



DISCOVER BUNGAY

Two Islands of Opportunities – One Magical Market Town

A 'secret' motte and bailey castle, cloaked by medieval streets of inviting little independent shops. Market stalls, trading timelessly beneath the elegant domed Butter Cross.

An outer isle (Outn-ey), enclosed by a mighty ox-bow meander. Edged by spa-town secrets and stories of baronial vineyards, planted with the best stock from Burgundy, Champagne and Provence. Tent-pitch perfect and fab for family fun and adventures. The island home of wonderful wildlife meadows and grazing marshes, where golf is par for the course and wild-swimming and canoeing are a dream.

An enchantingly historic theatre, alive with arts offerings of every kind. Smugglers' alleyways and huddles of colourful cottages sloping off, down towards the forgotten wharves and warehouses of the winding River Waveney.

From Bath Hills by Outney Meadows to Castle Hills in the historic heart of the town, Bungay is full of fine views, fascinating contrasts and fabulous tales. You'll find devil dog, Black Shuck - East Anglia's familiar face of the dark side - lurking around many a Bungay street corner and the town boasts enough ghostly goings-on to cause a spectral traffic jam! All this and elegant architectural wizardry too? Hmmm... maybe it's no coincidence that JK Rowling's famous Harry Potter books were printed here?

Stay This Way...

Enjoy the great outdoors and wonderful River Waveney right on Bungay's doorstep. Pitch up at Outney Meadow and find fishing, canoeing, golf, walking and cycling all on the countryside menu with Bungay's castle, delicious delis and tempting café culture just a short stroll away. Have your own tent or caravan in tow? Fancy sleeping beneath the stars or giving glamping a go? Want to bed down and count sheep from a shepherd's hut or hang about in a hammock hut for two? From hilltop farm haunts with eco-camping credentials to historic town-centre inns, old parsonage places with brilliant farmhouse breakfasts or a cosy butler's pantry to put your feet up a while, there's a fully serviced or self-catering something for everyone in the Suffolk/Norfolk Waveney Valley and Saints villages around Bungay.

The Pocket Guide to Bungay has been produced in association with East Suffolk Council and part funded by the European Regional Development Fund.



- Bus Stop
- Parking
- Public Toilets
- Library
- Bungay Museum
- Chemist
- Post Office
- Visitor Info Point
- Campsite
- Footpath

- Key**
- 1 Market Place/ Butter Cross
 - 2 Castle Yard
 - 3 Bungay Castle
 - 4 Castle Hills
 - 5 Old Guildhall
 - 6 Fleece Inn
 - 7 St Mary's Church (& Druid's Stone)
 - 8 Priory Ruins
 - 9 Borough Well
 - 10 Holy Trinity Church
 - 11 Bungay Staithe
 - 12 Falcon Meadow
 - 13 Bridge Street
 - 14 Fisher Theatre
 - 15 Cork Bricks

- A Play Area (St John's Rd)
- B Waveney Valley Leisure Centre/Swimming Pool (A144)
- C Sport Fields (Pirnow St)
- D Outney Common Waveney Valley Golf Club
- E Outney Meadow River Fishing/(Day Tickets)

Did you know?

Bungay - aka 'Little London' - has its very own Temple Bar, Constitution Hill and statue of Justice! It got its nickname in Georgian times when, just 22 years after the Great Fire of London, much of the town met a similar fate and was rebuilt in the height of fashion by its thriving business community. Cast in London, Justice who still tops the Butter Cross today, made her trip to Bungay by river and took up her position in 1754.

