

EAST SUFFOLK LINE WALKS

A selection of country and coastal walks
from railway stations in East Suffolk



Walks selected by Roger Wolfe



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Introduction



The East Suffolk Line, the railway linking Ipswich and Lowestoft, traverses some of the most delightful of Suffolk's unspoilt countryside. The entire line was proposed for closure in the 1960s but the present route was saved following a local campaign and today continues as a lifeline for rural communities and the string of towns that it serves. In addition, visitors to the area can enjoy the passing scenery in a relaxed way without the bother of finding suitable parking places or having to worry about road safety.

The stations along the line provide convenient starting and finishing points from which walkers can explore the surrounding countryside, ranging from a short stroll (The Tide Mill Walk, no. 4) to over ten miles of remote fields and woods (Aldre Valley Walk, no. 7). For more ambitious ramblers walks can be joined up to make a long distance trail of over 70 miles. The paths, bridleways and tracks included in the recommended routes were selected to provide reasonable directness, a variety of landscape, local interest and to allow walkers to enjoy a largely traffic-free environment. Even the outskirts of Ipswich (The Fonnereau Way, no. 1) and the approaches to Lowestoft (The Easterling Walk, no. 14) can be traversed by pleasant ways through parks, undeveloped green spaces and small roads.

The Felixstowe Line stations at Trimley and Felixstowe give easy access to some of the best coastal and estuarine scenery in East Anglia.

Services on both lines operate daily all year round, and inexpensive off-peak tickets are available.

For details of train times

Call 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

For details of bus times

Call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33, visit www.traveline.org.uk or visit www.suffolkonboard.com



East Suffolk walks

Finding your way

Follow the route diagrams, preferably in conjunction with the relevant Ordnance Survey Explorer sheets.

Numbered 'key points' on the maps give additional help where the way may be less obvious, but do not provide step by step instructions for the route.

Look for the distinctive East Suffolk Line Walks Waymarkers. These have been used at the start and finish of each named walk, and at points where there is a choice of route. They are generally not used where an existing named walk is already marked with that name, e.g Fonnereau Way, Fynn Valley Walk and Angles Way. They have not been used to mark the circular routes from Brampton, Westerfield, Melton, Trimley and Felixstowe stations. If you don't find a marker post where you might expect to do so it may be hiding behind hedge growth or resting in a ditch!

Similarly, some stiles marked on the route diagrams may have been replaced by kissing gates, etc.



Direction of walks

The walks may be enjoyed in either direction, but there are two important reasons why it is usually better to start at Ipswich and head towards Lowestoft i.e. generally south to north:

This allows one to walk 'up' the route diagrams and with no problems of having to reverse east and west, or holding the OS map upside down!

If the sun is shining, it will be from behind - several hours squinting into a low winter sun can be very irksome.

To this may be added a psychological preference for walking towards the sea, especially as the route ends at the most easterly point in Britain. However, an exception to the above suggestion must be made for The Wolfpack Walk (no 10) because it is better for walks to end at locations with amenities such as pubs, cafés, shops and toilets, none of which is found at wayside Brampton station, but which are plentiful at Halesworth.

Countryside code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

The walk route diagrams

The route diagrams were compiled from surveys made 'on site'. Where the route is obvious, e.g. along surfaced roads or well-used farm tracks, little or no detail is given, but at places where the route is less clear on the ground more detail is shown and the scale may be enlarged. **It is strongly recommended that relevant OS Explorer maps are used in conjunction with the diagrams**, not only as the best possible aid to route finding, but also as a means of understanding the topography and history of the surrounding countryside.



Key to route diagrams



Railway line and station platform/s
(some stations have only one platform)

Level crossing

Footpath

Footpath or bridleway along farm track
or unsurfaced road

Surfaced road

Hedge



Fence

Stile

Field gate

Kissing gate

Approximately north (this may vary a
bit within same diagram)

Isolated trees



Wooded area or scrub

Church

Public house on or close to route

Tidal water or lake

River or stream with footbridge

Pond or pit

1. The Fonnereau Way

Route finder

1. The Fonnereau Way Ipswich – Westerfield, 3½ miles

The Fonnereau Way is named after the family who were the owners of the magnificent Christchurch Park and the Elizabethan Mansion from where the route starts, but it's worth beginning this stage from the Old Custom House, in the heart of Ipswich's rapidly re-developing dockland.

The route through the town explores quaint lanes and some less obvious streets that are full of exceptional architectural and historic interest, including the famous Ancient House with its fantastic pargetting. After the rolling slopes of Christchurch Park the route traverses undeveloped countryside to the north of the town to reach the rail station and village at Westerfield.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

- 1. Directly opposite the railway station cross Princes St Bridge to steps on left down to the river bank path. (NB not 'Riverside Walk'.) Go under the bridge on a tarmac path (part of Gipping Valley River Walk) to Stoke Bridge.**
- Cross busy road with great care. Go left to flank dock, then right along waterfront.
- 3. Old Custom House.**
- Lower Brook St.
- 5. St Stephen's Lane.**
- Dial Lane.
- 7. Tower St, Tower Churchyard (St Mary-le-Tower, in fact a Victorian spire!), Oak Lane and Northgate St.**
- Soane St and Christchurch Park Main Gate. 'Fonnereau Way' across the park. Cross Park Road, The Avenue.
- a. 'Bridleway' alternative if the park is closed.
- 9. Cross Valley Road with care. Go left for about 300yds.**
- Path off right at side of track to playing field.
- 11. At the road turn right towards nearby playing field entrance, then immediately left to follow narrow path between fence and bushes. The path follows the hedge.**
- Beyond the second hedge on the right a path branches right to the road south of Westerfield station. Alternatively, continue ahead by the hedge, then bear half right across a small field to the railway stiles. Cross the double track with great care. Keep in the same direction along a narrow grassy strip between fields.
- 13. Go through a gap in hedge, bear half left across a small meadow to the plank footbridge giving access to the driveway at Broad Acres Farm, leading to Lower Road near Westerfield village.**

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow 2 hours
Suggested map:	Explorer Map 197 Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich
Refreshment:	The Railway Tavern at Westerfield station
Other Waymarks:	Fonnereau Way

2. Three Circular Walks

Route finder

2. Three Circular Walks from Westerfield Station

Westerfield station provides a convenient gateway to pleasant rambles through picturesque Suffolk villages and countryside. The gentle slopes of the valley of the River Fynn are particularly attractive.

Although there are no large areas of mature woodland, the landscape is well timbered with a wide range of native deciduous trees, especially oaks, that line many of the hedgerows along the way.

Walk distances:

Outer route via Witnesham Thicks - 8 miles

Middle route via Low Farm - 6½ miles

Shorter route via Poplar Farm - 5¼ miles

All routes can be reduced slightly by starting north from the station along the road by The Swan instead of via Fonnereau Way and Sandy Lane.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

- 1. From the level crossing at the station head south towards Ipswich, immediately passing 'The Railway' pub.**
- 2. Just under ¼ mile beyond the pub a field gate set back from the road on the right marks the start of the path by a hedge.**
- 3. Sandy Lane goes off to the right, just beyond the roadway to the water works.**
- 4. At the top of the gentle rise either go right by the hedge (Shorter route via Poplar Farm) or continue ahead along the track for Middle and Outer routes.**
- 5. Just before the pylons the Middle route branches right along field edge path.**
- 5a. Just beyond Low Farm follow the path right at the side of the hedge, then keep direction along nearby tractor wheel marks to the gap ahead.**
- 6. Go right on the road by Witnesham Thicks leading to a sunken lane at the side of a large field. Follow to the bottom of the field, ignoring the first track off to the right.**
- 7. Go past Dutch-gabled hall, cross the ford by the footbridge, bear right along Green Lane to a footbridge and stile to enter a large meadow. Bear half right to follow the hedge (if you don't like cattle, go through the field gate ahead and use paths via Manor Farm).**
- 8. The Fynn Valley Walk starts along Strugglers Lane. Follow it to the road at Tuddenham.**
- 9. The track starts between walls, rising to the back of the churchyard.**
- 10. At the corner of the road go left along the bridleway ('Green Lane').**
- 11. Follow the lane to the left, ignoring farm track straight ahead.**
- 12. Take the right fork.**
- 13. Just before the railway bridge go right over the stile. The path becomes a track leading to the road.**
- 14–15. Beware traffic!**

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 4 hours for Outer Route
Suggested map:	Explorer Maps 197 and 212
Refreshment:	There are pubs in Westerfield, Witnesham and Tuddenham
Useful info:	There is no car parking space at Westerfield Station, so use the train or bus

3. Fynn Valley Walk

Route finder

3. Fynn Valley Walk

Westerfield – Woodbridge, 9½ miles

The Fynn Valley Walk traverses some of the most picturesque countryside in East Anglia. The view from the National Trust's property at Kyson Hill is outstanding and should not be missed.

