

Local Adnams pubs



CROSS KEYS Tel: 01728 452637
Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BN

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Location: Town | | Restaurant/dining room | - |
| Garden/courtyard | Yes | Bar meals | Yes |
| Children welcome | Yes | Accommodation | Yes |
| Disabled access | - | Dogs welcome | Yes |
| Parking available | - | Credit cards welcome | Yes |

MILL INN Tel: 01728 452563
Market Cross, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BJ

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Location: Town | | Restaurant/dining room | Yes |
| Garden/courtyard | Yes | Bar meals | Yes |
| Children welcome | Yes | Accommodation | Yes |
| Disabled access | - | Dogs welcome | Yes |
| Parking available | Yes | Credit cards welcome | Yes |

RAILWAY INN Tel: 01728 453864
Leiston Rd, Aldeburgh, IP15 5PP

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Location: Town | | Restaurant/dining room | - |
| Garden/courtyard | Yes | Bar meals | - |
| Children welcome | Yes | Accommodation | Yes |
| Disabled access | Yes | Dogs welcome | Yes |
| Parking available | - | Credit cards welcome | Yes |

WHITE HART Tel: 01728 453205
High Street, Aldeburgh, IP15 5AJ

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Location: Town | | Restaurant/dining room | - |
| Garden/courtyard | Yes | Bar meals | Yes |
| Children welcome | - | Accommodation | - |
| Disabled access | - | Dogs welcome | Yes |
| Parking available | - | Credit cards welcome | Yes |



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 pubs!), please upload your comments and photos to our website adnams.co.uk"

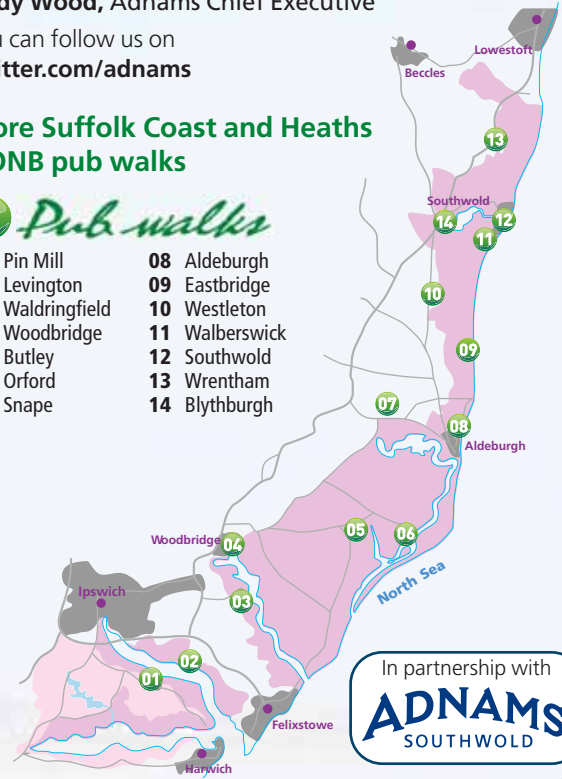
Andy Wood, Adnams Chief Executive

You can follow us on twitter.com/adnams

More Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB pub walks



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



Aldeburgh





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Further information

Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB

Tel: 01394 384948

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

East of England Tourism

www.visiteastofengland.com

Public Transport

www.suffolkonboard.com

0845 606 6171

Aldeburgh Route overview

The four Adnams pubs in Aldeburgh are all within 1.3 km of each other. The two northernmost pubs, the Mill Inn and the Railway Inn, are taken in by the longer, northern walk (Route 1). The White Hart and the Cross Keys are well-placed for the southern route (Route 2).

Dogs will enjoy both routes, but they should be on a lead or under close control. It is especially important to ensure your dog does not disturb the bird life on the estuary or other nature reserve areas.

The terrain ranges from urban pavement to unmade paths which could be a bit muddy in wet weather.

Aldeburgh

Long route – 3 miles/4.7km

Start from seafront near Moot Hall
(Parking available nearby).

The **Moot Hall**, to seaward of the Mill Inn, houses Aldeburgh's museum, open daily May – Oct (limited opening Nov-Apr). It is a stunning Tudor building, once central to Aldeburgh, perilously close to the beach now that coastal erosion has destroyed much of the eastern side of the town, although old maps indicate that little change has occurred since late 18th century.

Composer **Benjamin Britten** lived for a time in a house near to the Mill Inn – see plaque on wall.

Leaving Mill Inn on your right, walk up hill (Victoria Rd), and over the crossroads as if heading out of Aldeburgh. Take footpath (signed) into churchyard , just before the church itself.

The **church** has a window dedicated to Britten, and he is buried in the churchyard as are Peter Pears and Imogen Holst.

Aldeburgh has an **active lifeboat station**, and in the churchyard is an impressive memorial to lifeboatmen. Both The **Railway** and the **Mill Inn** contain memorabilia underlining the long association of the community – and its pubs - with the lifeboat station.





Follow straight through churchyard and out via small gate.

Continue straight on between housing, then turn left on a blockpaved road (Church Farm Road) and continue to Railway Inn. Note footpath sign off to right 3 – the pub is another 100yds/m or so, and you'll be doubling back to here to continue the walk.

The roundabout by the Railway Inn is built over the site of the old **Aldeburgh railway station**, closed in 1966. A branch line was constructed in 1859 from Saxmundham as far as Leiston, to serve industry there, then extended to Aldeburgh, initially for the benefit of the fishing industry.



Follow footpath sign at 3, and on to the old railway track leading north, a firm sandy path (permissive path).

