

DISCOVER HALESWORTH

Surrounded by fine Suffolk farmland, yet just 9 miles from the Southwold coast... Home to England's largest Millennium Green, to markets, museums, Victorian maltings and more... Dotted with antique shops, independent stores, tempting café terraces and inviting galleries... Part-pedestrianised and bloomin' beautiful practically all year round... Ah, the heritage market town of Halesworth! What's not to like?!

Stroll down the Throughfare, where medieval masterpieces mask up behind more contemporary façades. Weave with the crinkle-crankle wall from Town River's 'tenterlands' where cloth was once stretched out to dry, to the Regency shopfronts of Chediston Street. Take in a concert at a converted maltings, track down forgotten train lines or wander by the waterways where wherries once sailed.

With its time-honoured market, Magna Carta connections, rich history of pioneers and philanthropists, plus the annual Latitude Festival vibe just villages away, Halesworth is artsy, awesome and full of surprises.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Look out for this snapshot of Halesworth's history. It might not give a nod to the Blyth's Iron Age settlers, 'modern' Halesworth's first Middle-Saxon ancestors or the industrious Anglo-Norman Lords of the Manor who made it an official market town, but there are local trades depicted here which go right back to the 13th century. Can you spot the spinner and the little lamb? The baker's boy? The river man with his rope of tightly corded hemp and the maltster?

Stay This Way ...

What cosy self-catering corner of Halesworth will you choose? The old butcher's? The baker's? And if there's really no candlestick-maker's, what about a wheelwright's? Whether you shop around the bustling heart of town or make a trade-off for the perfect peace and quiet of the country villages, there's a plethora of quirky and period places to stay: historic inns and comfy farmhouse B&Bs, coach-houses, railway waggons, cornmills, chapels, even barns full of Raj-inspired rooms! You can camp, glamp and caravan down on the farm, live it up in a lakeside lodge or go green with an eco-cabin. A shepherd's hut stay in wildflower meadows has to be a top tip too – simply perfect for discovering pastures new...

Find more circular walks east and west of Halesworth at discoversuffolk.org.uk

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The Pocket Guide to HALESWORTH

Historic Country Market Town • Blyth Valley to the Coast
Farming & Industrial Heritage • Walks & Cycle Rides
Antiques & Artisans • Independent Shops • Food & Drink
Green Spaces • Arts, Events & Entertainment

GETTING AROUND

By Road: A144/A12 (Ipswich/London/ Lowestoft); A144/A146 (Norwich)
By Bus: thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk; suffolkonboard.com
By Rail: East Suffolk Line (Halesworth) eastsuffolklines.co.uk; nationalrail.co.uk
By Bike: On National Cycle Network route 1. Halesworth Cycle Map: thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk/cycle
Walking/Cycling Horse-riding: discoversuffolk.org.uk
Car Parks/Cashless & Ticketless Parking: myringgo.co.uk
OS Maps: OS Explorer 231

What do the carvings on Ancient House mean? What was Tudor Halesworth like? From Bronze Age axes to railway memorabilia, Halesworth & District Museum has so much to share. Why not savour Halesworth's brewing heritage too at The Malt Experience in New Cut? Both are free to visit. halesworthmuseum.org.uk/ halesworthmalt.org

Probably Suffolk's Best-kept Secret

Sssh! What's irresistibly undiscovered, charming, creative, authentic and practically on Southwold's doorstep? No wonder Halesworth's fast-becoming the go-to, great-value getaway alternative and gateway to the Southwold coast!

Industrious Halesworth and Southwold harbour were partners for centuries and today's thriving seaside resort owes much to the market town's 19th century maltsters and entrepreneurs. Without them, there would have

been no railway, nor narrow gauge spur-line to take freight – or folk – to the coast. The little railway closed in 1929, but its 50-year run was help enough to establish Walberswick and Southwold as popular resorts.

