

Welcome

Haughley, set in the valleys of the Gipping and Wetherden streams, provides a host of walking opportunities in the heart of Suffolk's rolling countryside.

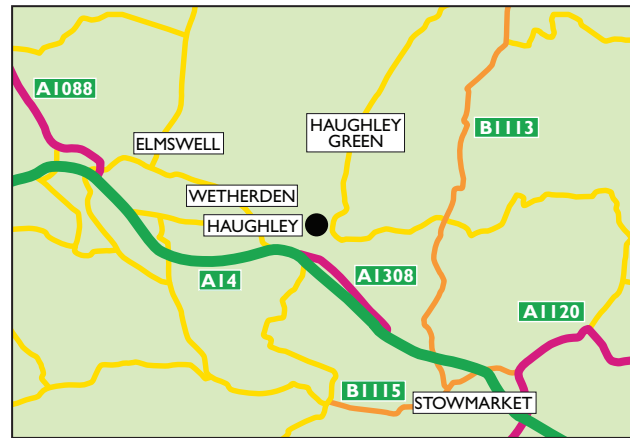
Haughley has a long history. It was once one of Suffolk's most important towns, but suffered at the end of the 16th Century when a great fire destroyed much of the village. This brought about the end of the town's market, which then moved to Stowmarket.

Today Haughley is a thriving community. It has a famous bakery, Palmers, which was established over a hundred years ago, and the Post Office is possibly the oldest in Suffolk (and possibly the oldest in the country). There is also a public house, a restaurant, a general food store, a vet, several farms and many other businesses. Bed & Breakfast and holiday accommodation is also available.

The walks described in this leaflet take you on a fascinating journey around the village and surrounding countryside. The walks all follow footpaths, tracks and quiet lanes, are between 3¾ and 5 miles long and can be combined for a longer day out.



Location



Haughley is situated just off the A14, about 3 miles north-west of Stowmarket, 13 miles east of Bury St Edmunds and 15 miles west of Ipswich. Park in the village centre along Old Street.

Public Transport

Public transport is available to Haughley. Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables or www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

Discover Suffolk

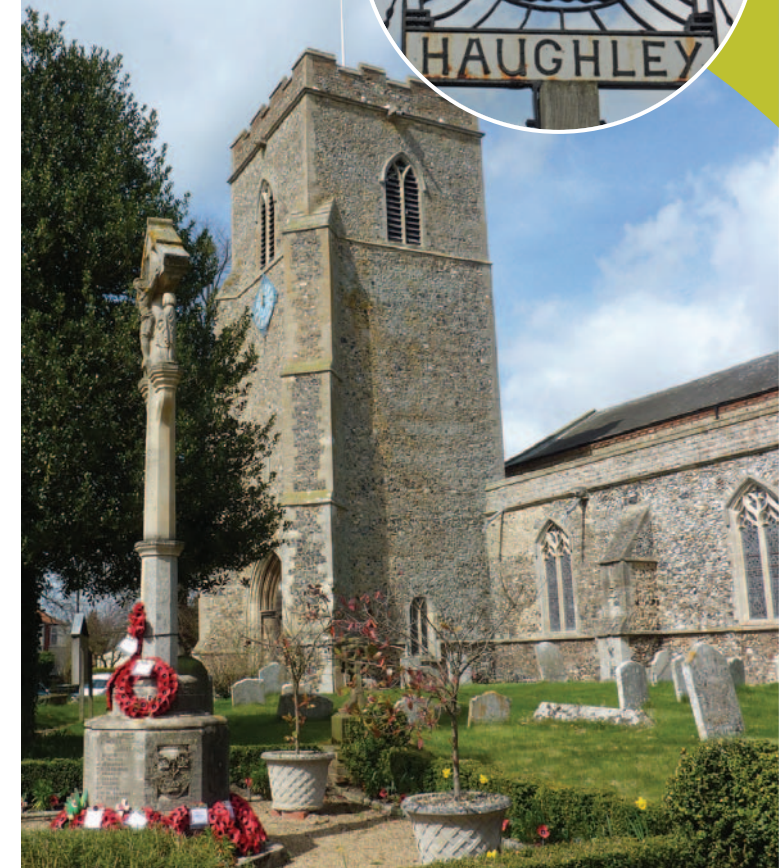
Discover more great days out across Suffolk at www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

Produced by Suffolk County Council and Haughley Parish Council.



Haughley Walks

3 circular walks
around historic
Haughley



Moats and Lanes

Start: St Mary's Church, Haughley

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Duration: 2½ - 3 hours

St Mary's Church ❶ dates from the 12th century and is unusual in that its tower and nave are separated by a south aisle. The war memorial in the church grounds was erected in 1920 only to be blown down in a gale and replaced by a plain cross in 1947. In 1995, the original cross was restored, names re-inscribed and the names of the fallen from WWII added

Follow the footpath between the church and the school to cross a field to a stile. To your left Haughley Castle once stood.

