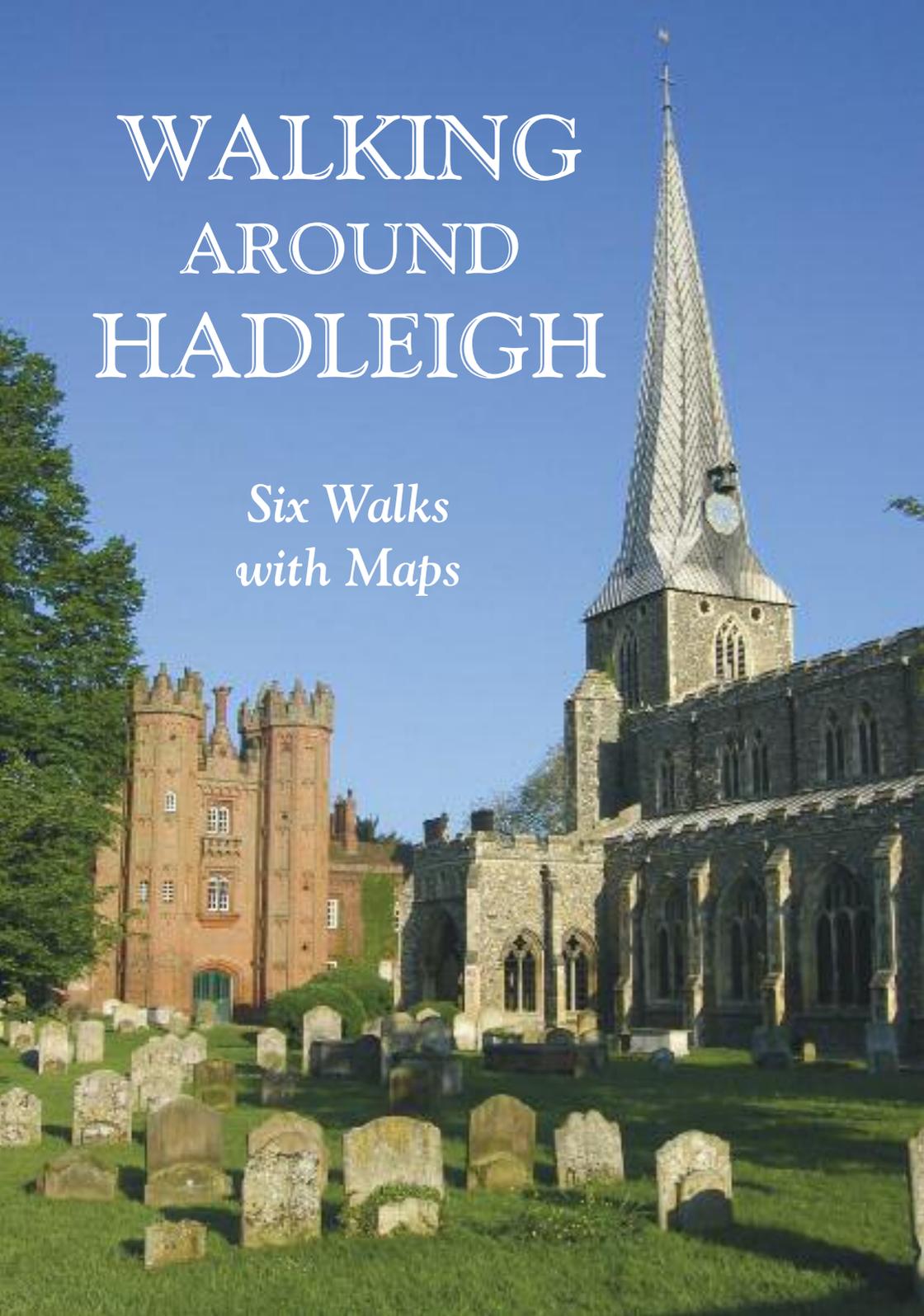


WALKING AROUND HADLEIGH

*Six Walks
with Maps*



Walking Around Hadleigh

Produced by
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THE TOWN

Hadleigh has been designated an Historic Town by The Council for British Archaeology and is included on a short list of 51 towns throughout the country considered to be of national importance. The town has a wealth of old buildings and a few hours spent exploring will prove fruitful for those interested.

Hadleigh is 10 miles west of Ipswich (A1071), 12 miles east of Sudbury (A1071), 14 miles south of Stowmarket (B115/A1141) and 15 miles north of Colchester (A12/B1070).