Markets & Milestones

Market Town: since 1222

Market Day: Wednesday

Turnpike (Toll) Roads

Halesworth » Bungay: 1785

Halesworth » Beccles: 1796

Waterways

Blyth Navigation: 1761-1911

Ipswich: 32 miles/52 kms

Lowestoft: 15 miles/24 kms

Railway Lines

Halesworth » Lowestoft: 1854

Halesworth » Southwold: 1879-1929

Relief Road (for Thoroughfare)

Saxons Way: 1989



- Railway Station
- Bus Stop
- Parking
- Public Toilets
- Public Toilets for Disabled
- Halesworth & District Museum
- Library
- Chemist
- Post Office
- Visitor Info Point
- Footpath



- Town Park/Play Area/ Skatepark
- Sports Ground (Dairy Hill)
- Golf Club
- Snooker

Did you know?

There are bridges, embankments, even original rails from the old Halesworth to Walberswick/ Southwold Railway Line to spot around the Millennium Green. Or why not discover some of its track-bed on a 10-12.5 mile/ 16-20 kms waymarked walk to the coast? For directions/ route updates see eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks

HALESWORTH TOWN HERITAGE WALK



1.7 miles
2.8 kms
CIRCULAR WALK

FROM/TO: The Angel IP19 8AH

The Angel is where the Halesworth we see today all started. Imagine the clanging of medieval foundries, the mayhem of livestock being herded to market, the clatter of 1790s stagecoaches (or 1970s HGVs!) and muttering of 1870s brewer-bankers, all tall hats and whiskers, crossing the street to their terracotta temple! Trading for 500 years, The Angel 1★ was once flanked by a corn hall and maltings. Turn left, along Thoroughfare, past old Halesworth Bank (left) to Memorial Gardens 2●/Notcutt's arboretum, planted early 1900s. Keep left, past old police station, former White Lion to Gothic House/Dairy Farm 3 (1500s/1640 porch; 1595-1705 home of Bedingfield big-wigs incl. Lord Mayor of London). Road curves (area here formerly a pound for straying livestock, hence churchyard once had tall railings). There were hemplands down to river and beyond Swan Lane (left). Road becomes London Road. Continue past historic shopfronts and head beyond roundabout to view Rifle Hall 4 (1792 Fisher Theatre remodelled into drill hall) and Methodist Church. Retrace steps to Swan Lane.

Left into Steeple End past 1686 Almshouses/Art Gallery 5 (left, with Dutch gable). Bear right via St Mary's Church 6● (mainly 1402 funded by de Argentine's, bell tower 1430) and alleyway into Market Place 7★ aka 'Flesh Market' (once had 28 butchers' stalls!) Note former 3 Tuns/post house/wool merchants (left – once with brewery behind). It dates from 1600s with two rare (1700s) dormer windows. Turn right past No. 5 (1350), town pump (1830, on site of Market Well) to Mansion House 8 (opposite to right) where carved wooden gateway accessed former home of Sir Benjamin d'Urban (later Governor of South Africa's Cape of Good Hope)/possibly Benedictine monastic hospital site.

WHO'S WHO?

Need-to-know Guide to Halesworth's Great & Good

Sir Richard de Argentine (possibly Rose of Halsworde's son) arranged Halesworth's market licence (1222). He and his dynasty signed Magna Carta and served wine to English monarchs from Henry I - IV.

William Hooker was Bridge Street's 1806 brewer, but preferred orchids, became a Botany Prof and first Director of Kew Gardens. His Himalayas-mapping son and successor at Kew, Joseph (b. Halesworth 1817), was Charles Darwin's mate.

Priscilla Buxton (daughter of William Wilberforce's anti-slavery movement successor) campaigned

for 1834's Emancipation Bill with husband, Andrew Johnston. She had 6 children and died young. Halesworth's 1853 school commemorates her life. He ran Halesworth Bank and is remembered in St Mary's and the Rifle Hall.

Patrick Stead bought William Hooker's brewery. The industrialist created England's largest maltings business and first steam maltings. He championed the Blyth River Navigation, but ran out of steam and back to Scotland with the railways, donating Halesworth a hospital in 1882.

Follow the Argentine Trail (inside St Mary's Church) and look out for info boards ● Hooker Trail (booklets at VIPs) ★ Malt Trail (halesworthmalt.org) on the Halesworth Heritage walks.

In honour of Halesworth's history of medieval apothecaries and brilliant botanists... Can you sniff out these Botanical Beauties?