Although Westerfield station is not directly on the Fynn Valley Walk or Fonnereau Way, there are connecting paths to both.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. **From Westerfield level crossing go past 'The Railway' public house and continue for 300 yards.**
2. Turn right on the path by the hedge.
3. **Turn right on 'Fonnereau Way' to railway stiles, Broad Acres and Lower Road.**
4. Turn right into Sandy Lane, just beyond the roadway to the water works.
5. **At top of the rise branch to the right.**
6. At the 'Fountain' public house turn into Fynn Lane, then right through a kissing gate. Follow the waymarked 'Fynn Valley Walk' on to Woodbridge, but note the following:
7. **Path branches left from more obvious driveway ahead.**
8. Look carefully for the path branching left from road - it's easily missed!
9. **Head just to the left of the solitary oak.**
10. Decide either to follow the path by Kyson Point (low tide only) or the Broom Heath alternative (beware traffic where road passes under railway arch).

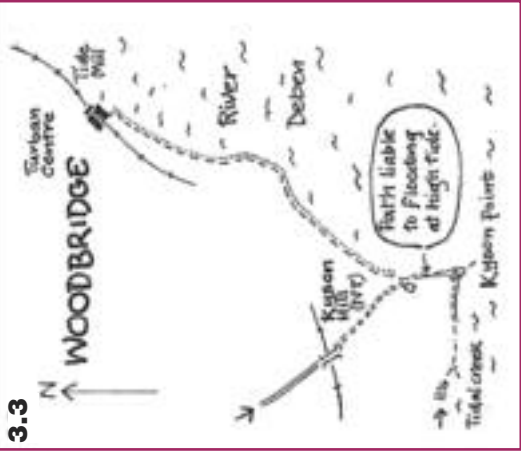
Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 4 - 5 hours
Suggested map:	Explorer Map 197 Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich
Refreshment:	Pubs along the route at Westerfield, Tuddenham, Little Bealings, Martlesham and Woodbridge
Other Waymarks:	Fynn Valley Walk; Fonnereau Way
Useful Info:	At high tide the route along Martlesham Creek may be flooded at Kyson Point. An alternative route can be followed via Broom Heath

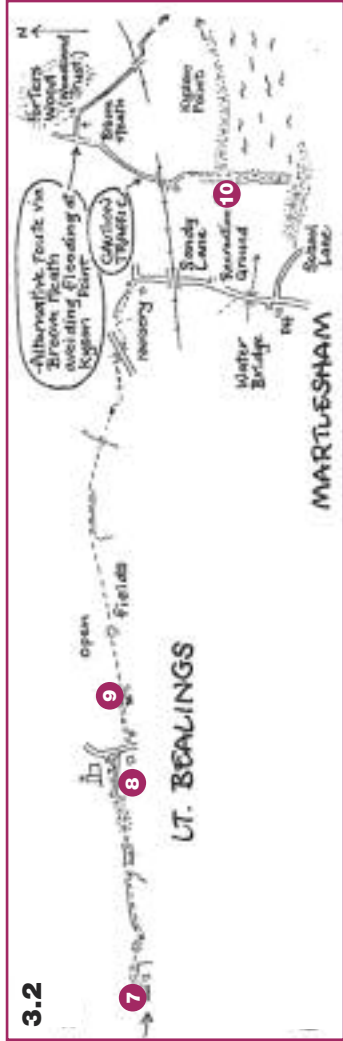
3.1



3.3



3.2



Not to scale

4. The Tide Mill Walk

4. The Tide Mill Walk Woodbridge - Melton, 1 ½ miles

A popular stroll along the 'Sandlings Walk' bank path of the tidal Deben, with views across the river to the wooded Sutton Hoo estate.

The route passes near to the famous Tide Mill at Woodbridge and boating activity can be watched close by. At low tide wading birds of many kinds can be seen feeding on the exposed mud flats.

Route finder

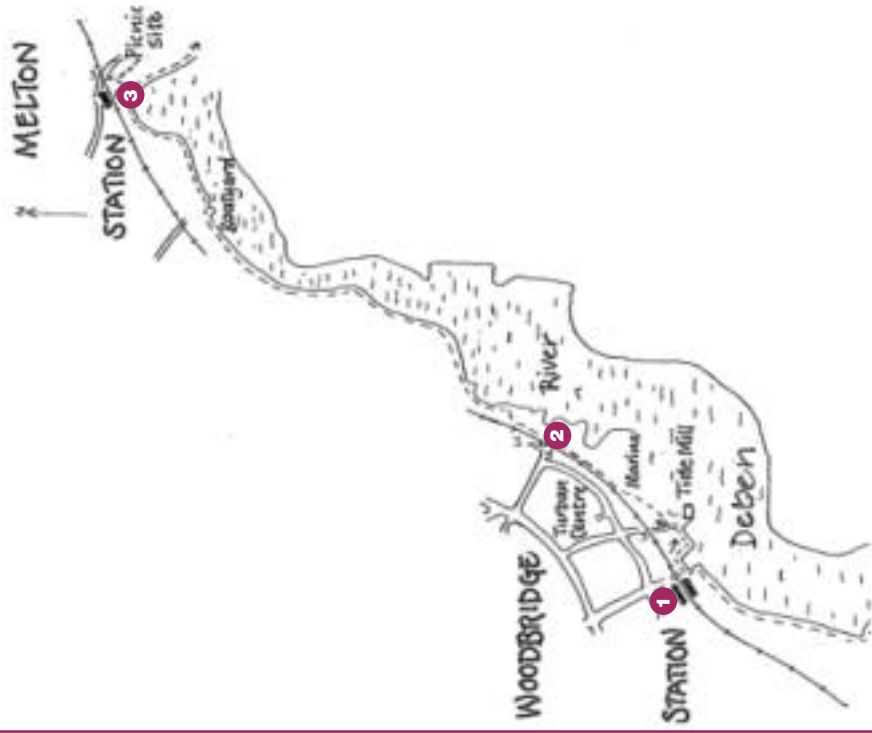
Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. Start along the quayside, pass the Caravan Café, then go right over the flood barrier to the far end of Woodbridge Quay, where the footpath continues to the left.
2. Follow the track left round the building with stepped gables; just before the level crossing the path goes off to the right.
3. Wooden steps lead to the path towards the level crossing at Melton station. Alternatively, continue along the surfaced river wall path towards Wilford Bridge and walks 5 and 6.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about ¾ hour
Suggested map:	Explorer Maps 197 Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich or 212 Woodbridge and Saxmundham
Refreshment:	Plenty of places in Woodbridge and Melton
Other Waymarks:	Part of the 'Sandlings Walk', a long distance route from Ipswich to Southwold, way-marked with nightjar symbols
Useful Info:	Woodbridge Tourist Information Centre 01394 382240, wtic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk www.visit-suffolk.org.uk





Not to scale



5. A Circular Walk

Route finder

5. Melton Circular Walk

Melton - Sutton Hoo via Bromeswell, 5½ miles

Attractive and varied countryside includes tidal marshes, oak woodland and sandy heaths, leading to the National Trust's attractive Sutton Hoo estate, an archaeological site of outstanding international importance.

The visitor centre exhibition (entry charges, NT members free) explains the significance of the site and the amazing treasure recovered in 1939 from the ship burial of 1300 years ago. Guided tours available in season.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. From the station entrance go right over the level crossing, then almost immediately right again through a kissing gate. Follow the path ahead to steps up to riverbank. Go left along the bank to Wilford Bridge.
2. Boardwalk path across the reed bed is impassable at high tide. Use alternative roadside path if necessary.
3. Track starts off right at the side of the graveyard extension.
4. Cross the road junction with extreme care.
5. Beware golf activity. Follow the waymarked route across the course, diverging from the Sandlings Walk just before the isolated, white-walled 'Lion's Den' building.
6. Cross the road junction with extreme care.
7. Continue ahead on the public path, keeping burial mounds on your left. (Access to mounds not allowed except for NT guided parties.)
8. Use the public footpath straight ahead following the farm drive.
9. Where the farm drive bends half left, path goes ahead then veers slightly left at side of a wood.