How To Get There

By Bus

For the most up to date timetable contact Suffolk County Council via their website: www.suffolk.gov.uk or phone Traveline 0871 200 2233

By Road

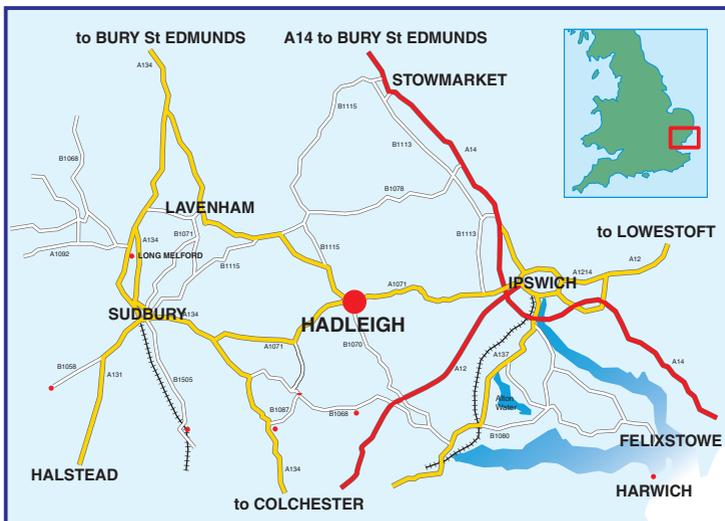
A1071 from Ipswich. A1141 from Bury St Edmunds. A12/B1070 from Colchester. A1071 from Sudbury.

Parking

The main car park is situated in Magdalen Road. Short stay parking is free, but limited to 3 hours and a ticket must be displayed. Long stay car parks are in Magdalen Road and Stonehouse Road off George Street.

Refreshments

There are several places to eat and stay in the town, most of which are listed in our 'Where to Eat, Drink and Stay' Leaflet which can be found in St. Mary's Church, the Library, 29 High Street (open Tuesday to Sunday) or on Hadleigh Town Council's website.



Circular Walk Number 1 - Hadleigh

Length of walk: 4½ miles

Time taken: 2½ hours

The route is clearly marked by green public foot path signs and waymark arrows displaying a circular walk symbol.

THE WALK

From Magdalen Road turn left into George Street. Noting the many half timbered houses and the almshouses chapel, continue to Tower Mill Lane. Follow the farm track to Durrant's Farm, fork left just before the house and keeping close to the hedge to the left walk through the garden into the field beyond. Continue east with a shallow ditch to the left and pass through a gap in the next hedge. Follow a good headland path around the next field, then cross two sleeper bridges to join a grass bridle way. Turn right through the farm yard past Valley Farm and continue along Valley Farm Lane to join Pond Hall Road near an engineering works. Turn left along the road and around some bends – careful here – to the entrance to Pond Hall Farm. Pond Hall, to the right of the farm was the home in the eighteenth century of John Harvey, a farmer and member of a group of smugglers known as The Hadleigh Gang. Turn right and follow a green lane for 600 yards then cross two pleasant meadows to a stile alongside a large tree at the foot of the railway embankment. The last few yards are always boggy! Cross the stile and a bridge over a stream and follow a well worn path through some undergrowth to some steps leading up the embankment. The definitive path continues over a stile and into the fruit farm, but climb the steps to enjoy some extensive views south west towards Layham. The railway line was opened in 1847 and was originally intended to continue past Hadleigh to Lavenham and Bury St. Edmunds. Follow the old track bed towards the town for about a mile, eventually passing the old station in Station Road. Return to the start via Magdalen Road.



Circular Walk No. 2 - Hadleigh via Aldham Church, Suffolk

Length of walk: 4 miles
Time taken: 1½ to 2 hours

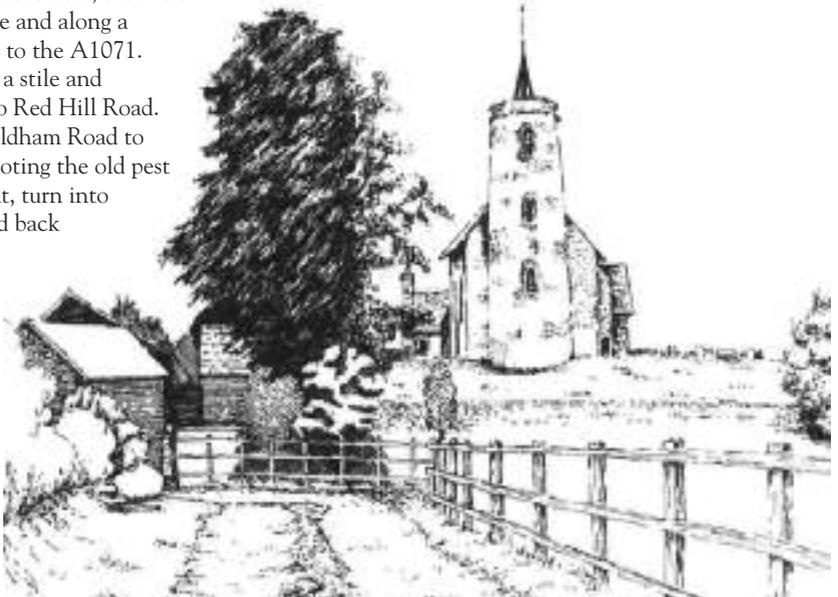
With thanks to Aldham Parish Council and local landowners and farmers for their co-operation.