- ☐ Fine terracotta roses (Opposite 1)
- ☐ Four-leaved Clover 6
- ☐ Tudor Rose 3
- ☐ Basketful of medicinal herbs 12
- ☐ Vines/flowers 8

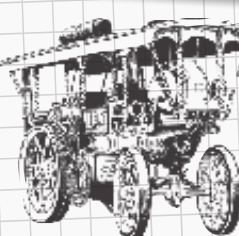
Hidden throughout this Pocket Guide are 13 flowers/herbs too. Can you find them all?

The Italianate white-brick building (opposite to left) was 1870s-1960s department store, Roe & Co, originally with hemp and flaxworks behind. Turn left, entering Chediston Street past historic yards/Georgian shopfronts/freeholds with Patrick Stead wall tie pattress plates!). Take footpath (right – Rectory Lane) past crinkle-crankle wall 9, over Town River (watermill in c.1380) to Rectory Street. Priscilla's 1853 Memorial School 10 is along to the left. Turn right to meet Bridge Street at library. Go briefly left, past former Hawk pub (left) and site of old coachworks (right) to view yellow-brick Hooker House 11● (right, beyond roundabout). Retrace steps. Continue ahead, over river to return to The Angel along Thoroughfare, passing The Ancient House (aka. 'Dame Margery's'-potential de Argentine connections/carved bressumer beam) 12, the heavily disguised 1474 Guildhall 13 (now 4 shops, No.5) and solicitors' offices for 300+ years, No. 18 14, with its fine oriel window.

But that's only half of Halesworth's story! Complete the picture of its industrious whole with Halesworth River & Greens Heritage Walk (overleaf).



EXPLORE & ENJOY
THE BLYTH VALLEY & BEYOND



Get stuck in for a walk in search of time-honoured treacle mines, or hunt out Bramfield's forgotten castle site on a river valley ramble from Darsham station. Amongst the hoards of reasons to wander along to Wissett, drinking in its vineyard views with a glass of something local is always a firm favourite – and at Rumburgh, witnessing torchlit traditional Molly dancing over a winter Plough Monday pint is a must too. Take a moment to remember by the airstrips and forgotten fields which changed history, and another to reflect on the changes in this farming landscape over the centuries. Cheer along the springtime village tractor-runs, share in scarecrow trails or roll up to Henham's famous autumn steam fair and bygones treat. Experience an awesome, yet undiscovered Suffolk patch with a much bigger picture.



HALESWORTH RIVER & GREENS
HERITAGE WALK



1 mile
1.6 kms
CIRCULAR
WALK

OS MAP: 231

FROM/TO: The Angel, Halesworth IP19 8AH
Here's where Halesworth's first freight 'motorway' to the coast - the Blyth Navigation (1761-1883/1911) - all started. It was in The Angel 1★ that local businessmen mooted plans to dredge/straighten sections of the River Blyth and link it to Halesworth by constructing canal, locks and river basins. These historic waterways, which once saw wherries full of Halesworth's famous pale malt sail to London/ return with coal, are now part of Town Park and Millennium Green. The Angel's owner, Thomas Knights, was one of the pioneering businessmen, along with neighbour from No. 18 Thoroughfare 14, attorney Peter Jermyn (Blyth Navigation treasurer/Tumpike Trust clerk).



Discover Digital Trails

Let your phone do the directing on an interactive trail around Halesworth. Download the app and discover. thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

Walk down Angel Link. Cross Saxons Way. Straight ahead down River Lane where George Maltings 15★ (right, now houses) had its own river cut and quayside to receive wherries. Cross Town River to Millennium Green all-weather track and 'New Reach' canal 16★. Head right here to explore Millennium Green's meadows, woodland, legacies of the Halesworth to Southwold railway line, Halesworth Lock, Six Arches railway bridge. millenniumgreen.halesworth.net
Turn left along canal side path to cross New Reach at brick remains of 1837 Patrick Stead Lock 17 which enabled wherries to sail to Town Quay/Patrick's Bridge Street Maltings.

Amazing Angels... & a Devil Dog!



