

## Local Adnams pub

In partnership with  
**ADNAM'S**  
SOUTHWOLD

**THE SHIP INN** Tel: 01473 659573  
Church Lane, Levington, Suffolk IP10 0LQ

Location: <b>In village</b>	Restaurant/dining room	<b>Yes</b>
Garden/courtyard	Bar meals	<b>Yes</b>
Children welcome: outside	Accommodation	<b>Yes</b>
Disabled access	Dogs welcome: outside	<b>Yes</b>
Parking available	Credit cards welcome	<b>Yes</b>



Levington  
Church

**Suffolk Coast  
& Heaths**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



This leaflet has been produced with the generous support of Adnams to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.

"Adnams has been proud to work with Suffolk Coast and Heaths for many years on a variety of projects. We are based in Southwold, just inside the AONB and it is with this beautiful location in mind, that we have great respect for the built, social and natural environment around us. Over several years we have been working hard to make our impact on the environment a positive one, please visit our website to discover some of the things we've been up to.

We often talk about that "ah, that's better" moment and what better way to celebrate that, than walking one of these routes and stopping off at an Adnams pub for some well-earned refreshment.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the walks (and the pub!), please upload your comments and photos to our website [adnams.co.uk](http://adnams.co.uk)."

**Andy Wood**, Adnams Chief Executive

You can follow us on  
[twitter.com/adnams](https://twitter.com/adnams)

### More Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB pub walks



- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 01 Pin Mill   | 08 Aldeburgh   |
| 02 Levington  | 09 Eastbridge  |
| 03 Walsingham | 10 Westleton   |
| 04 Woodbridge | 11 Walberswick |
| 05 Butley     | 12 Southwold   |
| 06 Orford     | 13 Wrentham    |
| 07 Snape      | 14 Blythburgh  |



In partnership with  
**ADNAM'S**  
SOUTHWOLD

# Levington

In partnership with

**ADNAM'S**  
SOUTHWOLD



**Suffolk Coast  
& Heaths**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



## Levington Route overview

Both walks start from The Ship Inn. The pub has a car park but please check before leaving your car there, especially if you plan to walk first, and visit the pub later.

The walks follow the same route to the River Orwell. The longer one then continues upstream towards Nacton, while the short walk goes downstream before returning via Levington Creek. The long walk includes some short stretches on minor roads. Both can be muddy in places in winter. Dogs will enjoy both routes but should be kept under close control. It is especially important to prevent your dog running on to the foreshore, to avoid disturbing the bird life. Please follow any advisory signs.



Crown copyright. All rights reserved.  
 © Suffolk County Council. License LA100023395

### Further information

#### Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB

Tel: 01394 384948 [www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org)

#### East of England Tourism

[www.visiteastofengland.com](http://www.visiteastofengland.com)

#### Public transport:

[www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com), 0845 606 6171

#### RSPB for bird song clips


[www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/)

## Levington


Short walk – 1 mile/1.6 km

Long walk – 3.4 miles/5.5km

Both walks take the same route from the Ship Inn to the river wall:

 Cross road in front of the Ship Inn to a wide track opposite (marked as footpath), to right of a house.

This path is the 'Pilots' Way'. It leads down to the river Orwell, to a point where pilots used to join visiting ships to navigate them up to Ipswich.

 Follow track as it bears left, then through gate, and immediately turn right. Glimpse Broke Hall to the right as you follow post and wire fence to bottom right hand corner of field 1.

Here you have views of the **Orwell estuary** – to the right, the river heading inland to **Ipswich**, and to seaward, the **Port of Felixstowe**.

You may hear Cetti's Warbler here, though it is a shy bird, and if you see it, it will probably be diving for cover – a small brown-backed bird, with lighter front, an eye-stripe, and often-cocked tail. It first bred in this country in 1973, and does not survive hard winters well. It is known for its loud explosive bursts of song, especially in spring when it sings from dawn to dusk, and again at night.



Cetti's Warbler (FLPA)





Follow wooden boardwalk through area of low lying marsh and reeds, a reclaimed area protected behind the river wall. At end of boardwalk continue between fence lines. At end of path, go up steps onto river wall 2.

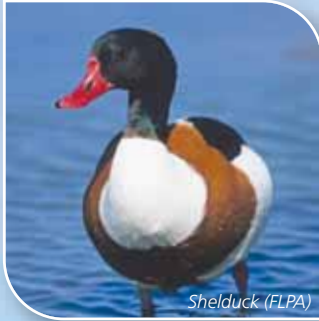
The **Stour and Orwell estuaries** are together classed as a **Special Protection Area (SPA)** for birds by the European Union. This protection is extended to a number of rare bird species and to regular migrants.

Shelduck are protected as migrants, and are frequently seen especially between October and July. Young are often seen in large groups, tended as a 'creche' by only a few adult birds, while the parents have migrated. The estuaries' Shelduck population is usually about 3,500 birds.

Port expansion and channel dredging for shipping threaten the **mudflats** that are so important as feeding grounds for many wildfowl and wading bird species. In some areas dredged sediment is being returned to the mudflats to maintain or raise levels so that there continues to be plenty of mud exposed for the birds between high and low tide.