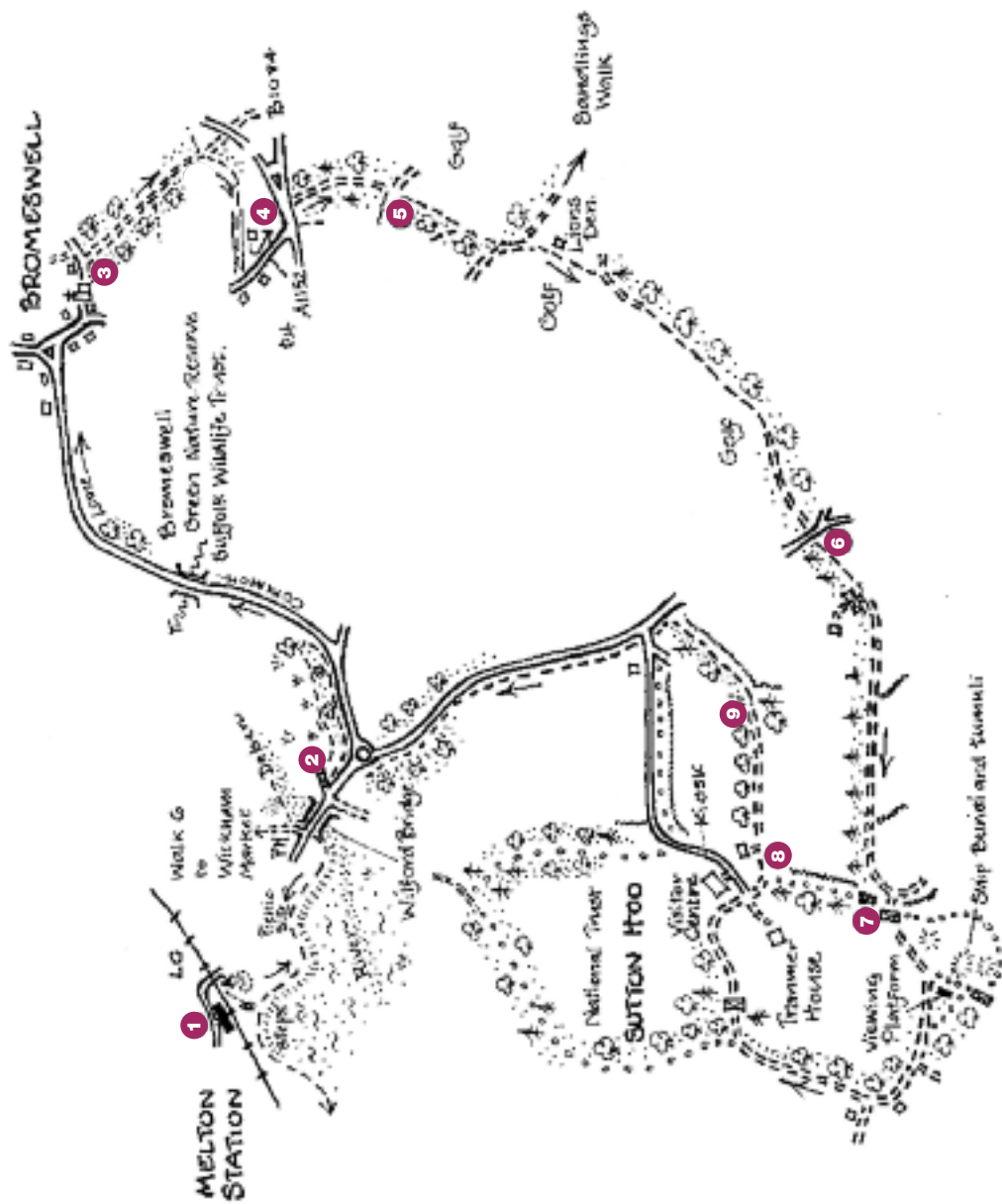
Planning your walk

Time: About 2½ hours for the walk, but much longer if visiting the exhibition

Refreshment: Pubs close to the route on main road between Melton station and Bromeswell turning (see map); also pubs and shop in Melton village. Café and shop at Sutton Hoo

National Trust estate walks: Open daily 9am to 6pm all year except for some Thursdays between November and the end of December

Useful info: NT Sutton Hoo for times, events and access to estate walks 01394 389700 or email suttonhoo@nationaltrust.org.uk



6. Deben Valley Walk

Route finder

6. Deben Valley Walk Melton - Wickham Market station, 5½ miles

Although less well known than the tidal estuary, the upper River Deben and its smaller tributaries flow through some of Suffolk's most delightful and characteristic countryside.

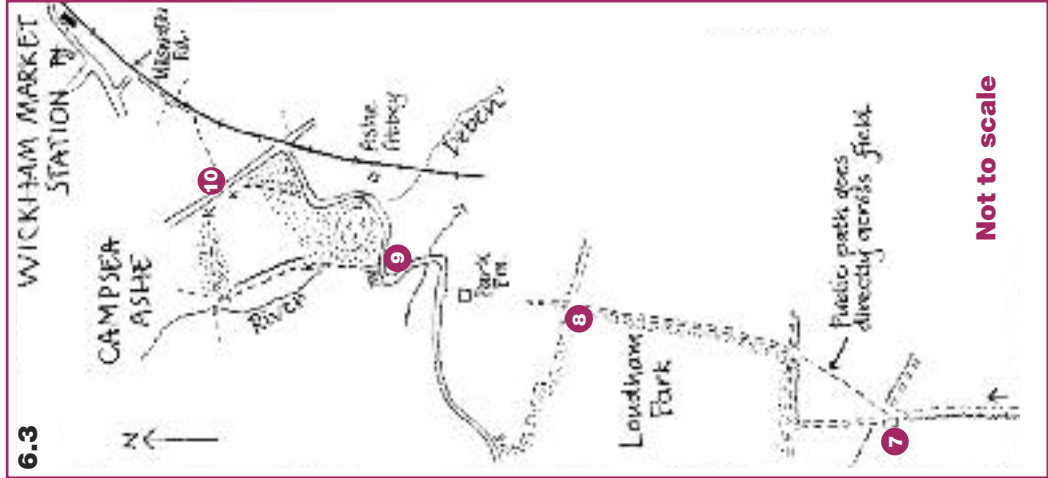
This is a direct 'all weather' route above the flood plain. The route passes through the picturesque village of Ufford, where the village stocks can be seen outside the churchyard gate near the tower. Ufford church is a good example of Suffolk flint and stone panelled flushwork. Inside there are fine roofs to the nave and chancel, a set of superbly carved bench ends and the famous telescopic font cover reaching to the roof.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