Markets & Milestones

Market Town: since 1384
Market Day: Thursday
Lowestoft: 16 miles/26 kms
Norwich: 16 miles/26 kms
Ipswich: 39 miles/63 kms
Castle constructed: 1165
Airfield constructed: 1942
Printworks: 1795

Waveney River Navigation: 1670-1930
Turnpike (Toll) Roads
Ipswich » Yarmouth Branch Line: 1785
Railway Lines
Tivetshall » Harleston: 1860-1953
Bungay » Ditchingham: 1860-1964
Black Shuck Rages: 1577
Great Fire of Bungay: 1688
Earthquake: 1757



Wherry Well-Connected In Roman times, Bungay was on both road and river routes with probably a military encampment at Wainford Bridge (east) and possibly a farmstead/villa to the south. The River Waveney was central to its wealth as a medieval trading centre and through dredging, widening and the introduction of locks in the 1670s, its landing stage or 'Staithe' remained a successful port throughout the 1800s with multiple docking spurs for wherries and lighters. Bungay exports over the centuries included corn, flour, malt, dairy products, leather goods, textiles, timber and wherries - boatbuilding yards were in the Upper/Lower Olland (Oakland) Street area.

NEED TO KNOW

The Bigod Barons Bungay's 'big cheeses' in more ways than one. After 1066, the lands of Saxon chief, Godric passed via William de Noyers to Roger Bigod (1103). On his death, widow Gundreda set up a priory and son, Hugh, very quickly got too big for his Bigod boots. Having ambitiously taken issue with King Stephen, he built a mighty castle keep at Bungay in 1165 with walls 5.5m thick/27m high to defend his position and status. Henry II was not amused and forced Hugh to pay huge ransoms and head to the Crusades, whilst literally undermining his castle in 1173, so it could never be a threat again. Later Bigods (mostly called Roger!) added ring walls, inner/outer moats or rebuilt bits, but preferred their fortified curtain walled castle at Framlingham. These days, 'Baron Bigod' is a brie-style cheese, made just across the meadows from his ill-fated castle.

A Unique Reeve-lation Bungay still appoints a Town Reeve - a unique role partly dating back 500 years, but with Saxon origins. A big wig of sorts (ceremonial dress favours a large three-cornered hat and impressive chain of office!) the Town Reeve heads up the Town Trust and attends functions alongside the Town Mayor.

GO FOR A POTTER HARRY'S HERITAGE WALK ★

A Magical Stroll through Historic Bungay & its Architectural Wizardry (with a handful of Harry Potter references!)

