




The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB


The Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of Britain's finest landscapes. It extends from the Stour Estuary in the south to the eastern fringe of Ipswich and, in the north, to Kessingland. It covers 403 square kilometres, including wildlife-rich wetlands, ancient heaths, windswept shingle beaches and historic towns and villages.

Visiting Shotley

-  Ordnance Survey Map No. 197 (Ipswich, Felixstowe & Harwich)
-  Access via the B1080/B1456 from the A137/A12. Parking can be limited on very busy days.
-  Public transport information: www.suffolkonboard.com or call 0845 606 6171

Ipswich Tourist Information: www.allaboutipswich.com 01473 258070

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB 01394 384948 www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

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Research, text and some images by Simon Peachey. Printed on Recycled, FSC, ECF, Carbon Balanced paper.

Shotley Explorer Guide



Explore ships, shores and local heritage starting from Shotley Gate.



Shotley

Suffolk Coast & Heaths *Explorer Guide*

Highlights of Shotley

- 1 Harwich Haven** is the best natural harbour on the east coast of England. On the north bank of the River Orwell is the Port of Felixstowe. It is the UK's largest port, handling 40% of all containerised trade. Harwich International Port lies across the estuary on the south shore of the River Stour. Harwich hosts a busy ferry and cruise liner terminal.
- 2 HMS Ganges Museum**, located at Shotley Marina, tells the story of HMS Ganges with many exhibits, photographs and artefacts on display. The Royal Navy Training Establishment at Shotley opened in 1905 and over 150,000 Naval Cadets were trained up until it closed in 1976. The Museum is open 11am – 5pm, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from Easter through to the end of October. The former site of HMS Ganges at Shotley Gate is now a designated Conservation Area.



- 3 The Stour and Orwell Estuaries** contain mudflats and saltmarsh which are a haven for wading birds. Every autumn 40,000 wildfowl and wading birds make an incredible journey to feed and roost here. You can often see vast flocks probing the mud. Migrating birds, such as sandpiper and greenshank, are present in spring and autumn. Drainage dykes inland of the river 'walls' provide a vital habitat for insects, including the Emperor Dragonfly, the largest in the UK.

Images: Front cover – The River Orwell. A. The Orwell Estuary – a great wildlife habitat. B. Port of Felixstowe – The Stour and Orwell host busy ports. C. St. Mary's Church and Naval Cemetery – peaceful and poignant. D. Green Man – watches over the community woodland.

- 4 Shotley Church and Naval Cemetery** are located on high ground some way from the village. The church dates from the 1400s. Opposite the church is a naval cemetery. It contains the graves of sailors from the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and the Dutch and German Navies who died during WWII.



- 5 Golden Wood and Wildflower Meadow** is a 'community woodland' established in 2004 and managed by local people. The land was donated by local landowners and funding for the project came from environmental organisations, such as the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Local children have planted native trees and hedges.



- 6 Shotley Heritage Park.** In 2012, Shotley Parish Council purchased 7 acres of woodland and 50 acres of foreshore adjacent to the River Stour at Shotley Gate. Babergh District Council, Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the local County Councillor all contributed to help fund the purchase. This community recreational area has outstanding views of Parkeston Quay, Harwich, and across the River Stour to the County of Essex. The woodland is being managed to help protect flora and fauna, and to inform visitors about the heritage of Shotley.





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- Two Rivers Walk
- Shotley Point Stroll
- B Road
- C Road
- 1 'Highlights' Location
- ⚓ Shotley Marina
- P Parking
- 🍷 Public House
- 🚐 Caravan Park
- ⛪ Church
- Settlements
- Marsh Land
- Wooded Areas

Dogs are welcome, please keep them under control and on lead as advised

'Two Rivers Walk'

Distance
5.3 miles (8.5 km)

Time: 2 hours 30 mins

Terrain: Paths and tracks can be muddy after rain. Cattle are often grazing on the marshes, so please keep dogs on leads. Some sections near deep water. This walk takes you onto public highways. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Stand with back to Bristol Arms and walk left, following river wall to Shotley Marina. Keep to wall through Marina, cross inner lock gate and continue around seaward side of Marina.

Turn right along river wall at path junction. Follow wall for some distance (ignore path to left and steps near sluice). Keep straight ahead for 200 metres.

Go left at the 'footpath' sign down sea wall, through gate and along edge of field. Ignore path to right and continue through next field to gate in top right corner. Follow track. Turn left at 'Cycle Route B' sign. Pass Shotley Church and continue straight at crossroads.

Opposite Shotley Hall, take path left. Follow path through trees, across footbridge and along field edge. At houses, turn left along path to road. Turn right and follow road to junction with main road. Turn right until opposite Rose Farm.



Cross road and take 'Restricted Byway' to right of farm. At cross tracks beside Shotley Cottage, continue straight towards River Stour.

When you reach houses turn left. Follow path beside gardens, along field edge. Either take a right turn, at coastal footpath sign and continue to the Bristol Arms. Or, walk past 'Coastal Path' marker up the hill into the woodland. Follow upper woodland path through Heritage Park. Emerge from woodland, turn right into Estuary Road. Continue down to main road and turn right to the Bristol Arms.



Images: A. Boats at Shotley Marina – all sizes of craft use the estuary. B. Shotley Naval Cemetery – contains the graves of sailors who lost their lives in WWII. C. The River Stour – a tranquil scene, yet bustling Parkstone Quay is close by. D. The Port of Felixstowe – spectacular views from this walk. E. Shotley Picnic Area – a great place to have a snack after your walk.



'Shotley Point Stroll'

Distance
3.1 miles (5 km)

Time: 2 hours

Terrain: Paths and tracks can be muddy after rain. Cattle are often grazing on the marshes, so please keep dogs on leads. Some sections near deep water. This walk takes you onto public highways. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Stand with back to Bristol Arms and walk left, following river wall to Shotley Marina. Keep to wall through Marina, cross inner lock gate and continue around seaward side of Marina.

Turn left at next path junction and follow path behind marina. Take next right and continue beside fence to road. Cross road and turn right. At end of row of houses, take track left. At cross tracks beside Shotley Cottage, turn left towards river.



When you reach houses turn left. Follow path beside gardens, along field edge. Either take a right turn, at coastal footpath sign and continue to the Bristol Arms. Or, walk past 'Coastal Path' marker up the hill into the woodland. Follow upper woodland path through the Heritage Park. Emerge from woodland, turn right into Estuary Road. Continue down to main road and turn right to the Bristol Arms.

In addition to above routes, a short walk is possible following path beside river. You may return by the same route, or take a circular walk along the lower coastal path and return through the Heritage Park on the upper woodland path. Emerge from woodland, turn right into Estuary Road. Continue to main road. Turn right to Bristol Arms.



Countryside Code

The area has a network of footpaths and bridleways. We have shown suggested routes on this map. Here are a few simple suggestions to help you enjoy the area safely and assist our work in caring for it.

Follow the Countryside Code:

Plan ahead and follow any signs

Leave things as you find them

Protect plants and animals, control fires and take your litter home.

Dogs are very welcome, but please keep them under close control at all times and on lead as advised.

Thank you.

Find out more about the Countryside Code:

www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