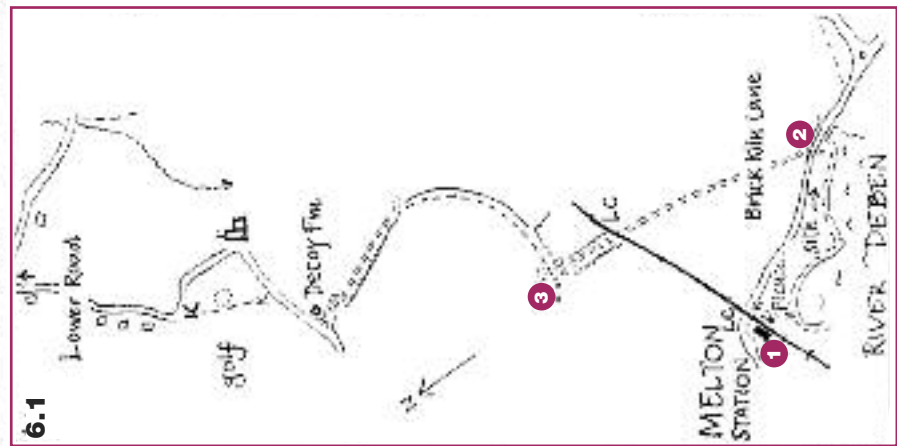
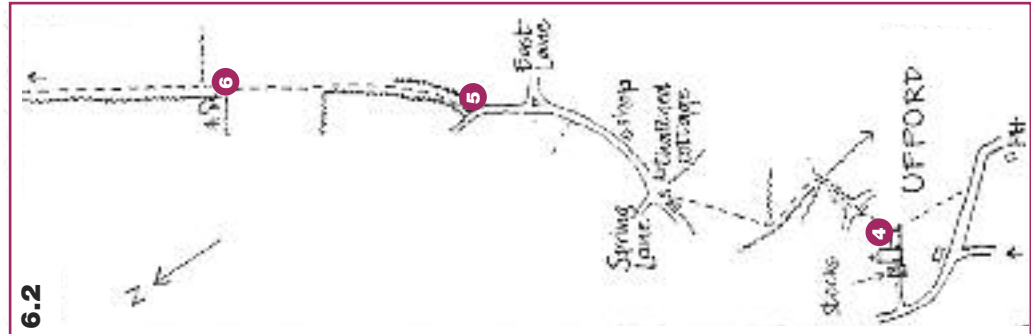
1. From Melton station turn right over the level crossing and immediately right again through a kissing gate; follow the path to steps and the riverbank. Go left towards **Wiford Bridge**.
2. Cross the main road and go along Brick Kiln Lane.
3. Where the lane swings left follow a path off right, behind a domestic garage. Beyond Decoy Cottage go right onto the public road towards Melton Old Church or take the short cut public path across the golf course.
4. From the north-east corner of Ufford churchyard a short grassy lane leads down to a narrow footbridge. Bear left immediately around the edge of a meadow, then diagonally right across the next meadow towards the thatched cottage.
5. A fingerpost marks the start of a path rising gradually between hedges. Where these end, keep in the same direction across an open field towards a large oak tree at the next field corner.
6. Continue direction, now with the hedge on your left.
7. At the concrete pad, the path goes diagonally right across an arable field to a wooded corner of Loudham Park.
8. At the far corner of the park boundary go sharp left around the field edges to a stile into Loudham Hall Road. Go right along the road.
9. Either take the 'Circular Walk' route left over the footbridge, on to cross paths, then right up through trees to road, or keep to the road passing Ashe Abbey (glimpsed through bordering trees) and the diagonal short cut path left to the road.
10. Options re-join. A finger post points the path across the field to the railway fence. Go left by the railway into Ullswater Road, then right towards the Dog and Duck public house and the station.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 2½ - 3 hours
Suggested map:	Explorer map 212 Woodbridge and Saxmundham
Refreshment:	Pubs at Ufford and Campsea Ashe, near Wickham Market station (Wickham Market town and its station are a long way apart). Village shops at Ufford and Campsea Ashe



Not to scale



6.3

6.2

6.1

7. Alde Valley Walk

Route finder

7. Alde Valley Walk - with Snape village and Maltings option **Wickham Market Station - Saxmundham, 10½ miles direct; 13¼ miles via Snape Maltings**

This is the longest and perhaps most challenging and rewarding walk in the series, allowing walkers to enjoy isolated and remote countryside. There is a considerable variety of landscape including woodland, lush meadows and the light terrain characteristic of the Suffolk Sandlings.

Look out for the stone at Blaxhall after which Stone Farm is named. A notice on the garden wall explains its legendary origin. (TM 351565) At the world famous Snape Maltings the route connects with the Sandlings Walk and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Path.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

- 1. From the station go left past the pub to road junction. Take Loudham Road, then left into Ullswater Road.**
- Beyond the last house the path goes off right by the railway. Follow for about 250 yards to the junction of paths.
 - 2a. Cross the line.
- 3. Branch left on the field edge path by Barnes's Grove.**
- Go down the driveway to Ashgreen Farm, then take long track beyond to sharp left turn to road.
- 5. Take the path on the right for 300 yards, then go left at the side of the wood**
- From the corner of the wood go half right, across grass field, then left along farm track.
- 7. At the approach to the farm turn sharp right opposite the field gate along a broad track passing below cables.**
- Where tracks divide at the top of the gentle rise go left towards pylon.
- 9. From the field entrance follow the path along edge of a belt of trees, with fence on your right.**
- The path continues through a gap down through trees to rail crossing and beyond by an old water mill (now a residence) to the road.
- 11. From road junction go along broad field access track; continue across field beyond (parallel to left ditch), to reach a footbridge over River Alde. Cross bridge, then go right along bank for about 100 yards to where stream**

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 5 - 6 hours (7 hours via Snape)
Suggested map:	Explorer map 212 Woodbridge and Saxmundham
Refreshment:	Carry sufficient food and drink for the whole of the walk; there are no pubs or shops on the direct route until Saxmundham, but plenty of choice at Snape village and Maltings
Winter walking:	The valley bottom between key points 11-12 may be flooded in winter. The best alternative route is along minor roads via Beversham Crossing, Blaxhall village and Langham Bridge, an extra 1½ miles

bends sharply right.

12. Turn left across the field to the footbridge and small gate just to the right of a young alder tree.

13. Where tracks meet, turn right away from Hill Farm.

14. Where track bears right towards farm, keep ahead across field to metal gate.

14a. Decision point! Either go left beyond old pit to continue direct route to Saxmundham (Key points 15-20) or branch right at South Lodge along track to head for Snape. (Key points B-F).

14b. At the end of the drive the path continues ahead through a thicket.

14c. Go right along the road by entrance to a nursery; then bear right along 'No through road'.

14d. Decision point! For Maltings go right along grassy track towards Abbey Farm, or for shorter route to village amenities keep ahead along the lane.

14e. Go left off the road opposite entrance to Brick Kiln Park. (Use signed track nearest to the field.)

14f. Just before reaching the road near the nursery, turn sharp right along a field path up rising ground.

15. Cross the busy main road with caution.

15a. The path beyond the cottage is sometimes waterlogged.

16. Better drained alternative path.

17. Green and 'The Wadd' nature reserve.

18. Path branches half left off the road beyond B1121 direction sign.

19. Head across the field to just left of large tree stump in far hedge.

20. Path joins the farm track only briefly; look for the gap on the right at side of an old pit.



7. Alde Valley Walk Continued



8. The Garden of Suffolk Walk

Route finder

8. The Garden of Suffolk Walk Saxmundham – Darsham, 6¼ miles

Known locally as 'The Garden of Suffolk' the village of Yoxford is approached across the pastures of Rookery Park, one of three country houses that surround the village.

