Starting through lush grazing meadows beyond Halesworth, the walk closely follows the River Blyth through reed beds to the magnificent church at Blythburgh and over heather-clad heaths towards the coast. Walberswick’s fine tower and ruined nave and chancel are awe-inspiring. Allow time to explore Southwold’s many delights.

1. Leave Halesworth station from the ‘trains to Lowestoft’ platform. At the far end of Station Road go left for about 100 yds then right into Langley’s Quay. At the far end go left on the short path to a footbridge. Cross and continue ahead on a surfaced path to the far end of the play area. Go left then almost immediately right along the riverside path; soon bordering the Millennium Meadow.

2. Cross the river and continue along the left bank, then a series of mostly gated footbridges.

3. Continue directly across road at Mells bridge at side of gauging station. A sequence of stiles and footbridges mark the path through grazing meadows.

4. The waymarked path loops away from the river for a short distance, then continues along the river’s left bank to reach the road near Blyford church.

5. Do not cross bridge. Follow path along north bank of river to A12 at Blythburgh.

6. Cross the busy A12 with extreme caution.

7. Continue along the riverside path

8. Keep ahead following the alignment of old narrow gauge railway just within the boundary of an Open Access area. (If closed for operational reasons, use the almost parallel bridleway, then along the road. Beware traffic).

9. Continue along the road passing the farm on the left; then go left through foot and cycle bridge. A good network of path and tracks can be used to extend the walk via Walberswick village and the seasonal foot ferry to Southwold.

10. Turn right along the riverbank to the Harbour Inn, from where a path heads towards Southwold lighthouse across the low-lying grazing land and golf course.

Planning your walk

Time:
Allow about 5 hours; 6-7 hours for the longer options

Suggested map:
Explorer map 231 Southwold and Bungay

Refreshment:
White Hart PH and community shop at Blythburgh; ample choice of shops, cafes and pubs in Halesworth, Walberswick and Southwold

Useful info:
Southwold visitor info. at library 01502 523442
Walberswick to Southwold ferry (Seasonal) - 01502 724729
Bus times: Traveline 0871 200 22 33