Haughley sits in a strategic location midway between Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds, an ideal location for a castle. ❷ The castle, previously known as Hageneth or Hagenorth Castle, was built around 1100 and consisted of a man-made mound, the 'motte', which had a fort on top, and an enclosed surrounding area, the 'bailie', where the community lived. The castle was destroyed in 1173 by the army of Lord Leicester and today its only inhabitants are ducks in the moat!

Cross the stile and turn right to follow the footpath around the edge of the field, into a second field and then over a small bridge to a third field. Continue to a railway crossing and follow the footpath beyond, alongside a driveway, to a small lane. Cross to follow the footpath opposite. The footpath signs guide you around the field.

At the footpath junction ❸ turn right and follow the path alongside a large field, with a green barn beyond, to the top of the rise.

To your west lies Wetherden Hall, a 15th century hall situated

on a working farm and enclosed by a large moat. It was once the home to the Sulyards, a prominent Suffolk Catholic family.

Just before a small wooden bridge, turn right to walk beside a belt of trees towards Haughley Green. Turn right at the road, left at the main road, and then right into New Bells Lane.

Just south of New Bells Lane lies Walnut Tree Manor. This is the birthplace of organic farming. In 1939 Lady Eve Balfour and Alice Debenham started the 'Haughley Experiment', the first scientific comparative study of organic farming and conventional chemical-based farming. Their studies led to the establishment of the Soil Association. Today the manor is used as an activity and education centre.

Continue along New Bells Lane to the right angled bend. ❹ The path continues ahead into a copse. At the lane turn left, continuing past a moat. The lane becomes a grassy path beside a field. At the bottom of the hill turn right. Keep ahead until you pass under the railway line ❺.

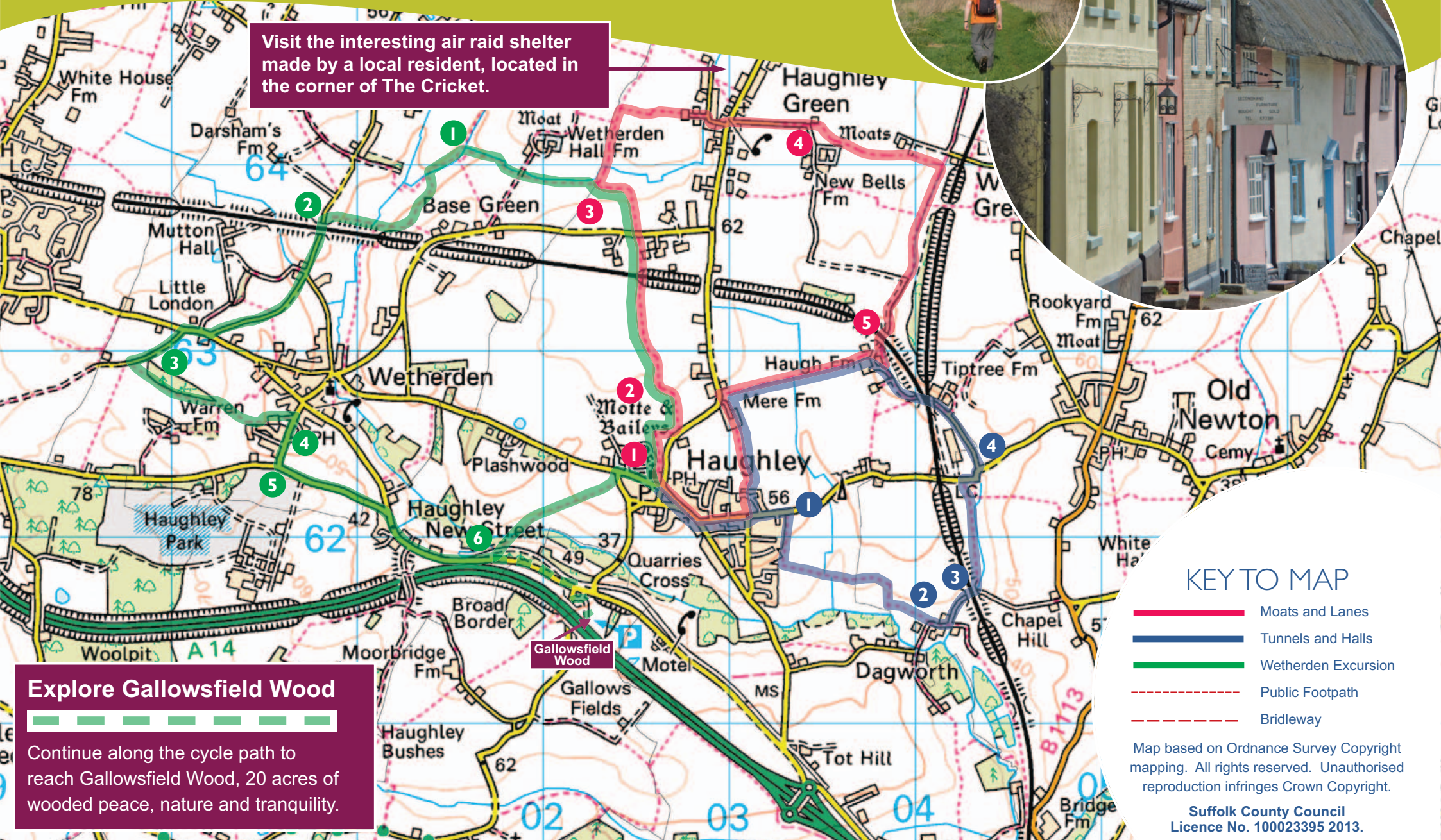
Walk up the rise – an ancient lane known as Haugh Lane, to a main road. Turn left along a driveway through Mere Farm and follow the footpath alongside a mature hedgerow. At the road, turn right to return to Haughley.