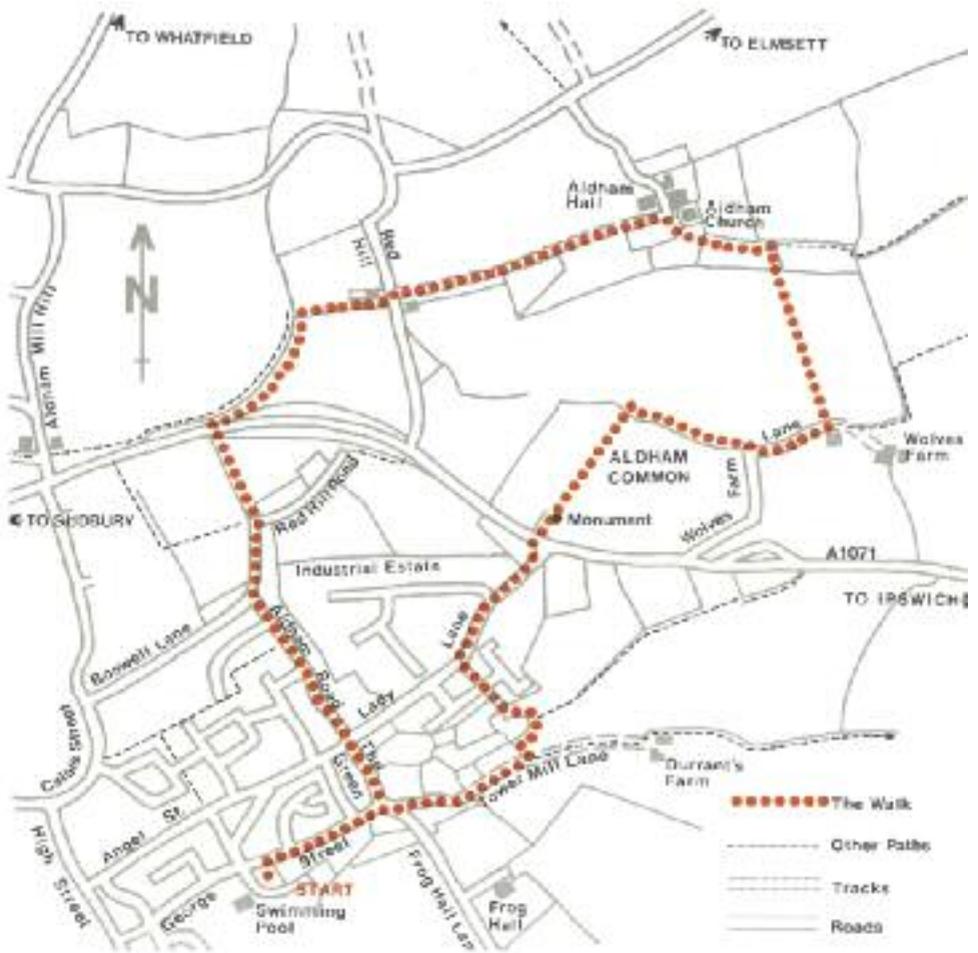
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WALK PASSES THROUGH SENSITIVE PASTURELAND. DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD OR UNDER CLOSE CONTROL AS REQUIRED BY THE DOGS (PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK) ACT 1953.

THE WALK

From the car park turn right into George Street and noting the almshouses chapel on the left, continue to Tower Mill Lane. Follow the track for 200 yards then turn left at a green public footpath sign. The path now skirts a boggy headland and passes between gardens to Lady Lane. Turn right here and follow the pavement past a garage and an industrial estate to the A1071. Bear left and carefully cross the road to a footpath sign opposite. The monument is in memory of Dr. Rowland Tayler, one of the Marian martyrs and a rector of Hadleigh who was burned at the stake here in 1555. Cross the field to a footbridge visible in the hedge then turn right to Wolves Farm Lane. Follow the land to a bridleway sign pointing across the field on the left. The views from here are extensive; Kersey Church three miles away is particularly prominent. The correct route across the next field is to head directly towards the disused buildings visible across the valley.

Once at the bottom of the slope, climb the stile and continue across a narrow meadow, then turn left and follow a bridleway through three sets of gates to Aldham Church Lane. Note the unusual round tower of St. Mary's Church. The meadows near the church are reputed to be the site of medieval Aldham, the present settlement being some distance North East. Continue along a well defined track to Red Hill then cross the road to a footpath sign opposite. Follow the path between hedges to a ditch at the end of the next field, then left across a footbridge and along a curving headland to the A1071. Cross the road to a stile and continue uphill to Red Hill Road. Turn left along Aldham Road to The Green and noting the old pest house on the right, turn into George Street and back to the start.





