

**Local Adnams pubs**

**SOLE BAY INN**

Tel: 01502 723736  
East Green, Southwold, IP18 6JN

**LORD NELSON**

Tel: 01502 722079  
East St, Southwold, IP18 6EJ

**RED LION**

Tel: 01502 722385  
South Green, Southwold,  
IP18 6ET

**KING'S HEAD**

Tel: 01502 724517  
High Street, Southwold,  
IP18 6AD

**HARBOUR INN**

Tel: 01502 722381  
Blackshore, Southwold,  
IP18 6TA

**BLYTH HOTEL**

Tel: 01502 722632  
Station Road, Southwold,  
IP18 6AY

**RANDOLPH HOTEL**

Tel: 01502 723603  
Wangford Road, Reydon,  
IP18 6PZ

**SWAN HOTEL**

Tel: 01502 722186  
Market Place, Southwold,  
IP18 6EG

**CROWN HOTEL**

Tel: 01502 722275  
High Street, Southwold,  
IP18 6DP



Pub facilities	Sole Bay Inn	Lord Nelson	Red Lion	King's Head	Harbour Inn	Blyth Hotel	Randolph Hotel	Swan Hotel	Crown Hotel
Location	Town Centre	Town Centre	Town Centre	Town Centre	At harbour	Town Centre	In Reydon	Town Centre	Town Centre
Garden/courtyard	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Children welcome	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disabled access	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parking available	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Restaurant/dining room	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bar meals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accommodation	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dogs welcome	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credit cards welcome	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



# Southwold



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](http://adnams.co.uk)."

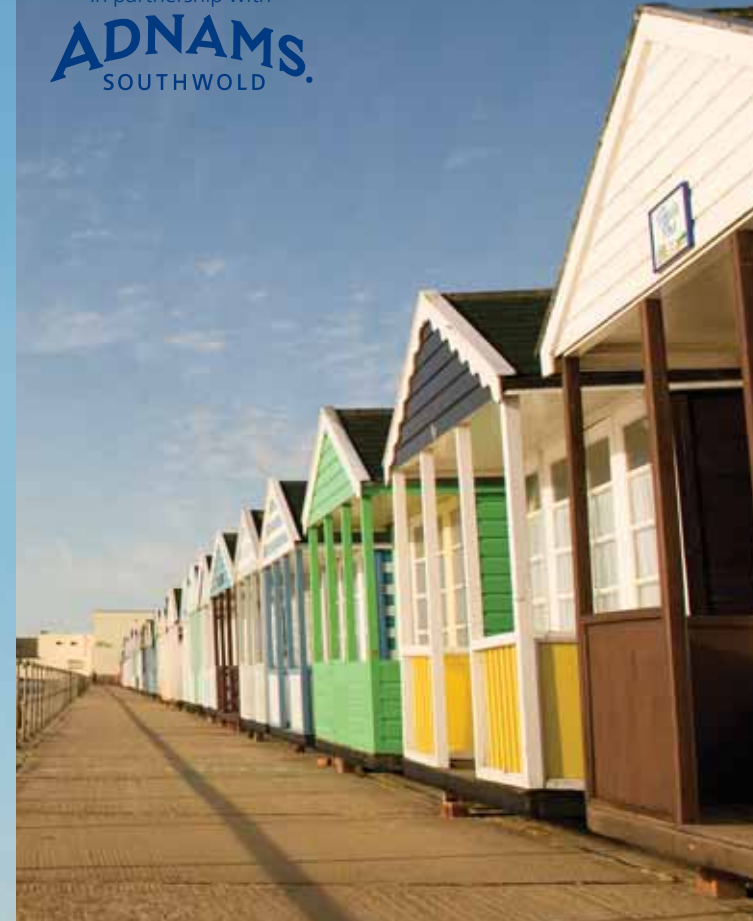
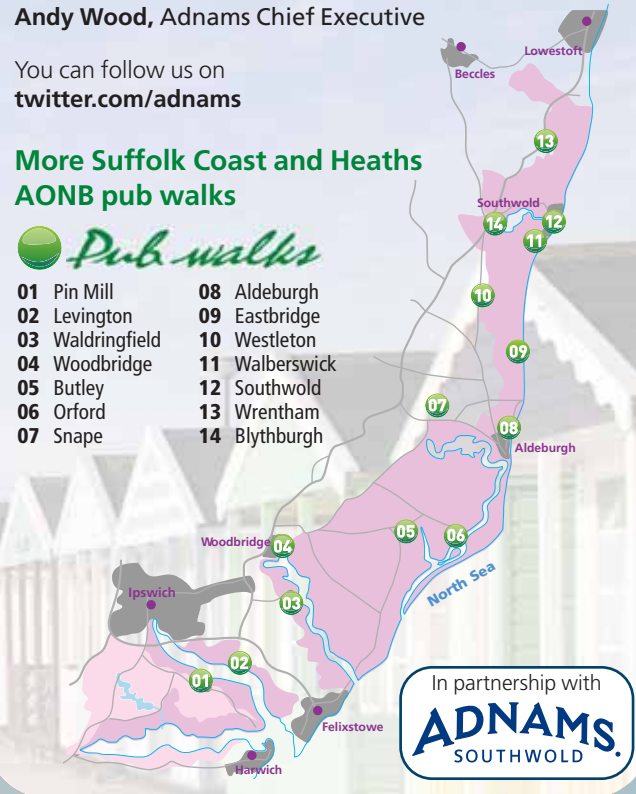
**Andy Wood**, Adnams Chief Executive