From the old railway line, you will have a clear view of **Scallop**, poised on the beach. This sculpture is a memorial to Britten by artist Maggi Hambling, her underlying concept being a "conversation with the sea" - which so inspired his work. The Adnams Charity was instrumental in securing funding for this work of art, which was given to Suffolk Coastal District Council by the Charity and the artist.

The House in the Clouds, at Thorpeness, is ahead. Beyond sits the white dome of **Sizewell Nuclear Power Station**, still served by a short section of the old branch railway line for the transport of nuclear waste.



Curlew (FLPA)

In the marshes, the vulnerability of the landscape is apparent. From the low viewpoint here, it is the **shingle bank** that defines the skyline to seaward, not the sea horizon. The buildings of Aldeburgh hug the higher ground.



After about 450m, a well-made path leads off right 4, across the marshes, eventually to meet the coast road 5. (For a much longer circuit, carry on up railway track to Thorpeness, then back along beach.)

The route crosses the grazing marsh of **North Warren Nature Reserve (RSPB)**. In spring, the reed beds fringing the path are full of Reed and Sedge Warblers. These marshes are especially known for Lapwing, Marsh Harrier, White Fronted Goose and Widgeon.

Coastal erosion has claimed a wide band of coastal fringe, and the shingle bank has encroached shorewards. Imagine: the ruined cottage at the end of the path once had an orchard extending seaward!



Reed Warbler (FLPA)



Aldeburgh beach



At the road, turn right along shingle beach, or for an easier surface underfoot, use the track that runs from Thorpeness to Aldeburgh, parallel to road (also a cycle track, so take care, but buggy and wheelchair use is possible).

The shingle beach is a **Local Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest**. Yellow-horned Poppy and Sea Pea are among the species here that can tolerate this environment. The bulky Sea Kale clumps are astonishing in their ability to nourish themselves from this stony base. They are spectacular in flower in summer, but in the winter, the plants survive underground and the fleshy above-ground parts die back.

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

Suffolk Coast
& Heaths

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Aldeburgh

Short route – 1 mile/1.6km

From car park at Fort Green, walk south, converted mill 1 on your left, then back up to the sea wall, for about 300m.

You are now at **Slaughden**, at the narrow north end of Orford Ness, which extends some 10 miles southwards. Beyond is the **Martello tower** (built to counter a Napoleonic invasion), and the popular angling spot, the stretch of shingle bank known as the Dirty Wall.

In Henry VIII's time, the bank here was perhaps 500m wide, but the sea threatens to remove more shingle than it deposits. Increasing storminess and sea level rise is predicted, and the sea could eventually break through. River embankments, farmland and natural habitats would then be open to increased erosion, flooding and salt contamination, and the whole estuary would be affected.

Slaughden was a thriving river port in the 1500's, despite the long approach and the hazardous entrance, but the railway era heralded its decline. Coal supplies for Aldeburgh's gasworks and brickworks arrived by sea via Slaughden. There were shipbuilding yards and a fishing fleet. Between 1813 and 1870 there were proposals to improve access from the sea, by breaching the bank, and also extending the railway to



the port. None of these plans came to fruition, and meanwhile, 'coastal processes' were at work: the shingle bank was moving closer and storm surges caused river flooding. Today there is little left.

Return to road, and before sailing club, turn right on a footpath 2 that runs along the river wall - the river Alde now on your left. (Above Slaughden, the river changes its name from Ore to Alde.)

This can be a bleak exposed stretch of wall, but the panoramic view takes in so much. The BBC World Service transmits from the **network of aerials on the Ness** (looking south), but this site was originally set up as 'Cobra Mist' – an over-the-horizon radar system intended for surveillance over 2,000 miles eastwards.

To the right of these are **Orford Castle** and **Church**, on the mainland. The Castle was built by Henry II, not to repel invaders, but to assert his royal authority against threats from within his realm from Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk.



Beyond the wall is the precious **saltmarsh**, a habitat endangered by sea level rise and resulting coastal squeeze: river walls prevent the saltmarsh vegetation from shifting landwards to survive. Yet another wetland habitat is the **borrowdyke**, the ditch behind the wall from which material has been dug to build it.

Bird life on the **river** and **marsh** is prolific: Herons, Curlews, Redshanks, Avocets, Godwits, Ringed Plovers and Dunlin are the usual residents, but there are often more exotic visitors.

After 450m, before the river wall bends sharply left, turn right 3, onto a gravelled track, then after 100m fork right on a grassy track back towards Aldeburgh, crossing low-lying area of grazing marsh 4.

This is the eastern end of the reclaimed **Aldeburgh Town Marshes**, dependant on a network of drains and sluices, and owned by the Town Council since the 16th century. Traditional livestock grazing is practised. Look out for Kingfishers, Snipe and Reed Buntings in the dykes. In winter, you may see occasional migrating Green Sandpipers, White Fronted and Brent Geese and Bewick's Swans. Other residents are Short-eared Owls, Hen Harriers, Sparrowhawks and Merlins, Meadow Pipits and Skylarks. Spring visitors include Ruff, Greenshank and Whimbrel.

The path joins another track – turn right, then left between some houses, to a T-junction with Park Road 5.

Return through the back streets of Aldeburgh: left on to Park Road, right on to Lee Road, second right on to Hartington Road, right on to The Terrace, and a sharp drop down Choppings Hill to High Street.

Now for the pubs: the White Hart is just across the High Street to your right; for the Cross Keys, turn left along the High Street until you reach the end of the on-street parking area – the pub is in Crabbe Street, which forks off to the right.

Return to Fort Green car park by walking south along the beach or through the town.