Memorial to Dr. Rowland Taylor



Circular Walk No. 3 - Hadleigh Via Kersey Vale, Suffolk

Length of walk: 4 miles

Time taken: 2 hours

The route is marked when leaving the highway with public footpath signs and is waymarked where necessary with Green circular walk symbols. For convenience the map shows the start from the car park in Cork's Lane but it is possible to start anywhere along the route.

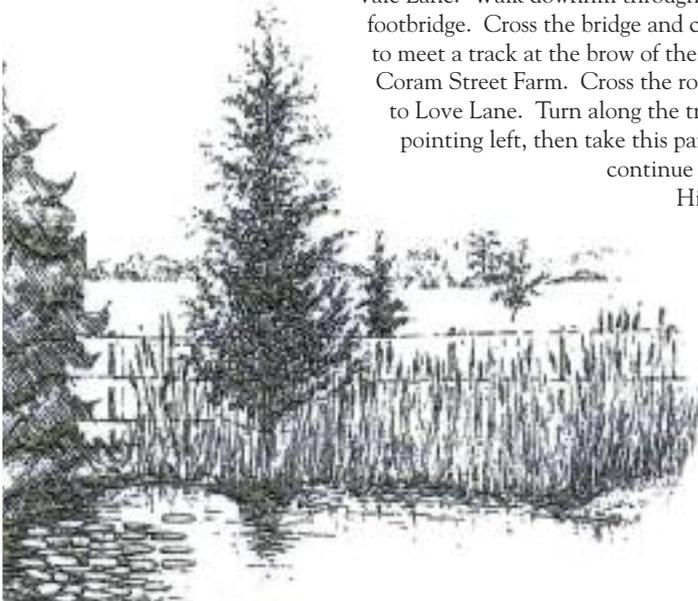
THE OPENING AND CLOSING STAGES OF THIS ROUTE COINCIDE WITH PARTS OF ANOTHER CIRCULAR WALK. TO AVOID MISTAKES FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY. THE WAYMARKS USED FOR THIS WALK ARE COLOURED GREEN.

THE WALK

From Cork's Lane cross the playing field to the cricket ground and follow the cemetery wall to a gateway at the foot of Friars Hill. Ignore the signpost pointing left, cross the road and walk along Castle Road to the green lane at the end. Turn left to the end of the green lane, then bear right to a stile at the road. Cross the road to the stile opposite. The definitive route leads diagonally across to the corner of the next field, but it is usual to follow the headland. From the corner walk through a thicket and follow the hedge to point A. The footbridge at point B is not visible from here due to the lie of the land. If there is no obvious path across the field turn right to the end of the hedge, then walk straight across the field towards the barn with the rusty corrugated iron roof at Oaks Tye which is visible across the valley just to the left of a group of conifers.

This route is shown on the map as a pecked line and will lead directly to the foot bridge. This is not a definitive route and should be used only if the correct route is not defined. Once over the bridge cross the next field to Water Lane then turn left along the track to meet Vale Lane. Walk downhill through Kersey Vale to a wooden footbridge. Cross the bridge and climb the steep headland path to meet a track at the brow of the hill leading to the road near Coram Street Farm. Cross the road and turn right past the farm to Love Lane. Turn along the track as far as a sign post pointing left, then take this part to pass through a ticket and continue downhill past Constitution Hill and the Nature Reserve at Broom Hill.

The square brown and yellow waymarks between Love Lane and Broom Hill are for another Circular Walk – ignore them. Once past Broom Hill take the path leading left past the site of the Brick Kiln and back to the start in Cork's Lane.





View of Hadleigh across the River Brett at Corks Lane circa 1910

Circular Walk No. 4 - Hadleigh Via Bullocky Fen, Suffolk

Length of walk: 4 miles

Time taken: 1½ to 2 hours

The route is signposted when leaving the highway with public footpath signs and is also waymarked along the route where necessary with posts displaying Blue circular walk symbols.