Just down river from Halesworth, Blythburgh was once a bustling, wealthy port and priory site. Its church has perhaps East Anglia's most impressive angel roof, as well as scratch marks made by the burning claws of Black Shuck, the mythical devil dog! Angel Marshes are a haunting place for a walk – why not combine the two? 3.25 miles/5 kms **Directions:** thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

Taste the Place

- Blythburgh Free Range Pork
- Award-winning Game Pies & Wissett Wines
- Farm-fresh, roadside 'Cackleberries'

Halesworth » Wissett » Spexhall
WISSETT TREACLE MINES
TRAIL



6.5 miles
10.5 kms
CIRCULAR
WALK

OS MAP: 231

FROM/TO: Thoroughfare, Halesworth IP19 8AH
TERRAIN: Flat with gentle inclines. Cross-field/field-margin footpaths, green lanes. Tarmac roads with/without pavements. Kissing gates.

Any truth in those sweet tales of Wissett's Treacle Mines which have stuck for centuries? Walk from Halesworth, once renowned for its linen trade, along ancient drovers' ways and parsons' paths through 'Silly Suffolk' to discover the old hemp-processing farmsteads of Wissett/Spexhall and more....

DIRECTIONS: Follow Halesworth's Flying Legend directions to Lodge Lane, Wissett. Turn right, passing Wissett Lodge (left). Just after road bends right, turn left onto footpath, downhill to Wissett village sign. Enter churchyard (right). Don't miss the cat/bird carved faces in the porch of ancient round-towered St Andrew's. Could the village really take its name from ancient Norse for 'pagan temple goers?!

Drive & Explore 'Silly Suffolk'

With churches galore in medieval times, folk called Suffolk 'Selig' (pronounced 'Silly') meaning spiritual/holy. Tour these special Blyth Valley village churches to discover all sorts of wonders:
Bramfield (thatched/stand-alone round tower); **Blyford** (WWI battlefield cross); **Blythburgh** (angel roof); **Huntingfield** (painted angel roof); **Rumburgh** (Priory); **Walpole** ('farmhouse' chapel); **Wenhaston** (doom painting); **Westhall, Thorington** (Norman features); **Wissett, Spexhall, Holton** (round-towers).

Follow path alongside church hall to street. Turn right, passing pub, old chapel (left). Just before bungalows, turn left (Buntings Lane). Track passes houses, old brick pits (left), small green, then continues between hedgerows. At road, turn right to footpath (left) at driveway to Hallelujah Cottage. Path leads diagonally across meadow, along field edge, over stream, then diagonally across field into wildlife churchyard of round-towered St Peter's, Spexhall. Turn right out of churchyard along road, past cottages, downhill to junction. Bear right (uphill - small treelined road) to loop round to Bleach Farm (where hemp was soaked and retting pits became sticky with treacle-like black residue). Follow road to take footpath (left - just after driveway to Hallelujah Cottage (right)), past Bonds Farm to road. Turn right (paved path between road/cottages) to **Buntings Lane**. Cross road into Mill Road. Follow for 1 mile until road bends left. Turn right along track to junction of paths. Turn left through kissing gate, across meadow, through next kissing gate to retrace steps to central Halesworth.

Halesworth » Wissett » Chediston
HALESWORTH'S FLYING LEGEND



6 miles
10 kms
CIRCULAR
WALK

OS MAP: 231

FROM/TO: Thoroughfare (by footpath to town car parks), Halesworth IP19 8AH

TERRAIN: Flat with gentle inclines. Cross-field/field-margin footpaths, tracks, tarmac roads with/without pavements. Gates.

Truly a walk to remember, straight out of the centre of Halesworth. Follow the true story of heroic WWII pilot, Flying Officer D. W. Field, who single-handedly steered his failing, yet still fully loaded, Lancaster Bomber away from the town, to crash in the countryside near Chediston. Remarkably, he freed himself from the wreckage and found help from villagers at Wissett.

