Waveney Ramblers Southwold 9 Blythburgh and Walberswick

OS Map: X 231 Track: **TM 45089 75236 GPX for SatNav** 7 Miles Updated: 2018

Walk the Blyth estuary, heathland and marsh including the disused railway.

Start at the Blythburgh church car park, leaving by the entrance to walk left, north, along the road. Take the footpath on the left just beyond the church (near the village sign) and follow it west towards the river. Just before the river bank turn right, NE, along a track that leads to the A12. Cross with care and take the track opposite (left of the White Hart Inn) a little east of north. At the end, turn right, east, onto the river bank path, signed "National Nature Reserve".

You are now on the course of the old Southwold-Halesworth railway line, closed in 1929. Stay on this route for nearly two miles, keeping straight ahead and ignoring all right turns. The disused line heads SE and later east. Follow the track with a fence on left and eventually leave the old line, bearing right, and go through a wooden gate to reach the Walberswick road. Turn left, east, along the roadside verge.

Pass Eastwood Lodge Farm. Take the marked bridleway through a gate on the left, NE. Follow this to reach another gate. Pass through and take the track on the right, SE, of three facing you, Ignore any further turns to left and right. Pass beside the children's play area on your left and go through a small disused car park. Bear right, south, into Church Lane. Pass the church, left, and cross the road into a byway by a telephone box. Follow this track south. Cross the minor Lodge Road into a track opposite and continue south. Leave the track where it turns left and continue south along a grassy track heading towards the sea.

At the end of the field, bear right, SW, ignoring two paths off to the left. The path soon narrows and becomes enclosed between trees. Pass an old pillbox, right, then drop down to a boardwalk across a reed bed. Head roughly SW. At the end of the boardwalk turn right, west, to reach a small clearing. At the junction turn right, NW, and continue NW to reach the minor Lodge Road. Take the bridleway opposite, signed Sandlings walk, through a gate. Bear left, west, and then right, north, with pine trees on the left. At the end of the trees turn left, west, on to a clear track. Ignore the bend to the left and gates and continue west, trees, left. Follow this path, west, for about a third-of-a-mile, then leave it and take a less distinct path to your right, NW, and head for a wooden gate in the pine trees. Go through the gate, cross the B1387 and pick up the bridleway opposite, signed to-Blythburgh (1.2 miles).

Head west along the grassy track. Ignore all right and left turns. The track bends NW and reaches the B1125, Cross over and take the bridleway opposite, west, past some cottages. Continue west to the busy A12. Turn right along the pavement for 35 metres, then cross the road and take the footpath opposite, NW, and immediately NE. Follow the path alongside a fenced pasture. After about 200 metres kink left and immediately right along a track with cottages on the left. After a further 200 metres turn right into the car park and back to the starting point.