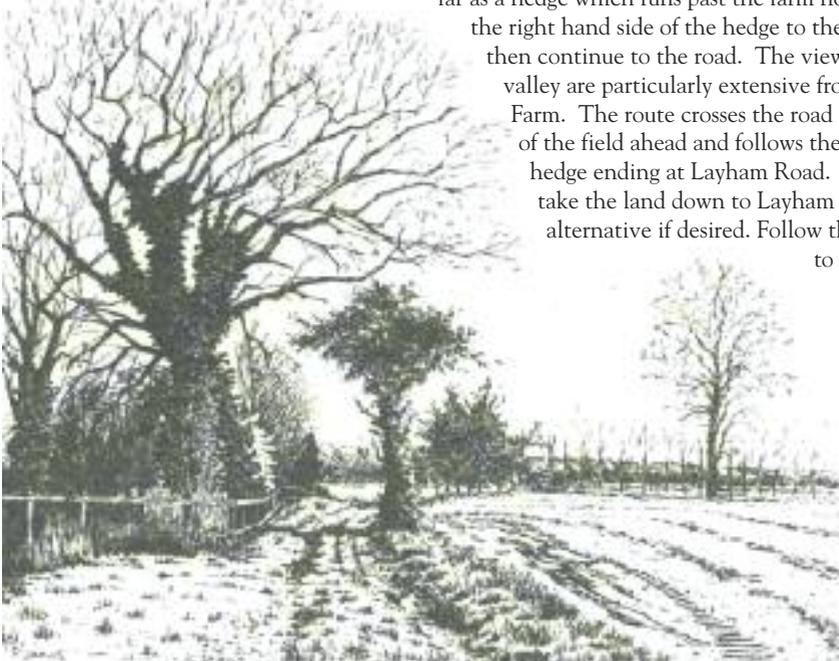
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WALK PASSES THROUGH SENSITIVE PASTURELAND. DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD OR UNDER CLOSE CONTROL AS REQUIRED BY THE DOGS (PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK) ACT 1953.

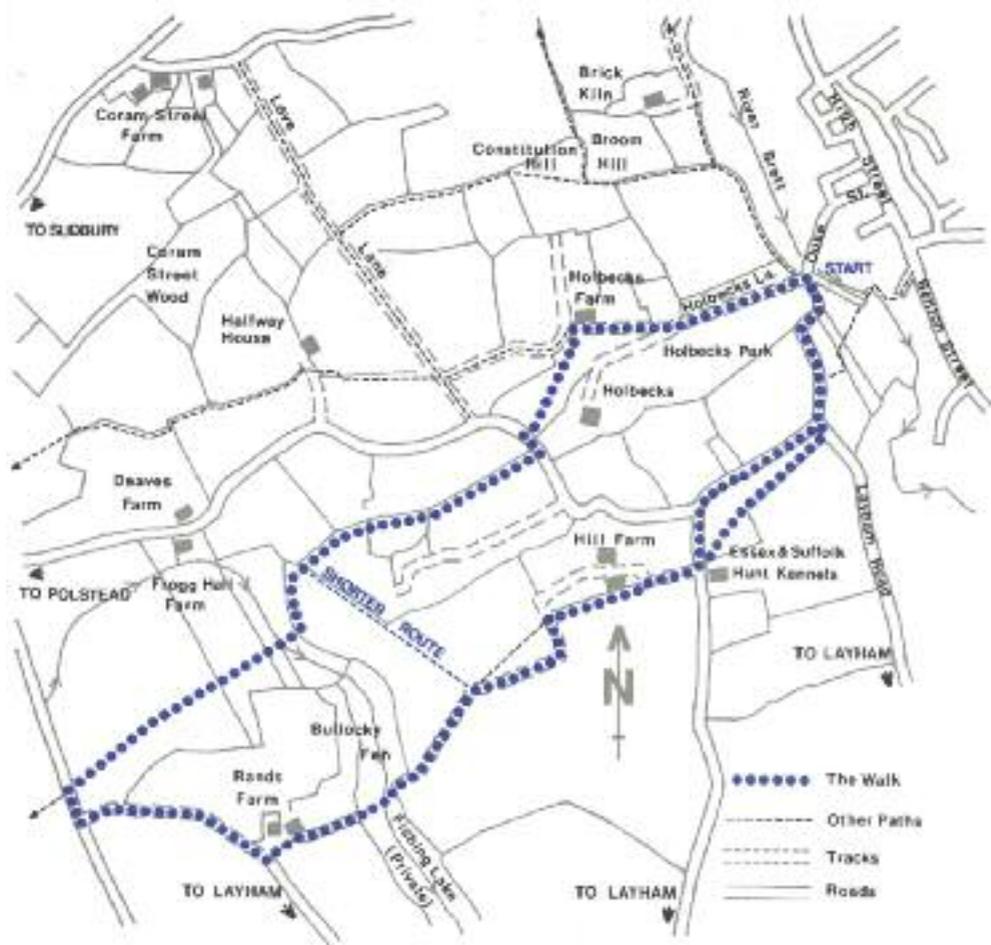
THE WALK

From the car park near Toppesfield Bridge follow Holbecks Lane as far as Holbecks Farm. Once past the red brick barn turn left over a stile, then cross a meadow to another stile and continue up the hill to a lane. Cross to a footpath sign and take the path through arable fields. At the end of the third field cross to the hedge opposite and bear left as far as a stile leading into a rough meadow.