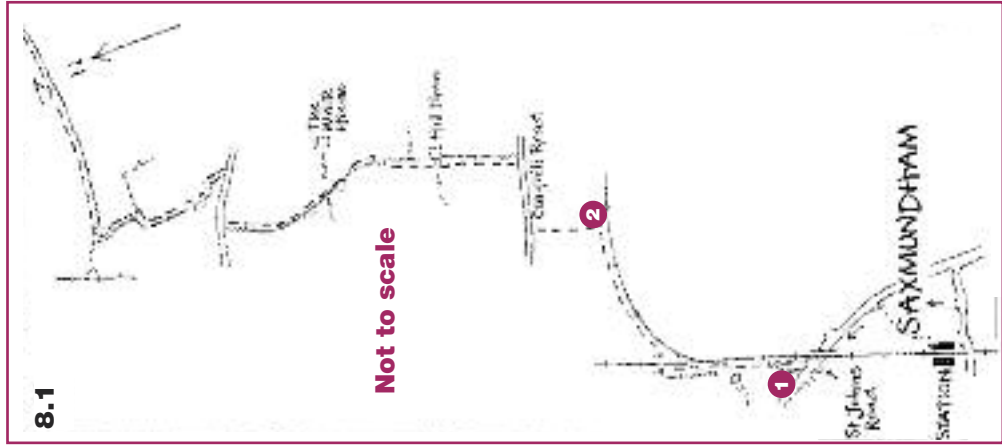
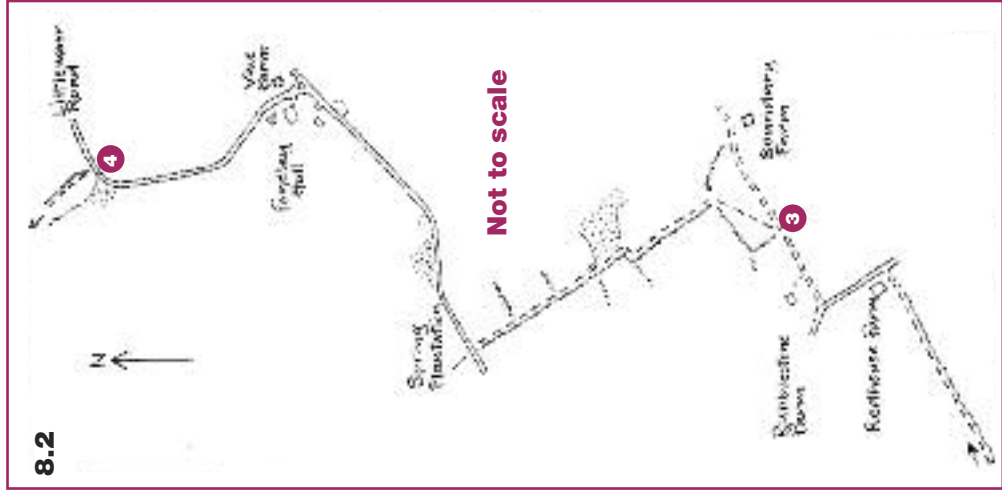
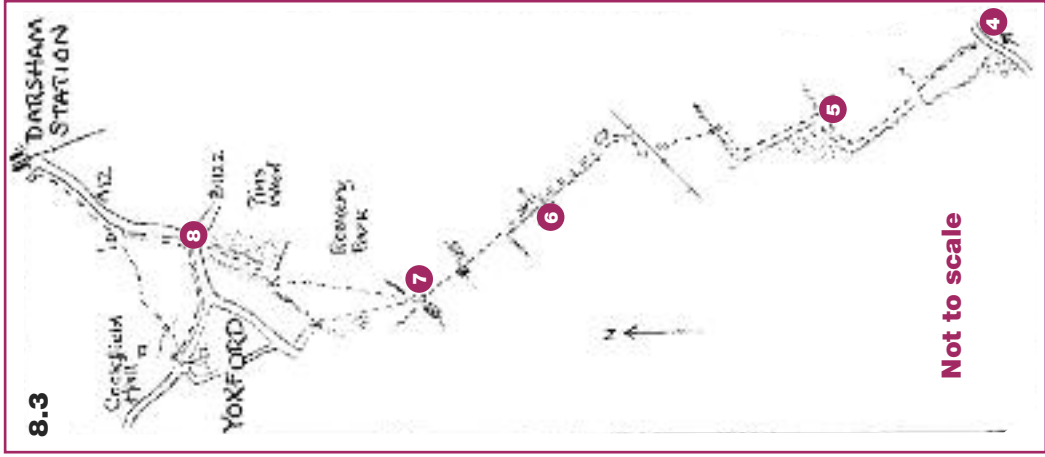
The village is a short distance from Darsham station and was once a staging point on the London to Yarmouth turnpike. The Street (A1120) is most picturesque, lined with an agreeable mix of buildings of various ages and styles, and includes cafés and pubs.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. **The path starts at the side of the railway bridge abutment opposite St John's Rd.**
2. Turn left away from railway, heading across the field towards the fingerpost on the road.
3. **Path leaves farm track. Go diagonally (i.e. half left) to the far corner of the field.**
4. The path goes off left along a narrow field.
5. **Turn left keeping to the field edge; don't follow the track into the wooded area.**
6. Continue straight ahead across the park, following the line of ancient oaks.
7. **Two paths bear to the right across the park, leading either to the village centre (aim towards church) or via the side of Pins Wood for the most direct route to the station.**
8. Cross roads with extreme caution.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 3 - 4 hours
Suggested map:	Explorer map 212 Woodbridge and Saxmundham (almost all the route); also map 231 Southwold and Bungay
Refreshment:	Carry sufficient food and drink for the whole of the walk; there are no pubs or shops directly along the route, but plenty at either end
Useful info:	There are shops and two pubs at Yoxford, a roadside café close to Darsham station and a petrol filling station café on the far side of the level crossing



9. Yox - Blyth Valleys Walk

9. Yox – Blyth Valleys Walk Darsham – Halesworth, 9 miles

From the higher ground above the little River Yox the route affords broad views along the valley in the upstream direction. Bramfield, conveniently mid-way along the route, lies in an even smaller valley, watered by a tributary of the River Blyth.

Bramfield church is thatched and has a detached round tower. It has the best rood screen in Suffolk. Opposite the church is a fine example of a crinkle-crankle wall. Extensive meadows flank the banks of the River Blyth on its approach to Halesworth. The local museum is located in part of the station buildings.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 4½ - 5 hours
Suggested map:	Explorer map 231 Southwold and Bungay
Refreshment:	The 'Queens Head' public house, Bramfield
Useful info:	Halesworth & District Museum: 01986 873030

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. **Path starts from the lodge at the park entrance and crosses the park to the church; first few yards are permissive.**
2. On far side of bridge over River Yox the path branches left across a plank footbridge. Head between the two trees on the left of a row of four large oaks, to meet the hedge.
3. **At the approach to Woodhill Farm go right through a small metal gate. Cross the meadow almost diagonally to skirt the bank screening farm**

Route finder

buildings. Leave the meadow by another small metal gate.

4. The path is waymarked through new tree planting, then goes right across an arable field to the road at North Boundary Farm (follow electricity poles if path is not marked out).

5. **Go through the gap in the hedge, then left along a broad conservation margin with the hedge on your left.**

6. Turn left to follow the path to the road.

7. **Cross a footbridge and bear quickly left and right to meet a hedge up to Kingstall Wood. The path is to left of the hedge, then along broad, curving field margin at side of wood.**

8. Go over the footbridge where the path and track divide, ignoring 'Conservation Walk'.

9. **Follow the path beyond the wood at the side of the hedge, and then the ditch to the rail bridge.**

10. Go right along the minor road towards 'Wenhaston Hall'.

11. **At the top of the slope look for a stile on your left where the path crosses to the left of the hedge along the field edge, parallel to the track. Go left around the field edge, then right through the gap, parallel to a conservation margin on the other side of the hedge.**

12. From the footbridge cross the arable field ahead, aiming for an electricity pole to the right of a clump of trees seen on the skyline.

13. **Bear right, following field edge path (with hedge on your right) to the corner of field.**

14. Headland path starts from a narrow gap in the hedge just beyond field entrance.

15. **Look for the stile on right, (easily missed!); cross, then go along headland to plank footbridge. Go diagonally down across large field, aiming for corner just to the right of Melles Court Farm.**

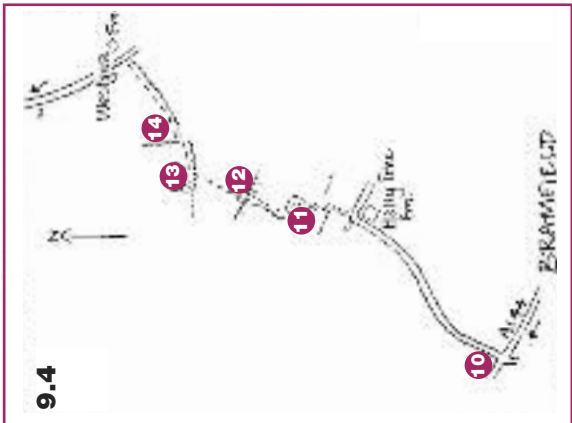
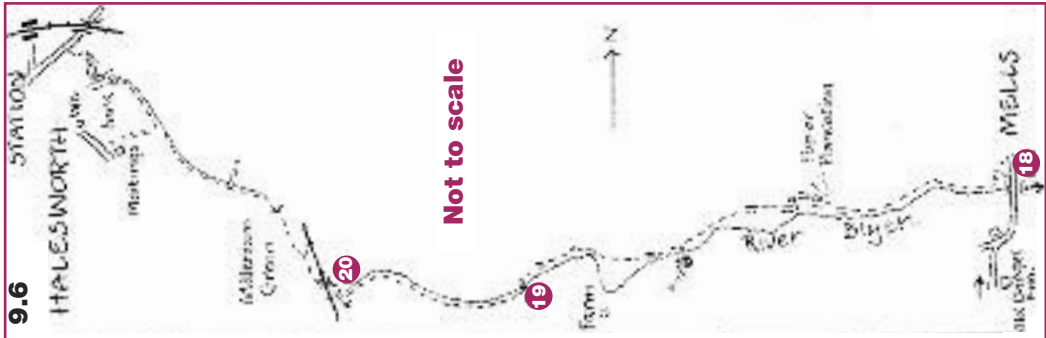
16. Footbridge gives entry to the golf course. Go left, then bear right round the perimeter hedge, following the white marker stakes.

17. **At the road junction continue direction towards Holton.**

18. Immediately over river bridge go left through a small thicket to follow waymarked 'Heart of Suffolk' route. Frequent footbridges and stiles show the way through riverside meadows and plantations.

19. **Waymarked bridge shows where to cross to other bank.**

20. Just before reaching the railway, the path crosses a footbridge on the right. Follow it under the railway line to the park and town centre.



10. The Wolfpack Walk

10. The Wolfpack Walk

Brampton – Halesworth, 5 miles

NB Brampton station serves an isolated community with no public amenities, so it's best to do this walk from north to south, ending at Halesworth.

