Halesworth: a historic malt town

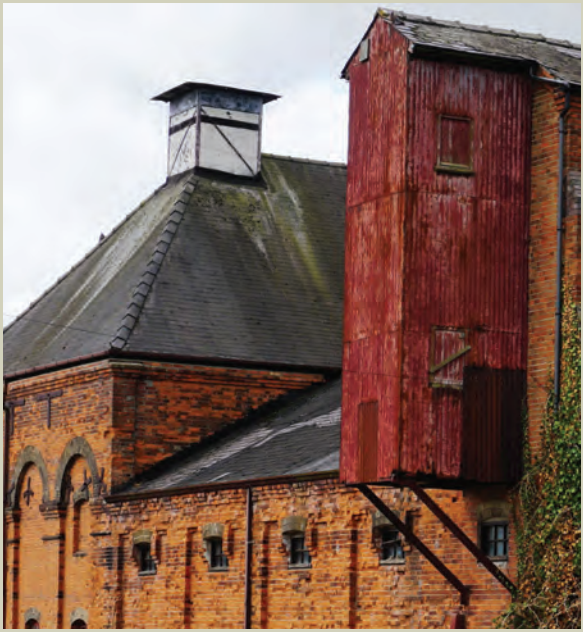
The MALT Heritage Trail

A walk into a forgotten townscape

Today, behind its quiet façade, Halesworth hides a brisk and bustling industrial past. At its heart lay malt, produced from fine barley grown on the light local soils and turned, in specialised buildings known as malthouses or maltings, into the main ingredient of Britain's favourite drink, beer.

Once this was a small-scale local trade, producing just enough malt to make beer for local inns. Then improvements in transport made it possible for larger, more efficient maltings to sell their produce to a wider world, particularly to the large breweries growing up in London and the Midlands.

This process began as early as the mid-1700s when improvements to the River Blyth allowed Halesworth malt to be carried down to the sea and around the coast to London. The arrival of the railway in the 1850s brought even greater speed and economy. Production expanded rapidly, particularly under Patrick Stead, the Scottish maltster who made his base in Halesworth and became one of the country's most successful and innovative malting entrepreneurs. Thus Halesworth became known as a regional centre for the industry.



Station Yard Maltings

The last Halesworth malt was produced in 1981, but look carefully and you can still find evidence of the town's malting legacy. Follow the Malt Trail and you will discover traces of this proud history.

Visit the Malt Experience in the Cut Arts Centre **8** and learn how malt was produced in what was once a grand Victorian maltings. Let your imagination take you back to the time when the smell of malt hung in the air and the community prospered on Halesworth's golden harvest.

The New Cut Maltings, now the Cut Arts Centre, as it would have appeared in 1898

1 The Angel Yard Maltings
2 The Halesworth Brewery
3 The George Maltings
4 The River Blyth and its Wherries
5 A Lost Industrial Landscape
6 Quay Street: The Malting Hub of Halesworth
7 The Railway and the Malt Trade
8 The New Cut Maltings
9 Beer and Botanics
NORWICH ROAD
DAIRY HILL
BRAMBLEWOOD WAY
THE CUT ARTS CENTRE and THE MALT EXPERIENCE
STATION ROAD
RAILWAY STATION and MUSEUM
NEW CUT
RECTORY GREEN
SCHOOL LANE
RECTORY STREET
RIVER BLYTH
BRIDGE STREET
QUAY STREET
MALTINGS CLOSE
BLYTH MEWS
LOAM PIT LANE
HOLTON ROAD
TOWN PARK
CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA
NEW REACH
RIVER BLYTH
SAXONS WAY
THOROUGHFARE
HALESWORTH TOWN CENTRE
CHEDISTON STREET
MARKET PLACE
ANGEL LINK
RIVER LANE
CHURCH FARM LANE
STEEPLE END
SWAN LANE
MILLENNIUM GREEN
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