Climb the stile and descend the steep slope to a footbridge over a stream. Ensure the gate here is shut please. Once over the bridge climb up to a stile and cross the next field in the direction of a clump of bushes visible in the distance. This is a large field but the route should be marked out by the farmer. At the road turn left for a matter of yards then left again into the green lane leading to Rands Farm. Follow the land to the farm and turn left into the farm drive. Keeping to the right of the farm yard enter a sunken lane which leads to Bullocky Fen. The Fen is always wet – waterproof footwear must be worn! Follow the path downhill to the stream and cross a wooden bridge. Turn almost immediately left over another bridge which leads via a marshy path to steps cut into the hillside. The second bridge can become overgrown and difficult to find – take care here. Climb the steps to the stile and follow the headland path up to a track leading to Hill Farm. Follow the track past a reservoir, then to the left as

far as a hedge which runs past the farm house. Follow the right hand side of the hedge to the farm drive then continue to the road. The views over the Brett valley are particularly extensive from around Hill Farm. The route crosses the road and the corner of the field ahead and follows the left side of a hedge ending at Layham Road. It is possible to take the land down to Layham Road as an alternative if desired. Follow the road back to the starting point at Toppesfield Bridge.





Countryside Walks- Love Lane Walk & Benton End Walk

Length of walk – 2 to 3 miles

Time taken: 1 to 2 hours

These two walks start close to the town centre and provide good opportunities to walk in the countryside to the west (3 miles) and south (2 miles) of the town. The routes have been developed on public rights of way and on other land owned by the Town Council and Babergh District Council; their co-operation is gratefully acknowledged. Each path is clearly marked with green footpath signs and yellow waymark arrows displaying a circular walk symbol. Although the routes can be easily walked, waterproof footwear should be worn, except in the driest of weather.

The following Ordnance Survey sheet shows other rights of way in the area: Pathfinder series, Sheet 1030 TM 04/14 Ipswich.

LOVE LANE WALK

From the start at Toppesfield Bridge follow the Riverside Walk to Corks Lane.

Turn left along the wall of the Cemetery and the edge of the Cricket Ground to Coram Street and up Friars Hill 100 metres to the brick steps giving access to the fields on the left. Good views of the town can be seen from this section of the path which follows the right side of the hedge to Broom Hill Nature Trail, an area that can be explored to extend your walk.

Continue on through the trees down the steep path to the field, turning right on the rising cross field path and then the left side of the hedge to join Love Lane. Turn left in the lane for 500 metres and then left again into Holbecks Lane, downhill all the way to the start.

BENTON END WALK

From Toppesfield Bridge walk along Tinkers Lane to the footbridge over the River Brett where a mill once stood. On the other side of the river turn left in Benton Street and then right up Station Road to the Railway Walk Local Nature Reserve.

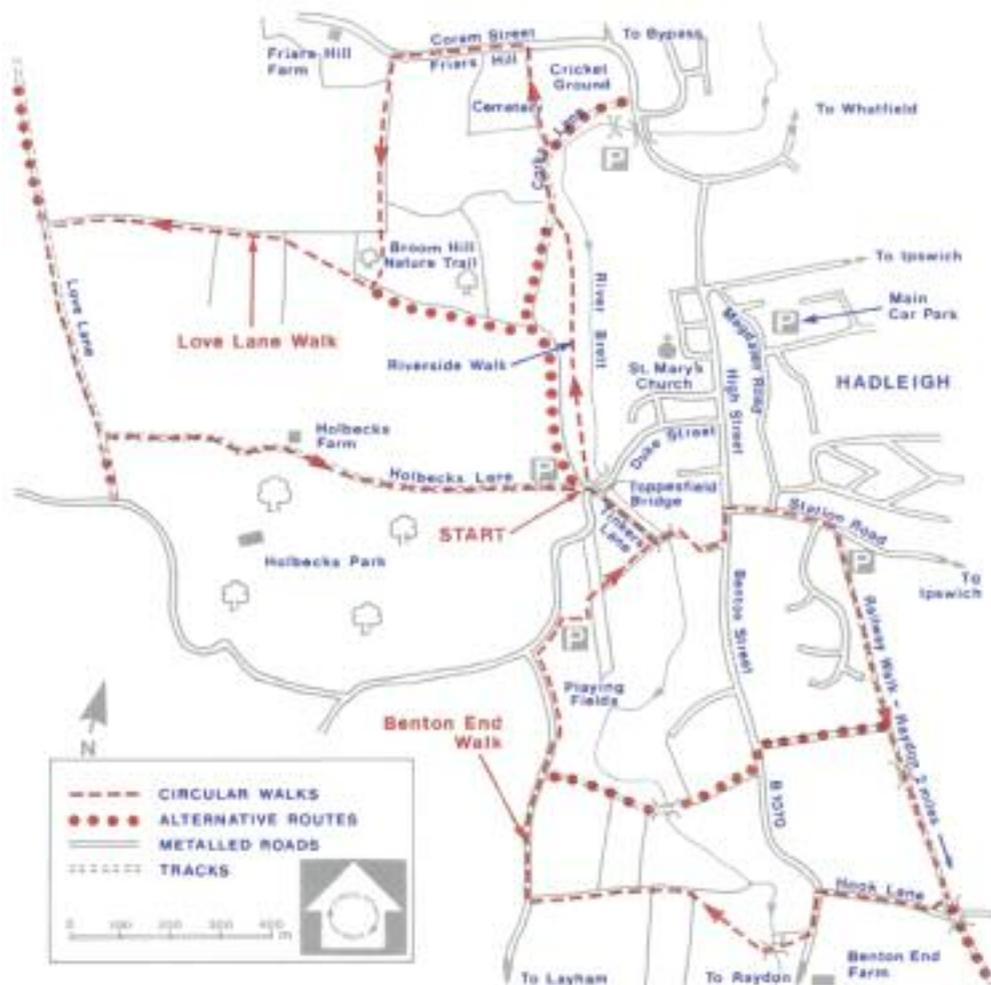
The circular walk leaves the old railway after $\frac{3}{4}$ mile at the Hook Lane bridge but a pleasant extension of 3 miles through Raydon Great Wood can be achieved by continuing to Raydon Station and return.