DIRECTIONS: Start at the Avro Lancaster JB 652 memorial, which details the aborted night-time raid and selfless actions of Flying Officer Field. Head north (Thoroughfare/Bridge Street) to library. Turn left (Rectory Street). Keep ahead (School Lane). Beyond

nursery school, cross footbridge. Through kissing gate (I), cross meadow, through kissing gate (II), straight ahead (wide track with telegraph poles). After first large field, turn right (field margin path), then left (wide drovers' path). Follow past wood (left), solar farm (right) and across small meadows. Along this stretch, the WWII aircraft crash site is distinguishable by large hedge gap with dead tree (left). The crater is all but filled in. From here, injured Flying Officer Field managed to get to the cottages on Lodge Lane (diagonally left) for help.
At road (Lodge Lane – near Wissett Lodge where Virginia Woolf stayed with 'Bloomsbury set' friends in 1916) cross to continue on drovers' path (hedge left). Turn left over footbridge. Follow path (hedge right) through gate to road. Turn left to Chediston village. Just before church, turn right onto track to car park/St Mary's Church. Church windows here blown out by German bomb, but don't miss 1949 local RAF commander memorial window by Suffolk's Edith Rope featuring local rural scenes. Turn left, following track across churchyard to road. Cross, go through gate along footpath (flanked by wire fences). Continue ahead, through two gates, over farm drive, through two more gates, along cross-field path to track to Chediston Hall - a forces billet in WWII, demolished 1955. Just before farm buildings, bear right along farm's road to take footpath (left). At path junction go through kissing gate, across meadow, through next kissing gate to retrace steps to central Halesworth.

Countryside Code

- Plan ahead. Be prepared.
- Follow paths, advice and local signs.
- Consider the local community/others enjoying the outdoors.
- Be careful with naked flames/cigarettes at any time of the year.
- Leave gates/property as you find them.
- Take litter home. Clean up after your dog.
- Always keep dogs under close control, especially amongst livestock/during bird nesting season. Release your dog if chased by cattle.

Glenn Miller Memories
& Big Local Celebrities

Enjoy these fully waymarked, station-to-station walks.
Propellers & Dragons (Wolfpack Walk) 5 miles/8 kms from Brampton via Westhall's 'dragon house' and Holton Aerodrome now a wind/solar farm (see halesworthairfieldmuseum.co.uk) where Glenn Miller entertained the troops.
Yox Man & Mighty Towers (Yox & Blyth Valley Walk) 9 miles/14.5 kms from Darsham via Bramfield's impressive church round tower, crinkle-crankle wall and elusive castle earthworks.
eastsoffolklines.co.uk/walks



Cycle & Discover the Coast

Pedal out in search of more heavenly highfliers in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - don't forget your binoculars!

Let the train take the strain (and your bike) to Darsham station, then set your sights on mighty 'Ship of the Marshes', Blythburgh Church, home to a highly impressive angel roof, still coloured by original medieval paint. Spin along to the coast, either to time-warped Walberswick and back again (7 miles/11kms along Sandlings Walk track from New Delight Walks) or to the lost village of Dunwich with its cliff-top ruins and fine little museum where you can wend your way to RSPB Minsmere or head straight to the charming village of Westleton, on route back to Darsham (16.5 miles/27 kms).

Download the Dunwich & Minsmere Cycle Explorer Guide suffolkcoastandheaths.org

FESTIVALS?
CONCERTS?
EVENTS?
Inspiring fun
for everyone

- Latitude Festival - Henham Park
 - Country Fairs & Fireworks - Heveningham Hall
 - FolkEast - Glemham Hall
 - Aldeburgh Festival - Snape Maltings
 - Herring Festival & Ink Festival - Halesworth
 - Woodland Summer Theatre - Thorington
- thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

Nature Watch

By Halesworth's Town River, New Reach or along the River Blyth, down rural green lanes or up old trackbed paths, what will you spot today?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wherryman (Water Boatman) | <input type="checkbox"/> Egret |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owls | <input type="checkbox"/> Himalayan Balsam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Lilies | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Vole |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Ox-eye Daisy |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Treacle Mustard |



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Don't miss Halesworth's

- Day of Dance – UK & International Folk Heritage
- Theatre/Cinema/Concerts - The Cut Arts Centre
- Scarecrow Festival & Treasure Trail
- Heritage Open Day Events
- Christmas lights & festive shopping