Part of the walk is along the old perimeter track of a Second World War airfield, once the home of the US Fighter Group known as 'Zemke's Wolfpack'. Memorials and the airfield museum are en route.

The walk provides fascinating contrasts between the ancient and modern faces of Suffolk, demonstrating ways in which landscape constantly evolves in response to mankind's intervention.

Planning your walk

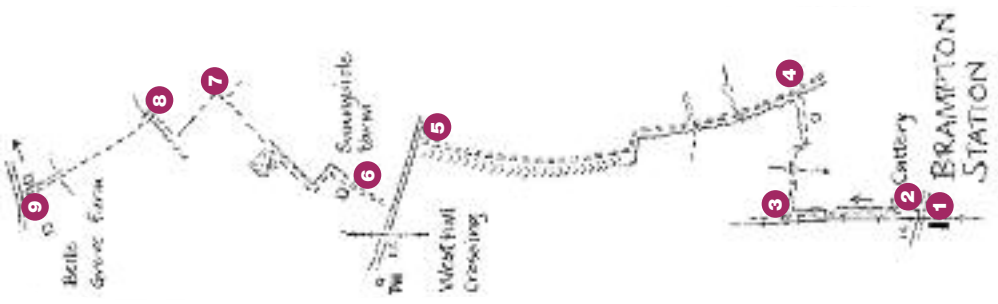
Time:	Allow about 2½ hours
Suggested map:	Explorer map 231 Southwold and Bungay
Refreshment:	There are no pubs or shops directly on the route, but there are at Westhall Mill Common (over the level crossing south east of Sunny-side Farm) and at the end of the walk in Halesworth
Useful info:	Halesworth (Holton) Airfield Memorial Museum - 01986 873262 Halesworth & District Museum - 01986 873030

Route finder

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

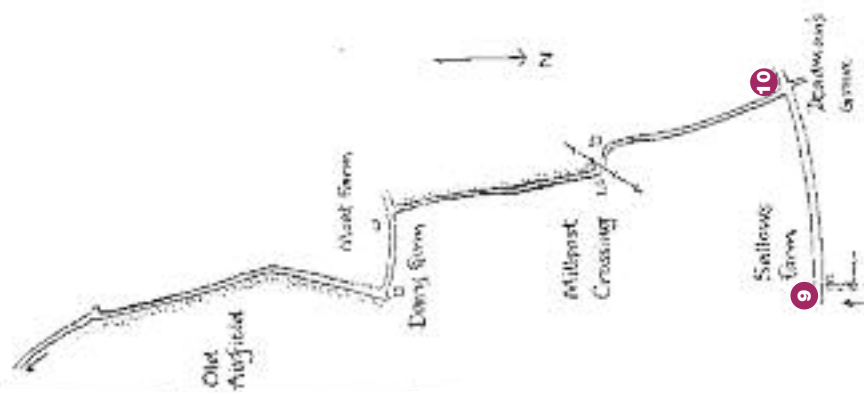
- 1. Immediately over the level crossing go left along the drive past cottages and towards the cattery.**
- A small gate to the left of the drive marks the way ahead for walkers.
- 3. Branch right through a small gate; go down to the footbridge; then kink right then left to follow the hedge at the side of the garden to another footbridge.**
- Go left along a broad grassy track; follow to road.
- 5. Go left, then right along the gravel drive to Sunnyside Farm.**
- Keep direction beyond the farm buildings, then go left around the perimeter of the holding and right along by a hedge to pass the side of a small plantation. Continue direction across the large arable field (the line of the path is usually marked out).
- 7. Midfield junction of paths. Go left and follow markers to the field edge, then right to a sleeper footbridge.**
- Cross the field, guided by markers to a footbridge and the road a few yards ahead.
- 9. Turn right to Deadman's Grave crossroads.**
- Go left along 'No Through Road' to Millpost Crossing and the byways beyond to the airfield museum entrance and adjacent memorials.
- 11. 'Circular Walk' sign marks the start of field edge paths to Halesworth.**
- Cross the road and keep the generally southerly direction along the tree-lined path, not the tarmac roadside path.
- 13. The short cut path branches sharp right immediately beyond Orchard House.**

10.1



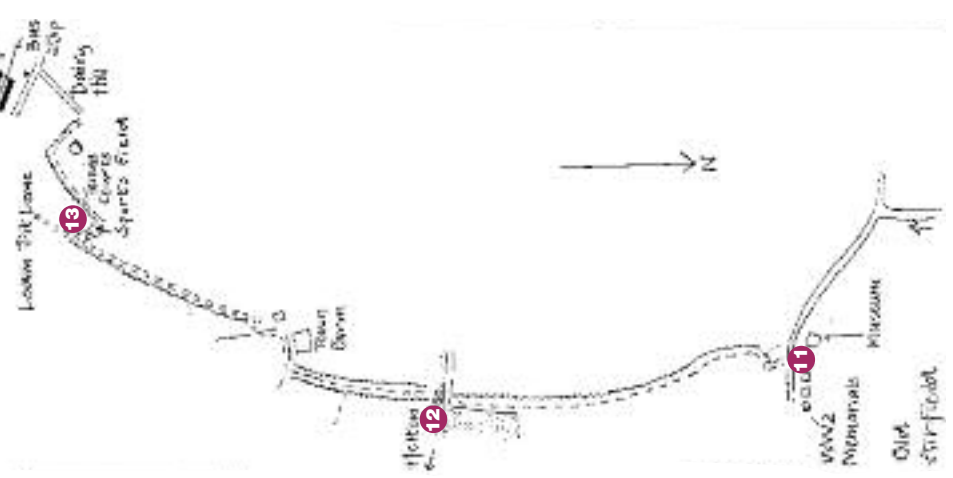
10.2

Not to scale



10.3

HALESWORTH STATION



11. Two Circular Walks

Route finder

11. Two Circular Walks from Brampton

Station

Outer route via Sparrow's Thicks, Westend Farm, Fox public house, 7½ miles

Shorter route via track to Park Farm, 6¼ miles

Brampton station serves a very isolated local community in the heart of rural Suffolk. It also provides walkers with a convenient gateway to a landscape of extensive views across quiet, unspoiled 'working' countryside contrasting with more intimate rural scenes such as the diminutive parish church at Redisham, so evocatively described in Adrian Bell's 'Apple Acre' when decked for harvest festival.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. From the station go left along the road for about 50 yards. Just before the road crosses a small stream the path starts left through a small wooded area. Immediately over the footbridge go right and left following the field edge path.
2. A gravel drive leads towards the south door of the church. The path continues from the north-east corner of the churchyard over a small footbridge.
3. Either go right along the hedge to railway stiles and an easily followed track beyond, traversing open arable farmland to Park Farm (Shorter route), or continue along road (beware traffic). Parts of the more varied Outer route are used for grazing livestock, so dogs must be closely controlled.
4. Path starts off right at the side of the ditch, diverging slightly left across the field to the side of Sparrow's Thicks and railway stiles.
5. Go right for a short distance along the broad track from South End Farm. Go ahead through a kissing gate into the meadow and cross diagonally, passing between large oaks to reach another kissing gate in the far corner.
6. Cross the footbridge set back in the hedge, then keep general direction, now on the other side of the hedge.
7. Official path goes diagonally across a small field to a gap.
8. Bridleway ahead soon swings to the right following hedge, then veers left at side of a deep ditch to a T-junction at bottom of gentle slope. Go right along the track the side of Titsal Wood.
9. Go left across high-sided bridleway bridge to follow diverted route with hedge on left, soon passing the end of a plantation and then up rising ground at side of hedge, then a deep ditch. Bear right at field corner. Where hedge ends keep direction across field following tractor wheel marks towards Old Hall.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 3½ hours for Outer route
Suggested map:	Explorer map 231 Southwold and Bungay
Refreshment:	Fox public house
Useful info:	Car parking space is very limited at Brampton station so use the train or bus



Not to scale

12. A Walk in Adrian Bell Country

Route finder

12. A Walk in Adrian Bell Country

Brampton – Beccles, 6¾ miles

Despite its name, Brampton station is nearer to Redisham, a village associated with East Anglian writer Adrian Bell, who farmed nearby in the 1940s before moving to Beccles.

