

**Station Walks –**  
**Woodbridge**



# Woodbridge and the Deben Estuary



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**national express**

# Directions...

1

**Route 1 & 2:** As you arrive at Woodbridge station, from either the north or south, you cannot fail to notice the river, which lies within a few metres of the station.

Exit the station and make your way over the bridge to the river side.

2

**This highlighted part of the walk is ideal for less-abled access as the river wall surface is tarmaced.**

**Route 1 & 2:** At the river side, as you face the river, head to the right to start either of the two circular walks.

**Route 1** is approximately 2 km.  
**Route 2** is approx 3.5km.

3

**Route 1 & 2:** As you begin the walk along the river wall, past the sailing clubs and boat yards, notice the wide open landscape of the estuary. At low tide you'll see a variety of wading birds and wildfowl. Look out for redshank, curlew and oystercatcher as well as widgeon and teal.

As you pass the boating pond to your right there is a lovely café where you can stop for refreshments.

4

**Route 1 & 2:** As you leave the built up riverside behind you and head along the river wall, you'll notice grazing marshes to your right. These are grazed by cattle in the summer and you might spot a heron or little egret fishing in the dykes.

With the estuary on your left and the ancient grazing marshes on your right you're getting a true taste of the wild and open landscape of the AONB. Look out too for reed bunting, as well as reed and sedge warbler in the reed filled dykes between the river wall and the grazing marsh.

5

**Route 1 & 2:** At the end of the river wall, enter the woodland at the bottom of Kyson Hill. Here you need to decide which route to follow.

**Route 1** takes a sharp right down a well made path that leads behind the grazing marshes.

**Route 2** takes you uphill on a private road to your right just past the Route 1 path.

6

**Route 1:** Follow your way along the old cow path behind the marshes, noticing the staggering old crack willow trees that have been pollarded. Some of them blew down in the gale of 1987, but they have regrown where they fell.

**Route 2:** Follow the road up the hill, crossing the railway bridge from where you have one of the best views of Woodbridge and its Tide Mill. Continue along the attractive private road (called Broom Heath), until you come to the edge of Porter's Wood on your right, owned by the Woodland Trust. You may wish to enjoy the short path around this wood before continuing.

# Discover...

The Deben estuary is protected nationally as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its wading bird, wildfowl and saltmarsh communities. It is also internationally protected as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its wintering avocet.



Kyson Hill is owned by the National Trust. There are seats to enjoy the Deben views. Mr R.C. Notcutt gave Kyson Hill to the National Trust in 1934; its first Suffolk property comprising 1.6 hectares (4 acres).

Woodbridge Tide Mill (open to the public) sits beside the river just 200 metres from the station. There has been a tide mill here since 1170. The current mill dates from the 17th century. It ceased operating in 1956, but was restored in 1981. Machinery demonstrations take place.



Malcolm Farrow



7

**Route 1:** Continue over the level crossing and head across the playing field (Kingston Field), passing the children's play areas and Woodbridge Tennis Club.

At the road you can either cross over and meander your way back to the station through the car park, or go over the railway line and rejoin the river wall path at the boating pond.

**Route 2:** Bear right at the left-hand bend in the metalled road and follow the path beside Porters Wood to join the highway on Sandy Lane. Here turn right and walk about 100 metres, to the junction with Ipswich Road. Take a right and follow Ipswich Road back towards the town centre. This route will take you close to Notcutt's Nurseries main offices and Garden Centre. As you walk down the hill towards Notcutt's, with Framfield Medical Centre on your left, take a right turn down Cherry Tree Road. This will take you to Kingston Field. Bear left across the field, past Woodbridge Tennis Club and rejoin Route 1.

8

**Route 3:** An alternative to the circular walks is to stay on the train until the stop after Woodbridge. This is Melton. If you are arriving from Lowestoft and the north, Melton is the stop just before Woodbridge.

**Route 3** is approx 2 km long.

9

**Route 3:** As you leave the station head immediately right to follow the road and cross the railway line. Once over the line turn right into Melton Riverside. This popular picnic spot is owned by Suffolk Coastal District Council. To the right of the entrance you'll notice a small area of wet meadow that contains rare plants such as ragged robin and southern marsh orchid.