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

**More Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB pub walks**



- 01 Pin Mill
- 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





**Further information**

**Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB**  
[www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org) Tel: 01394 384948

**Public Transport**  
**Coastlink bus service:** 01728 833526  
[www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) Tel: 0845 606 6171

## Southwold Route overview

Southwold is packed with Adnams pubs, unsurprisingly, since the town is home to the brewery itself. Most of the pubs are in or near the town centre, but to extend the walker between pints, one route starts in Reydon before hitting the town, and the other walk starts at the pier and loops south to the harbour.

Parking can be tight in Southwold especially in summer. Some of the pubs have car parks, but out of courtesy, check before you leave your car there unattended, especially if you plan to walk first, visit the pub later. The short walk (3 miles) begins from the Randolph Hotel, which has a spacious car park, and the long walk (3.5 miles), from the large car park, close to the pier.

Dogs will enjoy both routes, but please have regard for livestock, and for bird life in the marshes.

Paths are clearly marked. Low-lying areas may be waterlogged in wet conditions, especially on the way back from the Harbour Inn.



## Southwold

**Long walk – 3.5 miles/5.6 km**

**Start from public car park A just to the north of the pier.**

Visit the **pier** for a wonderful view of the area you are about to walk. The first pier was built in the 1930s to receive London holidaymakers by steamer, but storms and war took their toll. This rebuilt pier was completed in 2001.

**Head south towards Southwold, on North Parade 1. Alternatively, take the promenade and after about 500 metres, ascend by path or steps to join North Parade.**

**At St James's Green 2, by the cannon and mast, turn right, passing lighthouse and Sole Bay Inn to your right.**

**The Southwold lighthouse** acts as a coastal mark to passing shipping, and as a guide into Southwold harbour entrance. It has operated since 1890, originally using oil burners, but now is unmanned, with an electric lamp.



Currently it can be seen up to 17 miles offshore, but now **Orfordness Lighthouse** is to be abandoned and Southwold's light will assume greater importance, and its range will be increased with a more powerful lamp.



**Turn left into East Green: here is the Adnams Brewery!** 3 **Tours of the brewery are available. Please see the Adnams website for details.**

**A 14th century brewery** is recorded here, but the **Adnams** name arrived in 1872, when two brothers set up in business here. The building you see now is Victorian, but inside is a flourishing modern business.

Adnams prides itself on being a 'green' brewery, and now produces a Carbon Neutral beer. Heat and water are recycled in the brewing process, saving in running costs, and local hops and recycled glass bottles are used.



**Turn left again into Victoria Street. At Trinity Street turn left, then immediately right and right again on to path (The Promenade) above beach.**

**By the Sailors Reading Room** 4 **turn right into East Street: Lord Nelson on the right. Turn left into Pinkneys Lane and left again into Queen Street: Red Lion pub on left.**

**Follow the footpath between greens toward the sea, to Gun Hill. Turn right, past cannon, and follow path to end of the railings. Continue on path behind dunes, or walk along beach, for about 800m, passing to seaward side of cottages** 5 **, and to the mouth of the River Blyth, by the Alfred Corry Lifeboat Museum.**

In the 1900's, Southwold was set up to ease the pressure of the herring fishery on Lowestoft. The 'Kipperdrome' – about where the WCs are - was an

octagonal hall for processing herring, and there was a fish market area on today's camp site. Scottish fishing boats joined the herring fishery as it followed the shoals up the North Sea, and many Scottish fisher-girls came to Southwold for the season to process the catches. At that time, some 120 local fishing boats launched from Southwold beach.



**Turn right and follow river - past the modern lifeboat station.**

On the opposite side of the river is the **old port of Walberswick**. The Blyth used to turn south here to reach the sea at Dunwich, but in the 16th century, Southwold and Walberswick men cut their own direct exit to the sea that you see today. Silting, the shifting sandbars at the entrance and increasing ship size all raised a need for dredging, and eventually undermined the commercial viability of the ports.