His book 'Apple Acre' gives a charming, evocative and often amusing account of life and work in the local landscape of those times. The route passes through the green parklands surrounding Redisham Hall, a delightful interlude in a predominantly arable countryside.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

- 1. From the station platform go over the level crossing and along the road to a sharp right bend.**
2. Cross the field ahead in the same general direction as the road from the station, passing close to the mid-field pond to meet a hedge at the corner of the field.
- 3. Cross the field ahead on the line of the first and third electricity poles, making for a hedged corner.**
4. Cross the footbridge to continue on the other side of the hedge.
- 5. The path joins a track at right angle bend; go left to Wood Farm, following the track to the rear of the dwelling. Then go right by the pond to field edge path beyond.**
6. Immediately over the bridge go right on a long, field-edge bridleway, becoming a track at the side of the wood, then by side of a stream to pass farm buildings and walled gardens near the hall.
- 7. Where the main drive swings right, keep ahead through a gate to cross parkland following a stream on your left.**
8. Look left for the continuation of the bridleway across a wooden bridge, not ahead across rough ground. Follow between hedges and bear left to the road at the driveway to Pound Farm.
- 9. Just beyond the school, the bridleway goes off to the right.**
10. Cross the bridge and go right towards Old Hall Farm and road at Ringsfield church. Follow the road left for 150 yards.
- 11. The bridleway branches right to Lodge Farm.**
12. Opposite farm buildings the bridleway branches right.
- 13. Follow track left round the bend, keeping to the right of the hedge, then continue to the road.**
14. At a sharp corner turn left along a sunken track, leading to the busy B1062: cross with care, go right on grass verge path, then left into Puddingmoor.
- 15. Cliff House steps lead up to the museum and town centre.**

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 3 - 4 hours
Suggested map:	Explorer map 231 Southwold and Bungay
Refreshment:	Carry sufficient food and drink for the whole of the walk; there are no pubs or shops directly on the route
Useful info:	The Horseshoes public house at Ringsfield Corner is about ¼ mile off route. Beccles & District Museum - 01502 715722

12.1

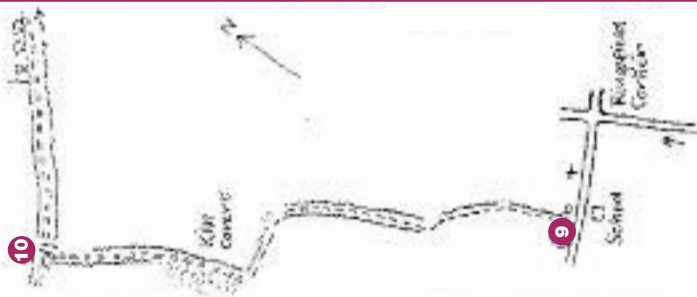


12.2

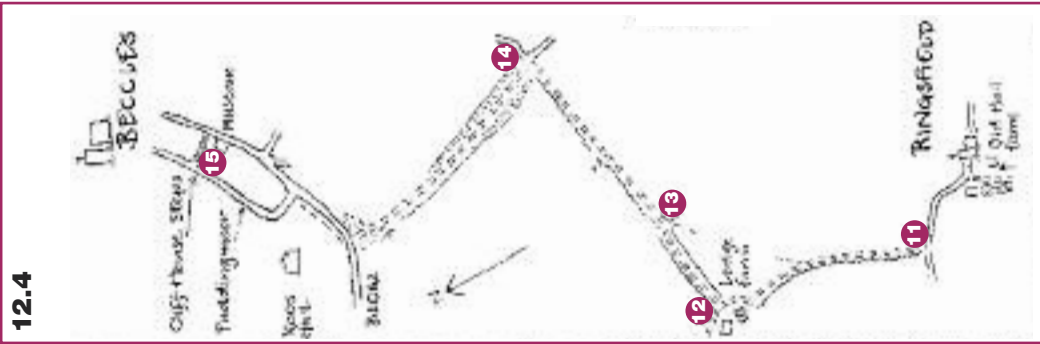


12.3

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12.4



13. Angles Way Walk

Route finder

13. Angles Way Walk Beccles – Oulton Broad South, 9½ miles

This walk follows part of the 'Angles Way', a waymarked regional route for long distance walkers linking the Broads at Yarmouth with the Brecks at Knettishall Heath near Thetford (guide book available).

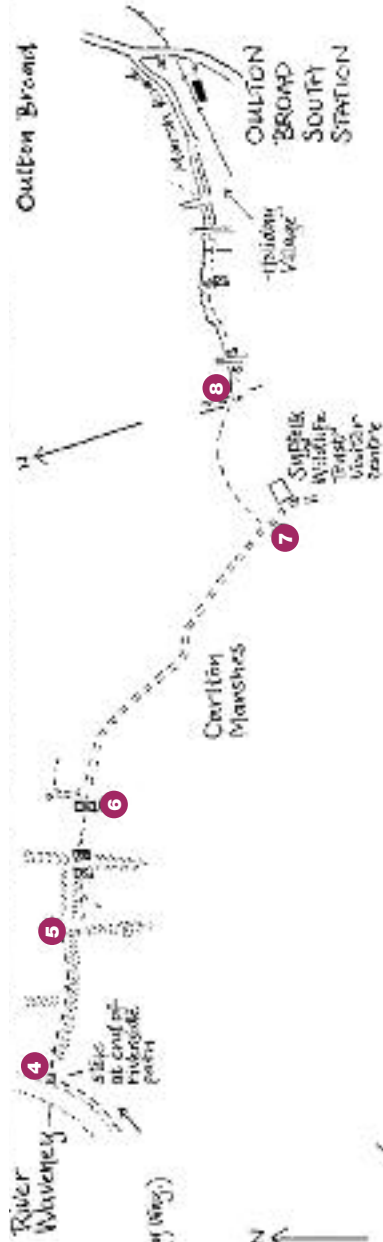
Beccles is a lovely country town that amply repays exploration. In Northgate, look out for the plaque on the house where farmer-writer Adrian Bell once lived (see walk 12). In the same street the boldly painted 'Smith & Eastaugh' sign on a Dutch-style gable proclaims 'Wherries constantly attend the Traders & Steam Vessels for conveying goods to and from the wharf.' Nowadays the Waveney is alive with pleasure craft in summer but out of season the river and adjacent marshes offer glorious isolation and solitude. From the bank-top path there are ample opportunities to enjoy the panorama across Castle Marshes, a Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) reserve.

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. Go along Station Road to the town centre, then right by the magnificent church tower towards Old Market bus stand.
2. Continue along Northgate to the quay.
3. Cross the footbridge to the play area, then go left along the waterside path to the main river. Follow the riverbank path to the right under the bypass and continue for 6½ miles.
4. Follow Angles Way waymarks sharply right off the riverbank and down steps. The path is along the field edge at the side of a reedy dyke.
5. Go over stile. Keep direction towards double gates. Continue ahead.
6. Beyond single gate go along the track to the car park at the SWT centre.
7. Turn left through the visitor centre car park and continue along the path beyond.
8. Keep general direction (ignore path off to the left), following 'Angles Way/Waveney Way' signs on a succession of stiles giving access to small paddocks, meadows and the path through Broadland Holiday Village, eventually joining Marsh Road to Oulton Broad South station.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 4 - 5 hours
Suggested map:	Outdoor Leisure map 40 The Broads
Refreshment:	Carry sufficient food and drink for the whole walk; there are no pubs or shops directly on the route (Beccles and Oulton Broad offer plenty of refreshment places)
Useful info:	The Swan at Barnby is about 1 mile off the route



Not to scale

14. The Easterling Walk

Route finder

14. The Easterling Walk

Oulton Broad South – Lowestoft, 4 miles

A short but remarkably varied and contrasting walk leading to Lowestoft Ness, the most easterly point in Britain. The location was celebrated in the 1950s by an East Suffolk Line express train named 'The Easterling' which brought holidaymakers from London non-stop to Beccles, where it divided for Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

After visiting the Lowestoft Museum in Nicholas Everitt Park, walkers can enjoy breezy views across the open expanses of Oulton Broad, cross an attractive Dutch style lifting bridge designed for pedestrians and cyclists, tunnel below the railway near Oulton Broad swing bridge and cross the slipways of busy boatyards fronting Lake Lothing. The wide-open spaces of Normanston Park contrast with the incised linear park on the alignment of an old railway, leading to St Margaret's, one of Suffolk's finest churches. From its churchyard the distant North Sea can be glimpsed. The lighthouse stands on an elevated cliff top below which Lighthouse Score, one of a series of fascinating alleyways descending the cliff face, leads down to the Denes, an open area traditionally associated with the repair of fishing nets. The fascinating Maritime Museum, sea wall and Lowestoft Ness are close by.

