# Waveney Ramblers  Halesworth 4  South Elmhams St James Michael and Margaret

Track: TM 31990 81042  GPX for SatNav  11 Miles  Updated: 2018

The walk starts from St James' village hall. Turn left out of car park, then right and right again into enclosed path. Go right at cross track, pass pond and bear left at barn into meadow.

Swing right along grassy track and pass through two more meadows to reach track at gap in hedge. Veer left and follow track (St James' Lane) for half a mile. When lane becomes hedged on both sides, turn left into grassy track. At second bend bear right and head for telegraph pole and Bloom's Hall ahead. Pass cottage on left then take path left across arable field. Cross footbridge, turn right, cross another footbridge to reach a bridge and road.

Cross over onto field-edge path. Go over concrete bridge and keep ahead to cross-road of paths, then turn left over grassy path between arable fields. Keep ahead on good track, pass traditional Hulver Farm to reach a road. Turn right and after 200 yards take field-edge path on left. When hedge ends, keep ahead across arable field to fingerpost and concrete drive. Cross over and follow path (hedge left). Where hedge ends, turn left into enclosed track, pass house and, just after pond (right), veer right across St Michael's Green to church. (There might be electric fencing around the common at certain times of the year.) St Michael's Church is a good place to stop, although you might be deterred by the advice on the recently restored stone sundial on the south wall!

At church gates go left then right over common, alongside the churchyard hedge. Cross footbridge, turn left and right on field-edge path. Go through gap in hedge and keep ahead on path down to a footbridge, to cross The Beck. Turn left on a grass path between the fence and hedge, pass through metal gate onto gravel drive in front of cottages, to reach road. Turn right then left onto grassy path. (Note: this footpath has been omitted from the recent Explorer 231 map, but the error will be rectified in future editions. However, the path is officially signed at the road).

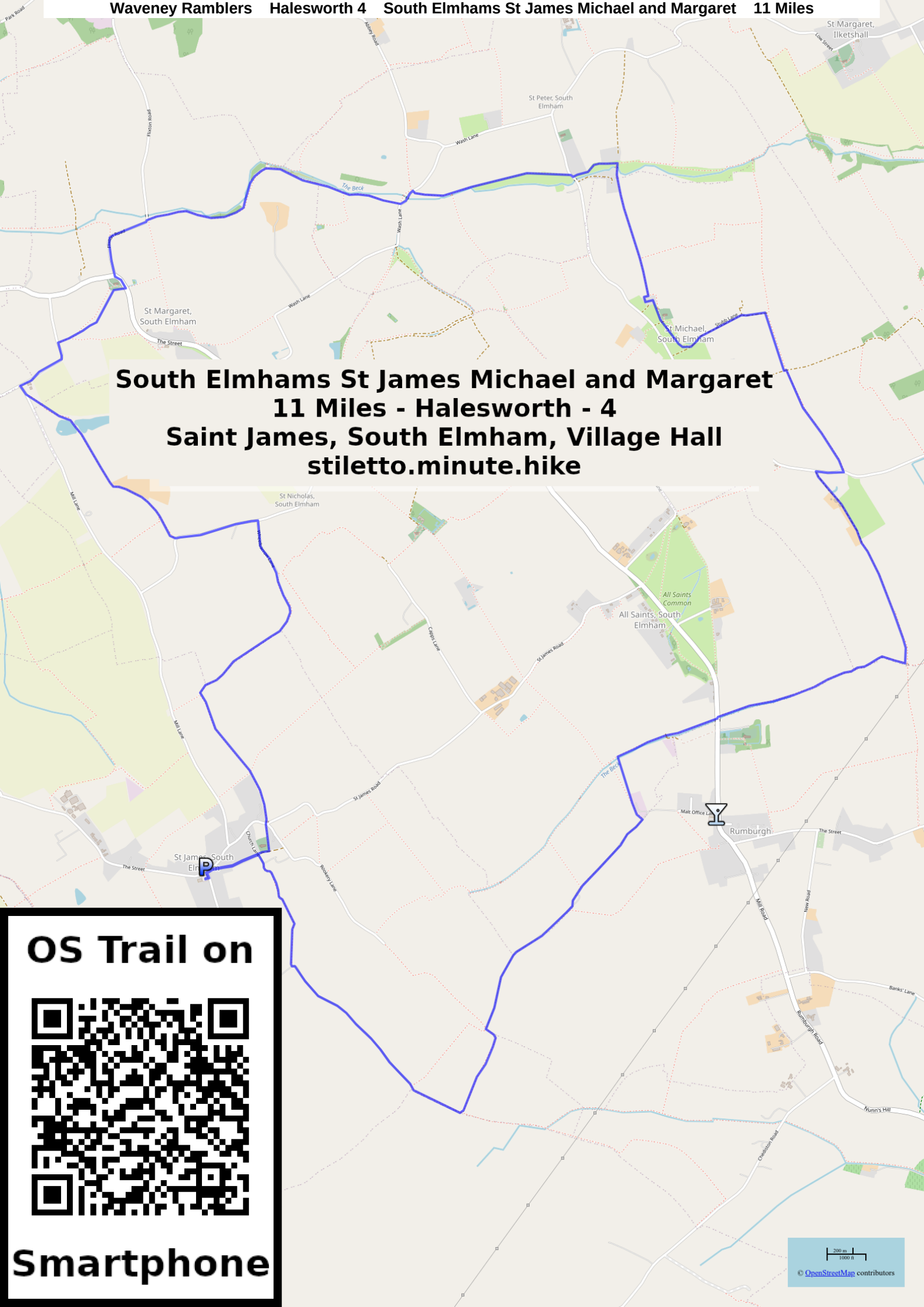
For the next 3/4 mile go ahead through four water meadows to reach a road. Cross and take path on left into meadow. Cross footbridge in hedge into a small meadow and reach lane. Turn right along field-edge path (hedge right). At poplar trees, bear left, pass more poplar trees and keep ahead to a lane. Turn left up field-edge path, then right across arable field to reach road at St Margaret's Church.

Cross into churchyard, pass porch and veer left through white wicket-gate/footbridge into pasture. Keep diagonally left and pass through three fields to emerge onto grassy track. Turn right to lane where turn left. After Frog Hall cottages, turn left into lane signed St James and Metfield. After 50 yards turn left over footbridge and bear right over lawn and go through gate onto field-edge path. Turn right and cross footbridge at lakes. Take path between lakes. Keep ahead along grass track (hedge right, fence left) and pass Old Hall Farm on left, to reach road.

Turn left, then right at Church Farm into lane signed Eel's Foot. At Eel's Foot House, keep ahead on footpath and enter meadow. Keep ahead (hedge left). When hedge ends, go ahead across meadow towards right-hand corner, following hedge line as it curves round to a large, wooden gate. Go through and take path between fields. Turn left over footbridge into field of rough grassland.

Keep ahead on this path for 1/2 mile, ignoring paths right and left. Cross stile into meadow and keep ahead to stile/bridge and reach road. Cross to footpath opposite, follow grassy path to cross track and turn right in front of St James' Church. Bear slightly left and pick up enclosed path that you used on your outward journey. Turn left and left again to return to starting point. (If you have time, St James' Church is worth exploring. It has some unusual carvings made by villagers at woodwork classes in the early 20c.; most are lodged in the chancel.)


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