**Past the huts, workshops and jetties of Southwold Harbour is the Harbour Inn** 6 **. Note the 1953 storm water line on the wall.**

Inland, the **river Blyth** was once regulated with locks and navigable as far as Halesworth, finally closing in 1911. Beyond the bridge (ahead) the river widens out to cover **extensive marshes**. In the early 19th century, walls were built to reclaim these, then – because this reduced the flow – were blamed for causing the harbour to silt.



**Turn right past the pub, on road, and immediately fork right onto a footpath across the marsh heading for the lighthouse, and back toward Southwold. (In inclement weather, or if concerned about livestock on the marsh, then follow road back to town).**

Look out for herons and waders in this **meadow area**, and spring and autumn migrants. The rich insect life in the air above the meadows attracts Swallows and House Martins.



**Follow footpath up and across golf course to car park** 7 **. At adjacent road junction, go down Lorne Road, back to Red Lion. From here, retrace your steps back to the pier and your car.**

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)

**Suffolk Coast & Heaths**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty




# Southwold

Short walk – 3 miles/4.8 km

 Start from the Randolph Hotel, **B** and turn left along Wangford Road. Turn right into Jermyns Road. At T-junction **8**, turn right again. Continue, past almshouses on right, to road junction with grass triangle.

The **almshouses** are a listed building, and were presented to the town in 1908 by an art dealer Andrew Matthews, who had great affection for the town – and also for Bruges, which may have inspired the turreted gateway.

 Turn left (Lowestoft Road) and cross to footpath opposite marked with Suffolk Coast Path sign **9**. Follow path beside Easton Marshes, towards the sea.


This **County Wildlife Site** contains a variety of habitat, with marsh inland and shingle and sandy heath towards the coast. In spring and autumn, these marshes are often visited by migrating birds.

By contrast, the **boating lake** opposite the **pier** attracts grebes, wildfowl and the more common wading birds, especially in winter, whilst the pier itself takes you out into the realm of seabirds.

Between here and Southwold is **Buss Creek**, its marsh and reedbeds providing habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Raptors hunt here - you may well see a Marsh Harrier or, during the winter, Hen Harrier.


To the left, the land rises towards **Easton Bavents**. In the 16th century, Easton Ness extended out to sea and was England's most easterly headland. It is now nationally renowned for the speed at which its **cliffs** are being eroded.

Looking north from the sea wall, there are some substantial **rock groynes** recently constructed to defend Southwold from the sea, but beyond that, the cliffs have only a thin beach between them and the sea.

 At the car park behind the beach, turn right, and head for the pier, with Buss Creek leading away to your right.

Buss Creek gets its name from the herring fishing boats, or 'busses', that were laid up in the creek at Blackshore.

But for the sea wall, all of this low-lying land would be open to the sea. The creek encircles Southwold like a moat, blocked by the sea wall in the north, and by a concrete Flood Relief Wall south-west of the town at Blackshore.

 Beyond the Pier, continue on road (North Parade) **1** above beach, or enjoy the promenade, joining the road by steps or path after about 500m. Carry straight on along path above beach, past St James's Green **2**.

To seaward is **Sole Bay**, which gives **Adnams Brewery** **3** its name. Far less of a bay than formerly, it has claimed hundreds of wrecked ships. Under the waves are shoals of shifting shingle, making navigation tricky especially in onshore winds.

The Battle of Sole Bay added to the wreckage in 1672. It was the first, and inconclusive, naval engagement of the Third

Anglo-Dutch War. The action took place towards Lowestoft, with the loss of over 4,000 lives, and some 10 ships sunk.

 By Sailors Reading Room **4**, turn right (East Street) past Lord Nelson pub.

At the Market Place, continue on in this same direction along High Street. On the right, opposite the Post Office, is Adnams Cellar and Kitchen Store.

You will find (after about 300m) the Kings Head pub on the left and then (250m on) the Blyth Hotel on the right.

The **Police and Fire Stations** opposite the Blyth Hotel are built on the site of the old Southwold railway station. From here the line ran southwest across Southwold Common to a swing-bridge, the supports of which now carry the '**Bailey Bridge**' footbridge. The **railway** was completed in 1879, joining the Ipswich-Lowestoft line at Halesworth. A branch to the Harbour was eventually added, but by this time the fishing trade was already in decline, and buses were round the corner. It was notably unreliable, eccentric and slow: the speed limit 16mph. The line closed in 1929 – but the old route is walkable, from Southwold to Blythburgh.

 Go straight on at mini roundabout with Pier Avenue and cross bridge over Buss Creek **10**.

Go straight on where Lowestoft Road forks off right, and at the next junction (signed to Wangford) turn right, to return to the Randolph Hotel.