Curlew (FLPA)



Shelduck (FLPA)

The long and short walks divide here:



**Long Walk:** turn right on the river wall, and see overleaf for further directions

### Short walk – continued



**Short Walk:** Turn left (waymarked Stour and Orwell Walk) and follow footpath on top of river wall.

The cluster of yacht masts ahead marks **Levington Marina**. Some 550 boats are kept here, in floating basins and on the land. When the tide goes out, a sill at the entrance holds back enough water in the basins to keep the boats afloat. The marina was constructed between 1967 and 2005, occupying previously-reclaimed land where river walls had failed and left it flooded.

Over 2,500 Dark Bellied Brent Geese winter in the Stour and Orwell estuaries, breeding in Siberia over the summer. Because a high proportion of the world population of these geese overwinter in Britain, the conservation of these estuaries is vital to them.



Dark Bellied Brent Goose (FLPA)



Continue on river wall as it turns sharp left at mouth of Levington Creek.

**Levington Creek** has form for smuggling. There is on record an unsuccessful run in 1817 – some smugglers were caught with 48 tubs of spirits, on a boat called 'Daisy'. **The Ship Inn** had by then already served as a meeting place for **Margaret Catchpole** and her smuggler lover, **Will Laud**. The creek was also used by commercial sailing barges, until the 1920s, and remnants of old mooring posts and jetties are still evident.



Stay on river wall (Levington visible to left) and follow long straight section to bushes on left.

Look out for sea beet growing on the river wall, otherwise known as wild spinach, and the fore-runner of our sugar beet, Swiss chard and beetroot. The leaves look and taste like spinach, cooked or raw. Its waxy leaves are adapted to tolerate salt-laden breezes.



After 9m take footpath through bushes on left 5. Emerge onto open grass field. Go straight ahead across field, through wooden gate at top boundary, rejoin the Pilots' Way, and follow round right and back to the road. Emerge – cautiously – on to road and back to pub.


The Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of Britain's finest landscapes. Located on the coast of East Anglia and covering 403 square kilometres, the AONB extends from the Stour estuary in the south to the eastern fringe of Ipswich and to Kessingland in the north.

[www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org)



# Levington

## Long walk – *continued*


 Turn right (waymarked **Stour and Orwell Walk**) into trees. Keep fence on right until it ends, then straight on into **Home Wood** (waymarked **S&O Walk**). Follow path through **Wood**.

Once out of the wood look right to see parkland surrounding **Broke Hall**, the seat of the nobility since at least 14th century. The distinguished Rear Admiral Sir Phillip Bowes Vere Broke was born here (1776), and it was his


father who commissioned Humphry Repton to design the park. Design criteria included obscuring the neighbouring **Orwell Park estate**, lest it compete in status, and hiding views of the mudflats at low water, while still allowing views of the channel.

The fine **Regency mansion** has now been converted to apartments, but Repton's lime tree avenue approach still stands.



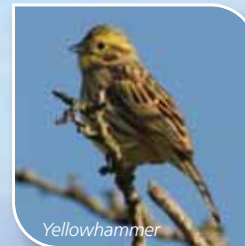
 The river is close by to your left. The path leads you straight on through open grassy area (**Nacton Picnic Site**). Before this, there is easy access to the beach **3** for a brief diversion if you wish.


Here you can see the **London Clay** in the cliffs you have been walking on. There are layers of volcanic ash, thought to have come from eruptions in Germany. The large blocks of stone are 'septaria', popular with the Romans and Normans as a building material for their fortifications, and also ground and burnt to make cement. Still needed for restoration purposes, it was until quite recently gathered from foreshores, with planning permission, but it is now quarried.

 Go to far end of **Picnic Site** and take the gravel and concrete track to the right immediately before a brick wall.

Follow track up the slope beyond a car park (beware traffic). Track becomes a tarmac road – glimpses of Repton's lime avenue leading to **Broke Hall**, on right. Just after height restriction barrier, track meets a road **4**. Cross and take **bridleway** (waymarked **S&O Walk**, just to left of left hand brick gatepost). Enter woodland - **Broke Hall Woods**.


The **woodland** is home to roe deer, re-introduced since their extinction in England in the 18th century. If you are not lucky enough to see them, you must be satisfied with the signs that they are there: hoof prints, droppings, and damage to trees!



 Follow **bridleway** through **Woods** to emerge onto road. Turn right and follow road uphill (keep to right hand verge). After 23m cross road with great care and follow **bridleway** along field edge (dogs on lead in nesting season, please).

The **Yellowhammer**, which has recently become quite rare, enjoys open country with hedges. You may see it singing from the top of a bush – it is about the size of a sparrow, and the male has a bright yellow head and underparts, brown back streaked with black, chestnut rump and shows white outer tail feathers in flight.

The **Mistle Thrush**, though not at all rare as a garden bird, is a delight in a rural setting, singing from the top of a tree. In July and August, these birds form flocks. It is larger than the scarcer **Song Thrush**, and produces a rattling call when it flies.

 At far side of field follow **bridleway** into scrub and bushes. Carry on uphill (paddock on left, gardens on right). Follow **bridleway** to right and emerge onto road. Turn right and follow the road into **Levington village**. At T-junction turn left (opposite cannon) into **Church Lane**.

The **Church of St Peter** is noted for its red brick tower, built in 1636. Brickwork enthusiasts may wish to note some unusual variations to English bonding.

 Carry on and you'll soon be back at the **Ship Inn**.