingfield (Millennium Green)
Laundry Lane
OS Trail on
Smartphone