

Walk 1: Howard's Root!

5km or 3.25miles approx. (OS Explorer map 230)

Park at Wortham Post Office / Stores and Tea Rooms (maybe have some refreshments before you start or at the end). [Pics 1 and 2](#)

Head East following the A 143 for 250m. Just before reaching the first road turning on the left, cross the road into a green lane (Bean's Lane on OS E map 230) signposted 'Byway'. (1) [Pic 3](#)

Keep ahead for 1 km (ignoring all directions suggesting otherwise and keeping hedge on right) (Pic 4) until reaching a T-junction. (2)

Turn right onto a farm track with fine views over farmland on both sides. [Pic 5 and 6](#)

Exit, keeping left, through Hill Farm. (3) [Pic 7](#)

It was at Hill Farm in 1513 that the landowner John Waller set upon and murdered the Rector of Burgate in a dispute over the collection of a tithe. Sentenced to death at Norwich, Mr. Waller was said to have been hanged from a large tree in Sycamore Road.

Cross road with care, then straight ahead into Sycamore Road, now a quiet country lane signposted Burgate. Follow this road which bends first left [Pic 8](#) then right by the church [Pic 9](#) to reach the sign for Hall farm on the next bend. (4)

Walk can be extended here by keeping on the road for another 150 yds, then turning right onto a signposted permissive path which runs around Burgate Wood to meet our path at (5).

Burgate Wood is Ancient Woodland bordered by a massive wood bank and ditch. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

(4) Turn right onto the footpath. [Pic 10](#)

Angle slightly left across field, view Burgate Church to your right [Pic 11](#), then a small bridge and follow track which winds first left then right (to skirt Burgate Wood on your left). [Pic 12](#)

After 250 yds (5) keep ahead and follow path between houses to reach Burgate Great Green.

Burgate Great Green is a fine example of a Grazed Common. It is marshy land and has acid soils. Management has remained unchanged for hundreds of years. 20/30 species of grass and over 300 species of moths and butterflies have been recorded.

Turn right, passing pond on your left [Pic 13](#) and continue round the green on a rough winding track keeping the houses on your right. At The Pink Cottage turn left onto a grassy (at times a little muddy) sward, aiming a little left of a white house in the distance. [Pic 14](#)

On reaching a track that skirts to the left (from the white house), you can either carry on this track or if you want a rest, look right and you will see Charlie Flatman's bench [Pic 15](#) (he has gone fishing! The view is a pleasant one across Burgate Great Green. Retrace your steps to the track to leave the Green. (6) [Pic 16](#)

100 metres along this track turn sharp right at footpath sign next to The Old Chapel. [Pic 17](#)

Keeping a tall hedge on the left, the path winds left and right. On your left is Howard's Nursery. This is a large commercial nursery, growing plants for the Garden centre trade. On your right is their own reservoir, a haven for wildlife. The surrounding fields are awash with colour in early summer with the many irises that are their speciality.

Once past The Nursery, (7) turn left through a large gap in the hedge and follow the field edge straight ahead through a hole in the hedge and through The Pub car park. (8) Time for a real drink!

Turn right onto the A143, look across the road and right and you will see your starting point (Wortham Post Office / Stores and Tea Rooms) and car park.