10

As you pass through Melton Riverside to access the river wall, listen out for nightingale singing from the scrubby thickets in the spring. Once on the river wall, turn right and follow the river path back towards Woodbridge.

11

**Route 3:** As you follow the river path through boat yards and past many different styles of house boat, you'll enjoy spectacular views across the estuary. Look out for the carcasses of old barges and across the river, cormorants roosting in the dead trees on the flooded grazing marsh that resulted from the river wall breaching in the floods of the 1930s.



Malcolm Farrow



SCHU



Steve Plume



Mike Page

# Route overview

This leaflet contains three route options, offering fantastic estuary views, starting and finishing at the train stations of Woodbridge or Melton. The two routes from Woodbridge station start by heading south-west along the river wall, passing boat yards and sailing clubs while enjoying the wide open expanse of the stunning Deben estuary. Internationally protected for its bird life, the Deben is also part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Saltmarsh, mudflat, grazing marsh and woodland make up the landscape of this part of the Deben. You can be sure of an exhilarating walk in some of the best scenery Suffolk has to offer. The third option starts from Melton train station, one stop after Woodbridge (heading north) and brings you back to Woodbridge along the riverside path.

**Route 1** is approximately 2km/1.24 miles

**Route 2** is approximately 3.5km/2.18 miles

**Route 3** is approximately 2km/1.24 miles



Steve Plume

# General information

Woodbridge is one of Suffolk's quintessential riverside market towns with a long and fascinating history. The town centre is reached by walking up Quay St from the station and has a vibrant mix of independent and national stores mainly in the Thoroughfare and on Market Hill. Antique shops sit next to art galleries and fashion boutiques and there are a host of places to enjoy excellent food and drink.

The Tide Mill, just up the river from the station, is one of the few remaining in the country. The huge wooden wheel turns most days when the tides are right.

The Market Hill area is spectacular, with the iconic Elizabethan Shire Hall, Woodbridge town, Suffolk Punch Horse museums and old buildings including a 13th century pub, the King's Head.

**Dog owners please keep your dog on a lead or under close control and clear up after it. Don't let your dog disturb the wildlife or prevent other people enjoying this landscape.**

“To visit the Suffolk Coast, spending time in its sleepy villages and welcoming towns; to amble quietly through its ancient heaths and leafy lanes; most of all, to feel the bracing breeze on my face and the crunch of shingle beneath my feet... this is what truly makes me feel alive and sends me home refreshed and thankful”

Anon-visitor to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB



Liz Cutting/RSPB



SCHU

Woodbridge Tourist Information Centre is located in the station buildings and can provide a town guide showing all the shops and places of interest as well as offering town trail leaflets and accommodation details. For more information contact Woodbridge Tourist Information Centre on 01394 382240 or [ChooseWoodbridge.co.uk](http://ChooseWoodbridge.co.uk)

Routes:

- Route 1
- Route 2
- Route 3



National Trust's world famous Sutton Hoo (Anglo Saxon burial ground)

Key:

- Visitor Information
- Toilets
- Parking
- Boating Pond
- Wildlife spotting
- Church
- Public House
- Viewpoint

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 the AONB extends from the Stour estuary in the south to the eastern fringe of Ipswich and Kessingland in the north. It covers 150 square miles, including wildlife-rich wetlands, ancient heaths, windswept shingle beaches and historic towns and villages. The UK's 49 AONBs are part of a 'family' of protected areas that also includes our National Parks. All receive special protection because of their outstanding landscape, heritage and wildlife.

For more information please visit  
[www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org)

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National Trust members are admitted free, whilst walkers can get in at a reduced price on the green entry fee.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/suttonhoo](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/suttonhoo)  
or call 01394 389700

To get to Sutton Hoo from Melton Station, follow the path beside the B1083 in the direction of Bawdsey. Cross The Wilford Bridge and bear right at the roundabout – Sutton Hoo is located approximately 500 metres on your right

**Further information:**  
East of England Tourism  
[www.visiteastofengland.com](http://www.visiteastofengland.com)

Woodbridge Tourist Information Centre  
01394 382240  
[www.choosewoodbridge.co.uk](http://www.choosewoodbridge.co.uk)

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

Visit Woodbridge website  
[www.visit-woodbridge.co.uk](http://www.visit-woodbridge.co.uk)