1.7 miles
2.8 kms
CIRCULAR WALK

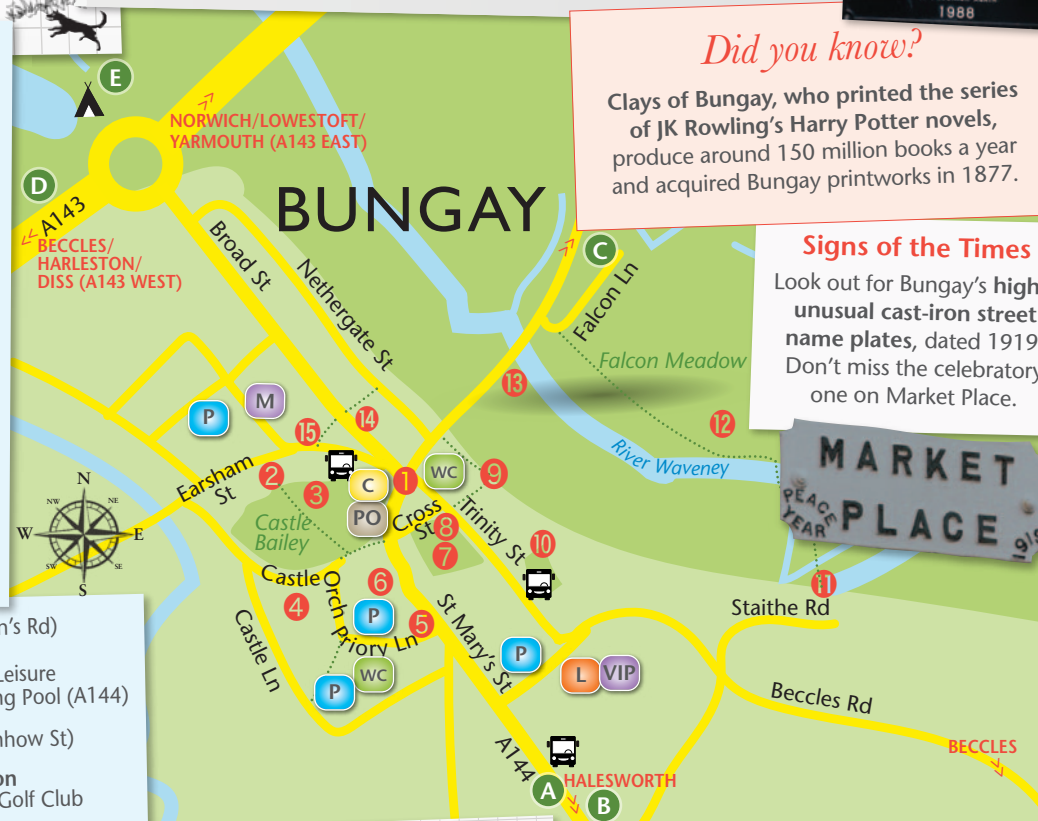


Did you know?

Clays of Bungay, who printed the series of JK Rowling's Harry Potter novels, produce around 150 million books a year and acquired Bungay printworks in 1877.

Signs of the Times

Look out for Bungay's highly unusual cast-iron street name plates, dated 1919. Don't miss the celebratory one on Market Place.



Don't miss Bungay's

- Arts & Antiques
- Annual Garden Market
- Food & Drink Events
- Christmas Street Market, lights & festive shopping

bungay-suffolk.co.uk/
thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

FESTIVALS? CONCERTS? EVENTS?

Look out for excellent arts offerings at Bungay's brilliant venues

- The Fisher Theatre
- Bungay Castle
- St Mary's Church

Bound along to Bungay Museum for more about the dastardly devil hound.
bungaymuseum.co.uk

An Uncomfortable Coincidence?

A 'Frier Bongay' features in an Elizabethan play penned in 1589 by Norwich-born dramatist, Robert Greene - 'The Honorable Historie of Frier Bacon & Frier Bongay'. An amusing tale of romp and romance, full of earls, heirs, friars and Suffolk squires, Oxford students and alchemists, it's possible that the 'Frier Bongay' character was loosely based on a 1200s Franciscan town friar, who not only seems to have had magical powers and dealt in the dark arts, but whose favourite companion was... a big black dog!

Lurking around this Pocket Guide are a whole pack of hellish hounds. Can you spot all 12 of them?

GETTING AROUND

By Road: A143 (Diss/Gt Yarmouth), A143/A146 (Norwich) A144/A12 (Ipswich)
By Bus: thewaytosuffolk.org.uk
By Rail: East Suffolk Line (station in Beccles) eastsuffolklines.co.uk; nationalrail.co.uk
By Bike: On Regional Cycle Network route 30 & 40.
On Foot: Angles Way (93 miles/150 kms) discoversuffolk.org.uk
Walking/Cycling/Horse-riding: discoversuffolk.org.uk
Car Parks/Cashless & Ticketless Parking: myringgo.co.uk
OS Maps: Outdoor Leisure OL40/OS Explorer 231

The Pocket Guide to BUNGAY

Fortified Waveney River Port & Market Town Heritage
Antiques & Galleries * Independent Shops * Food & Drink
Family Fun on the Water * Wildlife * Entertainment & Events
Gateway to 'The Saints' * Walks & Cycle Rides



EXPLORE & ENJOY BUNGAY & BEYOND

Ancient rolling claylands and farmstead-edged commons; a vast river valley with the widest Waveney meanders; meadows, marshes and little lanes – welcome to the perfect north Suffolk place to wander, paddle or pedal off for superb gentle adventures.

