

# Waveney Ramblers Halesworth 5 Halesworth and Holton

OS Map: X 231 Track: [TM 38642 77698](#) [GPX for SatNav](#) 4.6 Miles Updated:

There are several pay & display car parks in Halesworth. Alternatively, you could find suitable street parking.

Start the walk from outside the library in Bridge Street. With your back to the library, walk ahead into the pedestrian precinct (The Thoroughfare). Go through the archway on your left by the side of Flick Estate Agents. Pass through the car park, cross the by-pass (or use the subway) and take the tarmac path to the right of the public toilets. Follow this through the park, cross the bridge and turn right, walking past a skate park and a basketball court. At the end of this, turn left then right and walk alongside New Reach river. Ignore paths to left and right and keep ahead along the tarmac path into a meadow, part of Halesworth's Millennium Green. (The path is signed Blyth Road Industrial Estate). Just after a telegraph pole on your left, turn left at a path signed Wenhaston/Mells. Go under a railway bridge, then through a gate and enter Blyth Meadow. Follow grass path ahead, soon reaching fence and river on your left. At some willow trees turn left through a gate. Go over a footbridge and turn right to follow the fenced path.

Cross another footbridge and, after 60 yards, go over a bridge and through a gate. Turn left across the meadow. Aim for the footbridge ahead. (In the distant trees, to the left, look out for Holton's post-mill with its fan-tail). Cross the bridge and keep ahead (river right). Ignoring metal/wooden bridge on right, carry on and pass over a gated bridge, go through another gate, then a gated footbridge into a wood. Continue ahead over a sleeper bridge, then a footbridge through a meadow to reach a path through some bushes, in the right-hand corner of the field. At the road, turn left.

Follow this lane for about 400 yards to reach the B1123 Halesworth-Southwold road. Cross over and turn right on the pavement for about 200 yards, then go left into a hedged footpath. Follow this until you see a path on left between two earth mounds in some trees. The official route is straight ahead, but if this path is overgrown take the unofficial route left and bear right, after the trees, onto a well-maintained grassy path. Keep ahead (ignore path to left) to reach a cross-road of paths. Go ahead onto signed footpath and follow path around the disused pit (left). When you reach a cross-track, turn right and follow the concrete track to a road.

At the road cross onto a pavement and turn left towards Holton village. Pass a path (right) and take the second path right, alongside St Peter's Church. If you have time, have a look at the fine, tall and slim Norman round tower (lower part probably Saxon). Keep ahead to join a road. Here turn right and follow road for half-a-mile and at the T-junction turn left and pass Bernard Matthews' factory (right). Keep on the grass verge in front of the US war memorials. These are well worth a look. They commemorate the 489th Bomb Group, the fifth Emergency Rescue Squadron and Zemke's Wolfpack Fighter Group, who all operated out of Holton Airfield in the latter part of the Second World War.

When you are level with the Halesworth (Holton) Airfield Memorial Museum, cross the road onto the footpath opposite. Follow this clear field-edge path for half-a-mile to reach a lane. Cross and take the enclosed footpath almost opposite. Follow this attractive path for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, ignoring path to left. Emerge into a field and bear right (hedge right), then left for 40 yards, after which turn right into a small meadow. Keep ahead to farm track and turn left. Follow this track which soon becomes a road. Keep ahead to reach B1123 road (Holton Road). Turn right and take this back to Halesworth. On the way pass some interesting buildings: an 1842 malthouse (now converted into flats) and Quay House in Quay Street, a reminder of the town's past as an important inland port. When you reach the roundabout, note Hooker House (left) where Sir Joseph Hooker, the famous botanist and a director of Kew Gardens, was born in 1817. There is also a plaque to his father, Sir William, who created the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. Cross over the roundabout and return to the library and your start point in Bridge Street.

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