Descend to Hook Lane via steps in the embankment and turn right to the B1070 road. Cross to the roadside footway and left for 100 metres to the public footpath which recommences on the right.

Cross the River Brett via the footbridge next to the ford and turn right on the cross field section of path to the stile. After the second stile the path follows the field headland to the Layham Road, turn right for 400 metres and just past the bends, enter the Playing field on the right.

Follow the roadside hedge to the car park and across to the steps at the rear giving access to the steel gate behind the pavilion. This path returns to Tinkers Lane and the start.
Access to the Walks

The walk descriptions start from the Toppesfield Bridge situated at the end of Duke Street but the routes can be joined at several other points close to the town.



The Railway Walk and Pond Hall

Length of walk: 4½ miles

Time taken: 2 – 2½ hours

Terrain: Railway track-bed, roads, meadows, field-edge paths; 3 stiles; 3 uphill sections. Can be muddy in places.

Turn left out of Magdalen Road car park and walk to the end of the road. At the junction turn left then cross the road at the zebra crossing. Continue uphill, and turn right at a sign “P – Railway Walk”.

The Hadleigh Branch of the Eastern Union Railway was opened in 1847 with the intention of continuing to Bury St Edmunds via Lavenham, but this never happened and Hadleigh remained the end of the line. Passenger traffic ceased in 1932 and the line was finally closed in 1965. The original station, now a private house surrounded by modern development, can be seen on the left. Pass alongside a metal barrier onto a tarmac path which joins the former railway track-bed by a National Cycle Route sign. Walk for about one mile, sometimes in a cutting and sometimes on an embankment with wide views on both sides, until you reach a four-way signpost. Go left here through the hedge and turn right along a field-edge path. At the end of the field pass through a gap in a fence and follow an obvious winding path through an area of scrub.



A Romano-British building with a hypocaust was excavated here in 1954.

Cross a sleeper bridge over a stream and climb a stile into a marshy meadow. Follow the well-used route to drier ground and aim for a gate at the far side of the field. Climb a stile into the next meadow and walk across it to another gate and stile giving onto a track between hedges. Follow the track until you reach an electricity pylon. Turn left at the pylon and walk along a field edge path with a ditch on the right. Pass behind some industrial units and at a footpath sign turn right and walk along a garden hedge and fence to Pond Hall Road. Cross with care, turn left and in a few metres turn right at a post box into Valley Farm Lane.

At the end of the lane turn right into the farmyard, then immediately left onto a cinder track. When this bears right, keep straight ahead, now on grass, until the track goes right, through a hedge gap by a signpost. Turn left here and follow the field-edge path with a ditch on the right. Stay on this path until it goes through a gap in the hedge. Cross a track and continue ahead again along a field-edge path by a ditch. As you reach the top of the rise you can see Hadleigh spread out below. Walk downhill, aiming for a gap in the hedge ahead, and pass through. The footpath continues ahead through the garden of Durrant’s Farm, keeping close to the hedge on the right. Turn right onto an unmade road which then becomes tarmacked.



The houses on the left (Tower Lodge) as you crest the rise are on the site of a tower windmill which ceased working in 1905.

At a crossroads continue ahead down George Street, passing The Row Chapel and numerous very old houses.

The Nature of HADLEIGH & Surrounding Area

The Railway Walk

Length of walk: 2 miles to Raydon

Time taken: 1 hour to Raydon and back to Hadleigh

Terrain: Railway track-bed, roads, meadows, field-edge paths; 3 stiles; 3 uphill sections. Can be muddy in places.