Follow the Angles Way long distance path alongside abbeylands and airfields, past castle ruins and forgotten Georgian spas. Weave in and out of Norfolk by bike, cycling the Godric Way or bite off a chunk or two of the Bigod Way, walking in and around Bungay. Whether you seek out fabulous little churches in 'The Saints', make a 'bee-line' for Outney's wildflower meadows or find a thirst for Bungay's rural vineyards and breweries, you're sure to discover a whole world of unexpected treasures – no wonder the adventurer Henry Rider Haggard, author of King Solomon's Mines, and his botanist daughter, Lilius, loved it here!

Make a Splash!

Bath Hills – the clue's in the name! In 1737 apothecary, John King, wrote 'An Essay on Hot & Cold Bathing' after establishing a health spa, 'Cold Bath House' on the slopes above Bungay's Outney Common. The building was later home to Lilius Rider Haggard who loved drawing plants and even once spotted a sea-monster off the Suffolk coast at Kessingland!

Today there are a number of canoe launches and favoured places to put a toe (or more!) in the river shallows, plus angling areas (day permits required). A gentle 3 hour paddle in a canoe/Bigod Way riverside stroll (see right) can soon cover the 4 mile/7 kms of the 'Great Loop' and lead to all sorts of discoveries. The clear waters are home to bream, pike and otters and there are all sorts of insects, birds, flora and fauna to spot on the riverbanks – best take the binoculars!

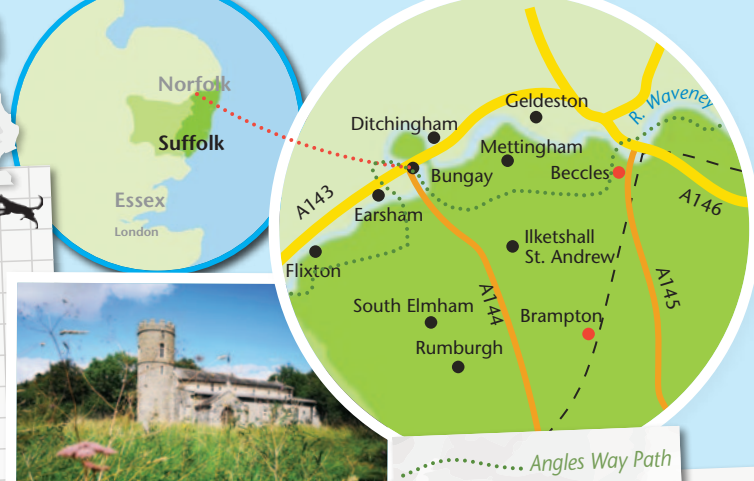
Nature Watch

By the River Waveney at Bungay's Outney Common or Falcon Meadow, alongside the old 'mardle' ponds or stepping-stone 'carnser' paths across the commons in The Saints... what will you spot today?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kingfisher | <input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Admiral Butterfly | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Marigolds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reed Mace | <input type="checkbox"/> Heron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Mouse |

Bats about Outney Common & Other Foul Play...

Don't be stumped by this one. Cricket bat willows were once a major 'crop' grown around Outney Common and three generations on, one Bungay company still exports willow 'clefts' across the globe. The town even had its own cricket bat factory too! Outney Common's most unusual species though has to be *Iris foetidissima* aka 'Stinking Iris', a pleasant find until her leaves are bruised – then she delivers a beefy blow to the nose!



Bungay » Bath Hills » Ditchingham THE BIGOD WAY



OS MAP: OL40

5.5 miles
9 kms
CIRCULAR
WALK

FROM/TO: Bigod's Castle, Bungay NR35 1AE
TERRAIN: Flat with gentle climbs. River bank, field, woodland footpaths, tracks, quiet lanes, pavements. Steps, stiles, gates, footbridges.
DIRECTIONS: bungay-suffolk.co.uk/discoversuffolk.org.uk
Walk the beautiful ox-bow meander which embraces Outney Common. A wonderful Waveney Valley town and country walk, mainly along the fully signposted Angles Way.
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: Bigod's Castle – All Saints' Church, Earsham – Bath Hills – Cold Bath House (private residence) – Ditchingham Maltings (wartime US military billet) – 'Chicken' Roundabout (where Gordon Knowles cared for a community of stray poultry!) – Falcon Bridge/Meadow.

