

5. Syleham

A 5 mile circular walk passing through remote Valley scenery, rich in wildlife.

Start: Syleham Mill. Limited roadside parking is available to the North of the river. Alternatively park in Brockdish.

Walk: Can be muddy. Many stiles to cross.

Facilities: Brockdish - The King's Head Public House, Village Store.

Public Transport: The nearest railway station is Diss. A regular bus service runs between Diss and Brockdish. For details please contact Suffolk Traveline on 08459 583358.

In the 18th Century **Syleham** was a centre for the linen industry, based on locally grown hemp. The water mill on the **Waveney** was converted to a linen mill in 1842. Almost 100 people were employed on the site in 1851 but cheaper cotton gradually replaced linen and the industry died out.

The Angles Way between Syleham and Instead Hall

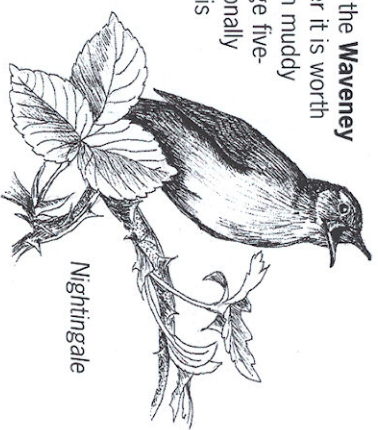
Farm passes close to the river through some fine valley scenery. All this land is within The Broads Environmentally Sensitive Area to conserve the traditional landscape of grazing marshes and water filled dykes.

A good variety of wildlife can be seen. In spring Nightingales may be heard singing from thickets by the path. Several of the small marshy fields are colourful with Cuckoo Flower and Ragged Robin in the early summer.

Otters are present all along the **Waveney** but are rarely seen. However it is worth looking for their footprints in muddy areas by the river. Their large five-toed paw prints can occasionally be found. The smaller Mink is more likely to be seen.

The site of a former water mill is passed at **Lucksmill Bridge**: the millpond is all that remains today.

The **Angles Way** is left beyond **Instead Hall Farm** and a beautiful side valley is followed on the way back to **Syleham**.



Nightingale

