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# Along the way

Homersfield Bridge on the River Waveney is a great place to just stand and watch the river below you. Built in 1869 over the Waveney straddling the boundaries between Norfolk and Suffolk, the wrought iron framework of the arch is encased in concrete and is of considerable historic interest as a forerunner of modern reinforced concrete structures. An information plaque on the bridge tells the story, and that of the 'The bloody hand' coat of arms – a story worth reading!

This route travels through the claylands of Norfolk and Suffolk along the valley of the River Waveney. The landscape is predominantly arable with large fields on the 'uplands' and grazing marsh in the bottom of the river valleys.

When walking beside or close to the river, keep an eye out for barn owls. They can often be seen slowly quartering the grazing meadows looking for voles and other small mammals which live in this river valley habitat.

Harleston is an ancient market town close to the River Waveney. In its earlier days the town was nothing more than a collection of market traders. The market prospered, houses replaced the stalls and the town grew. Its future was assured when in 1259 it was granted the right to hold a fair and a market. Now it is a vibrant and lively town with shops, a small museum, eating places and pubs to enjoy.

## Walk summary

Add an extra half a mile to this 4 mile walk between Homersfield and Harleston to take a peak at a coat of arms on Homersfield bridge with an interesting tale to tell!

#### **Getting started**

This section is between The Green, Homersfield (TM285855) and the junction of Mendham Lane/Love Lane, Harleston (TM245831).

### **Getting there**

**Bus services** Anglian 80, Simmonds or Waveney Community Bus

**Bus stops** High Road, Wortwell and Malthouse Court, London Road, Harleston Traveline enquiries: 0871 200 2233 www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk

## Maps and guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map Diss and Harleston 230 available from the Ordnance Survey shop www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite

## What to expect

Footpaths, farm tracks, marshland grazing meadows, stiles, country roads, moderate hills and a busy section of the A143 to cross.

#### **Facilities**

Parking and toilets (Harleston only)
Accommodation, camping, pubs, cafes,
restaurants, shops
Further information about planning a break in this
area is available from
www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/visiting/index.asp and
www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/tourism