'SILLY' SUFFOLK EXPLORER

In medieval times, Suffolk had so many churches that people called it 'Selig' (pronounced 'Silly'), meaning spiritual/holy. The Saints takes its name from its churches and had priories at Flixton and Rumburgh, plus a Minster and Bishop's Palace at South Elmham too!

The Saints Cycle Tour, a 16 mile/26 kms south loop cycle ride from Bungay clocks up 8 'Saints' villages, plus Mettingham Castle (once a college for ecclesiastical canons), Gt Common Ilketshall St Andrew, Rumburgh Priory Church, ruined South Elmham Minster (detour) and St Peter's Hall Brewery. discoversuffolk.org.uk

Or why not drive and discover? Stop off to walk Ilketshall's commons or the remote ruins of South Elmham Minster. Stand and remember by St Michael's, a doubly thankful village where all sons who served returned safely home from WWI and II. Don't miss lonely All Saints' with its wildlife churchyard near St Nicholas South Elmham and St Michael's island site at Rumburgh.

THE ANGLES WAY PATH

Accompanying the Waveney and its journey to the sea, the Angles Way is a 93 mile/150 kms path tracing the Suffolk/Norfolk county boundary from Thetford to Great Yarmouth. The fully waymarked route is ideal for exploring the Waveney Valley landscapes around Bungay on foot. Join it directly from Bungay town via Bridge Street/Ditchingham Dam (East) or at Earsham village/All Saints' Church (West), accessed by following Earsham Street out of town, then taking streamside footpath/track (left) at start of second bridge, or staying on road (pavement) to turn left into School Road in Earsham.

The Angles Way

8 miles
12.9 kms
WALK

OS MAP: OL40

From Bungay to The Broads

Dive in the deli, pack a picnic and enjoy a gentle Waveney Valley adventure east along the Angles Way, to busy market town, Beccles - gateway to the Suffolk Broads. Highlights include historic bridges, beautiful views, Mettingham Castle and workhouse buildings.

Directions: eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks

Ilketshall St Andrew in The Saints A COMMON PHENOMENON



1.8 miles
3 kms
CIRCULAR
WALK

OS MAP: 231

FROM/TO: Village Hall, School Road, Ilketshall St Andrew NR34 8JA

TERRAIN: Flat ground, damp grazing meadows. Meadow-edge/cross meadow 'carnser' (raised stone) footpaths, lanes.

Clock up a rare cluster of six historic commons by the remote farmsteads and 1100s church of Ilketshall St Andrew, in The Saints. Land dismissed as too wet to go under the plough, these shared patches of grazing meadow with their thick hedgerows and dew ponds have survived intact for centuries – home to nectar-rich wildflowers like Lady's Smock and butterflies including 'Orange Tip', plus crested newts, barn owls and skylarks.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right (School Road), passing old school (right) towards St Andrew's church. As road bears right, continue straight ahead past church (right) along footpath to meet Mill Lane. Turn right to pass alongside Blacksmiths Common. Keep right on road, past chapel (left) to Took's Common and The Mardle (right - originally a pond for retting flax to make

DISCOVER WHAT'S BREWING IN THE SAINTS

There's a feast of fine award-winning ales, fascinating history and a restaurant to savour at St Peter South Elmham, home to one of England's original craft breweries and a quirky farmhouse, St Peter's Hall. With moats and part of the Hall dating from 1280, St Peter's Brewery (1996) is still very much the new kid on this rural block, but its worldwide export of local flavours, on-site shop and brewery tours (booking essential) have certainly put this remote corner of Suffolk on the map! stpetersbrewery.co.uk

Prefer to Pedal?