Most of the walk is bordered by trees either on raised banks or on downward slopes, and the surrounding landscape is a patchwork of fields, copses and hedgerows. Towards Raydon the path cuts through a small area of light woodland creating a different type of habitat much preferred by Badgers and Deer. The walk starts on Station Road where the original station building (now converted into a private dwelling) still stands and can also be accessed at several points – one in Clopton Gardens, one at the end of Cranworth Road and one by the bridge on Hook Lane. Just beyond Hook Lane, next to the stables, a

pathway leads across fields eventually meeting the railway walk about halfway.

Adjacent to the beginning of the Railway Walk is a small area of mixed woodland and heath known as The Fuzz. This is a local nature reserve managed by Babergh District Council and can be accessed from the Railway Walk, Stockton Close, Carlton Walk and Cranworth Road. It has a variety of tree species equal to those found on Broom Hill Nature Reserve, and this provides a rich habitat for wildlife. The open heath areas are especially good for reptiles such as Slow-Worms, Common Lizards and Grass Snakes, which prefer the loose sandy soil when digging holes in which to lay their eggs.

It is here, in early Spring, where you can hear the distinctive song of the Nightingale, where it arrives on migration before steadily spreading out further along the walk and into the surrounding countryside.

In late Spring keep a sharp look out for the small Green Hairstreak butterfly, flitting around the Gorse bushes. Its green underside matching the leaves so well it is very hard to spot. Also look out for the very scarce Purple Hairstreak butterfly, the male marking out his territory around the tops of the oak trees at the edge of the Fuzz. Also common to the Fuzz are the Ringlet butterfly and the Burnet and Cinnabar. The Six-spot Burnet moth is a day flying moth whose colouration of black and red serve as a warning to would-be predators that it is distasteful.

Along the railway walk there are a wide variety of flowers, woodland birds and insects to see. Many of the species to be found along the river walk are also found here. Jays are amongst the largest birds to be found, but are generally secretive and hard to observe. If you are patient you may be rewarded by the sight of a bullfinch or two. Although fairly common in orchards, especially at flowering time, they are not as prolific here.

One insect to look out for – or listen for! – from July onwards is the large (2.5”) Great Green Bush-Cricket. This insect is found on low bushes and in the trees, its song sounding like a loud sewing machine! Other crickets found here include the Oak Bush-Cricket, Speckled Bush-Cricket and the Dark Bush-Cricket.

The Pyramidal Orchid and the Twyblade Orchid are two of the more unusual flowers to be found along the walk. In springtime at the Raydon end of the walk beneath the trees, Primroses, Dog Violets and

Wood Anemones flower before the trees are in full leaf. These flowers, along with Ground Ivy and Bugle, provide early sources of nectar for early bees and butterflies out of hibernation, such as the Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock butterflies.

Ringlet

Green Hairstreak

Six-spot Burnet

White Admiral

Twyblade

Pyramidal Orchid

In springtime at the Raydon end of the walk beneath the trees Primroses, Dog Violets and Wood Anemones flower before the trees are in full leaf. These flowers, along with Ground Ivy and Bugle, provide early sources of nectar for early bees and butterflies out of hibernation, such as the Brimstone, Small tortoiseshell and Peacock butterflies.

From Raydon one can either walk back along the railway to Hadleigh or follow the road to the right and walk back towards Hadleigh via Upper Layham. At Layham you can then turn down Water Lane and follow the path to Layham Water Mill. Here is the opportunity to visit the playing field, which has an area by the river designated as an area for wildlife, including log piles for insects such as Stag Beetles to breed and retreats for reptiles such as Grass Snakes and Common Lizards. An Otter Holt has also been built by the river in order to accommodate any passing Otters, which have been reported from further along the River Brett.

This area has a good variety of plant and tree species which attract many of the butterflies already mentioned as well as moths (Poplar Hawk, Privet Hawk, Large Elephant Hawk and Puss Moth being some of the more spectacular), Grasshoppers, Damselflies and Dragonflies, all of which attract many bird species.

You can walk back to Hadleigh along the Layham Road which brings you back into Hadleigh via Toppesfield Bridge. Agricultural land borders this road on both sides and during Spring you may see Hares in the fields and if you are very lucky during the Summer evenings there may be Barn Owls hunting over the meadows.

When you reach Hadleigh you can turn left up Holbecks Lane, at the top of which there are footpaths that take you either across fields to Broom Hill Nature Reserve or on to Love Lane. Here you either turn back to Broom Hill or continue on to Coram Street and back into Hadleigh.





The Countryside Code

Enjoy the Countryside and respect its life and work

Guard against all risk of fire

Fasten all gates

Keep your dogs under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Take your litter home

Help to keep all water clean

Protect wildlife plants and trees

Take special care on country roads

Make no unnecessary noise.

