

OUT & ABOUT BROADLAND

Walk no:



3

Foulsham

A four-mile scenic walk

This 4 mile walk is around the lanes and fields of the historic village of Foulsham, which dates back to at least the 11th century. The walk starts from the former market place which sadly declined and ceased to exist in the 18th century – even the arrival of the railway to the south of the town could not save it. A number of properties in Foulsham date from the 16th and 17th centuries although the ‘Great Fire of Foulsham’ destroyed many old buildings in 1770.

Foulsham is situated 1½ miles from the A1067, 18 miles north-west of Norwich. Parking is available by the War Memorial in the Market Square. You may encounter livestock along this route.

Directions

From the War Memorial take the road to the right of Hill House on Market Hill. Continue past the Old Hall and turn right through the kissing gate at the footpath sign. Walk almost straight ahead between wooded areas and then bear left towards stile. After crossing the stile and footbridge over a small stream veer right towards the right edge of the field. Go over stile and continue straight ahead over another stile until you reach the road. Here turn right and then take the next right turn into Claypit Road. At the end of this road turn left into the High Street and continue to Dawson’s Lane. Turn right into the lane, follow round to the left which then becomes a grassy track. Go over a stile into a meadow and bear left across it. At fork, bear right and continue over a small footbridge.

Keep close to the left hand edge of the meadow and follow the stream that runs alongside. Go over a stile and cross a footbridge over a ditch into an arable field and continue along the left hand edge. After about 200 yards turn right, shortly before a second copse in the middle of the field. Head to the right of the copse and continue across the field making for a gap in the far hedgeline, passing the copse to the left. Turn right and follow a wide grass path between hedge and field passing an old barn and farmhouse on the right.

Here a common sound throughout the year is the song of the skylark as it performs its flight above the fields. In the distance is the 14th century Foulsham Church. The path soon becomes a gravel track with bungalows on the left. At road turn left into Waller’s Lane then left again at main road. After about 125 yards turn right into Sneck Lane passing a park on your left. The footpath continues between fields with extensive views of the countryside on either side.

At a minor road turn right. In summer in the banks beside the road many wild flowers are to be seen including the ‘Cuckoo Pint’ or Wild Arum, the roots of which were gathered in Elizabethan times because of their high starch content and used for starching the high pleated linen ruffs worn around the neck. At crossroads turn right towards church. Foulsham church has been damaged twice over the last two centuries – in 1770 by fire that melted the lead roof and four of the original bells and in 1892 by a great gale. Continue straight ahead back to the War Memorial and the start of the walk.