The Marshes & Lanes Cycle Tour, a 17 mile/27.5 kms circular covering both sides of the river between Bungay and Beccles, follows mainly national and regional cycle routes. Highlights include: Ringsfield church, Mettingham Castle, Gt Common Ilketshall St Andrew, Geldeston (detour to Geldeston Locks), Ditchingham Maltings. discoversuffolk.org.uk



yarn/rope where folk would 'mardle' ie. share a story or gossip!) to junction.

Turn left (Banters Lane) to take footpath (right) along Little Common's periphery path and (over stream) around Peardye Common. Turn left, rejoining road. Near village sign on Holdens (aka Godfrey's) Common, turn right along footpath (edge of common), then right again onto road. Continue ahead to Great Common. For village hall, either take footpath right or go left via Dairy Farm/carnser path. To walk Great Common's periphery (1.4 miles/2.3 kms), go left.

ABBEYS & AIRFIELDS

A hugely powerful priory stood at Flixton just west of Bungay until Cardinal Wolsey, strapped for cash to support his school and college projects, decided to dissolve it around 1536. Henry VIII soon took a shine to the bright fundraising idea and the rest is Reformation history! Traces of Flixton 'abbey' remain, but its lands were significantly repurposed in the last century...

Completed in 1944, Flixton Aerodrome Station 125 is particularly associated with the USAAF 446th Bomb Group, 'The Bungay Buckaroos'. Its runways and periphery road are easily traced in today's arable landscape, but the fabulous, free and family-friendly Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum in the village really brings its story home alongside all sorts of aviation heritage exhibits. aviationmuseum.net



OS MAP: 231

Walk & Discover

Get the full picture on an Angles Way walk which edges the old airfield perimeter, and passes a wartime operations memorial and ancient abbey references, to land at the Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum.

On the Angles Way from Earsham, head south to meet Abbey Road after Sternacre Farm. Turn right, to Flixton (1 mile/1.6 kms). Keep right through village. Turn right at B1062 along pavement to museum. Cross B1062 to return on footpaths via Hill Farm/Wood Farm across old airfield site to rejoin Angles Way.

9 miles
15 kms
CIRCULAR
WALK

The Angles Way

OS MAP: 231

Walk This Way

Enjoy a refreshing country ramble down the Angles Way to St Peter's Hall Brewery,

4 miles
6.5 kms
LINEAR
WALK

popping by Stow Fen Brewery and Fen Farm Dairy along the way too. On the Angles Way from Earsham, head south over Stow Fen and spot them flanking the route at Flixton Road (B1062). Continue on Angles Way and after its sharp right turn near Shadow Barn Farm, take footpath (left) to St Peter's Hall.

Prefer to Pedal?

The 13 mile/21 kms Brewery Cycle Tour combines St Peter's Brewery with a detour to Earsham's Flint Vineyard (pre-booked tours/tastings flintvineyard.com) by crossing Britain's oldest concrete bridge at Homersfield, returning to Bungay via Regional Cycle Route 30. discoversuffolk.org.uk

Countryside Code

- Plan ahead. Be prepared.
- Follow paths, advice and local signs.
- Consider the local community/others enjoying the outdoors.
- Be careful with naked flames/cigarettes at any time of the year.
- Leave gates/property as you find them.
- Take litter home. Clean up after your dog.
- Always keep dogs under close control, especially amongst livestock/during bird nesting season. Release your dog if chased by cattle.

Did you know?

You'll find parts of Flixton Priory literally in St Peter's Hall (brewery). Its owner bought the porch and windows and had them incorporated into his farmhouse!

Discover Digital Trails

Let your phone do the directing on an interactive trail around Bungay. Download the app and discover. thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

The information in this guide is provided in good faith and is correct to the best of the publishers' knowledge at the time of going to press, but is subject to alteration.

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