Haughley Walks

3 circular walks around historic Haughley



Visit the interesting air raid shelter made by a local resident, located in the corner of The Cricket.



Explore Gallowfield Wood

Continue along the cycle path to reach Gallowfield Wood, 20 acres of wooded peace, nature and tranquility.

KEY TO MAP

-  Moats and Lanes
-  Tunnels and Halls
-  Wetherden Excursion
-  Public Footpath
-  Bridleway

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Tunnels and Halls

Start: Old Street, Haughley

Distance: 3¾ miles (6km)

Duration: 1½ - 2 hours

From the village centre head down Old Street, turning left into Station Road. Just past Harvest Close, turn right to follow a footpath ❶ around the edge of a large field. Go over a small footbridge, over a ditch and along a grassy path between 2 fields. Keep straight ahead to a gap in the hedgerow. Cross a ditch to follow the footpath to a lane ❷.

At the lane, turn left. Keep on the lane and soon after East Barn (on your left) you pass under the railway ❸.

The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway, known affectionately as the “Middy”, once branched off near here. Built in the Edwardian era, the “Middy” was a late-comer to the railway scene, being constructed just when mechanised transport was making an appearance on the roads. It effectively went broke before it opened but managed to struggle on for almost 50 years, finally closing in 1952. There is a museum about the “Middy” located in Wetheringsett.



After the railway, climb the stile on your left and follow the footpath. At the road turn right and immediately left into Haugh Lane ❹. Keep to the concrete track, passing under the railway. At Furzwood Rise follow

a narrow footpath between a fence and hedge to another footpath near a railway tunnel.

Turn left to follow the red route from ❺.

Wetherden Excursion

Start: Old Street, Haughley

Distance: 6 miles (9½km)

Duration: 3-3½ hours



Follow the directions for the Red Walk and at the footpath junction ❸ continue ahead, past the driveway to Wetherden Hall Farm, keeping the ditch on your right. Cross the wooden footbridge and at the top of steps turn left ❶. The ditch is now on your left. Cross the next wooden footbridge, and keep straight ahead with another ditch on your left. Continue uphill, then between paddocks to the railway line. Turn right, downhill, to meet a lane ❷. Follow this under the railway into Little London.

At the main road turn right and next left towards Warren Mill House ❸.

A windmill once stood alongside Warren Mill House. It was a post mill, meaning the whole body of the windmill turned to face the wind. It was dismantled in 1904.



Turn left at the footpath leading along a grassy path beside a copse. This leads downhill to pass behind houses into Wetherden. At the road turn right (Park Road) ❹.

Wetherden was recorded in the Domesday book as “Watdena” or “Wederdena”. Wetherden was home to the Sulyards who lived in Wetherden Hall. In the 15th century Sir John Sulyard helped build St Mary’s Church, inside is a limestone and marble monument to Sir John. The village also has a pub, the Maypole.

Continue south along Park Road and at the main road turn left. Just south of here lies Haughley Park ❺.

The Sulyards also built Haughley Park, a 17th century Grade-1 listed manor house set in 6 acres of landscaped gardens. The land was originally granted to the Sulyards by Mary Tudor, the sister of Henry VIII.

The estate is open to the public at various times of the year, including bluebell season.

Walk along the grass verge into Haughley New Street. Here you pick up pavement to the former A14 ❻, now a cycle lane. At the footpath, turn left and just before a gate right, along a track following the tree line. The footpath signs guide you through the tree belt, over a stream and a stile.

The footpath then leads diagonally across the field towards Haughley Church. Climb a tall stile and continue to the road. Turn left and then right to return to the village centre.