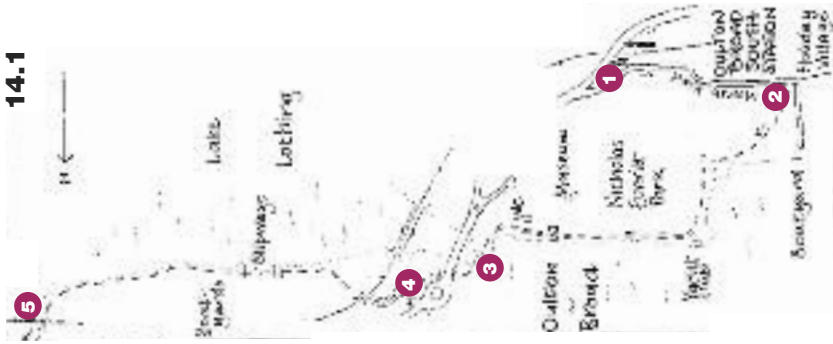
Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

- 1. From the platform cross the railway line by the bridge, and take the steps down to Marsh Road. Follow the road, passing the holiday village entrance.**
2. Just before a sharp right bend, branch right through a gap, then bear half right across a grassy area to join the network of surfaced paths in Nicholas Everitt Park. Follow the paths nearest the water's edge.
- (Occasionally entry to the park may be restricted for special events, when an entrance fee may be charged - see local notices.)
- 3. Cross the lifting bridge. Use the pedestrian/cyclist underpass to cross the main road.**
4. A footpath sign near roundabout marks the start of the path to Lowestoft. Follow it between high fences and under the railway arch, emerging to cross front of boat yards. At one point the path goes below a gantry crane! Take care when crossing rails on inclined slipways.
- 5. Cross the railway by a stepped footbridge. Follow the cycle/pedestrian path right towards the town centre.**
6. The route continues beyond the pelican crossing over Peto Way.
- 7. At cross-roads junction (Sustrans sign) go left towards Gunton along Great Eastern Way Linear Park.**
8. Take the steps up to Rotterdam Road and nearby St Margaret's church. Great Eastern Way continues to Yarmouth Road.
- 9. Station Road (former North station).**
10. Lyndhurst Road.
- 11. Footbridge into Belle Vue Park and Royal Naval Patrol memorial.**
12. From the Euroscope at the Ness continue to the steps at the end of the sea wall, then go right along Hamilton Road to reach the town centre.

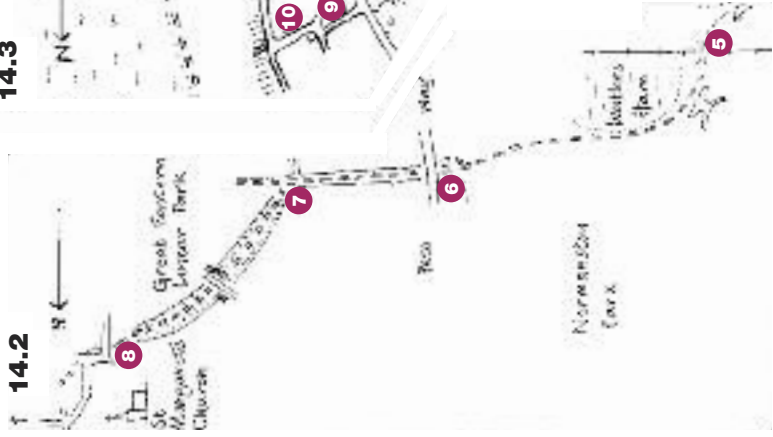
Planning your walk

Time:	Allow a minimum of 2 hours
Suggested map:	Outdoor Leisure map 40 The Broads
Refreshment:	Plenty of choice in Oulton Broad and Lowestoft

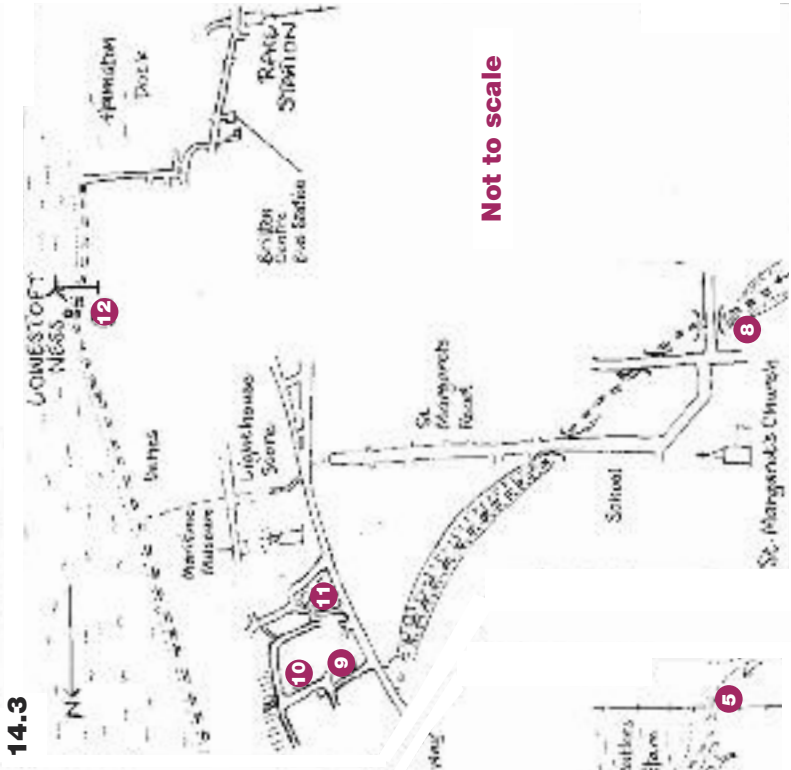
14.1



14.2



14.3



Not to scale

15. Orwell and Trimley Marshes

Route finder

15. Orwell and Trimley Marshes Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve, 7 miles

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. Leaving Trimley station go left over the level crossing along Cordy's Lane.
2. Turn right off Cordy's Lane into Keeper's Track. Go past the entrance to Keeper's Lodge - keep ahead on footpath parallel to short 'permissive bridleway.'
3. Path goes off right, then almost immediately bears left to cross dam at head of small lake, then bears right through the corner of Kiln Grove to join track leading towards farm buildings at Grimston Hall.
4. Turn left along 'Stour and Orwell Walk Inland Route' down gentle slope overlooking Loompit Lake and riverside.
5. Go left along river bank, passing superb viewpoints at Sleighton Hill and follow either bank-top path or parallel bridleway passing Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve at Trimley Marshes.
6. Go left away from river bank to follow flower-rich track skirting dock area.
7. A short deviation to Fagbury Cliff viewpoint overlooking busy port activity before returning along Cordy's Lane to Searson's Farm and Trimley station.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 3-4 hours
Suggested map:	OS Explorer sheet 197 Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich
Refreshment:	Most of the route is in remote countryside, so be sure to carry enough refreshments for the whole of your walk, especially drink. Pubs, shops and cafes in Trimley villages
Useful info:	Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre - 01394 276770, ftic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

16. Deben and Coast Walks

Route finder

16. Deben and Coast Walks

Trimley – Felixstowe, 6 - 10 miles

Key points (numbers refer to points on the route diagrams)

1. Leaving Trimley station go left over the level crossing along Cordy's Lane.
 2. Go left along the Blofield Track.
 3. Immediately beyond the bollard go left through a kissing gate and follow the narrow path between hedge and grassy embankment. The path turns right, passes below a railway line, continues through a scrubby area, soon bearing left to pass below another railway line and into a meadow.
 4. Field path goes left off main road opposite garage.
 5. Alternatives are:
 - i. For shorter route to Felixstowe beaches and rail station turn right along bridleway to join Gulpher Road; to Felixstowe station via seafront and Bent Hill is about 6 miles.
 - ii. Alternatively, continue ahead on path bordering garden hedge for the Deben walks. (Key points 7-10.)
 6. Just after the bend in the road beyond Gulpher Farm look left for the start of a field path up rising ground.
 7. Paths diverge. Branch half right across meadow towards gate and stile.
 8. Cross over a track and keep direction over grassy area down to a belt of trees.
 9. Immediately through trees follow field path ahead over rising ground. (Ignore more obvious farm track to left.)
 10. Alternative routes to the Deben. Felixstowe Ferry and seafront:
 - i. Turn right along road following 'Stour and Orwell Walk Inland Route' signs, passing Deben Lodge Farm and the track beyond. Trimley - Felixstowe station via Bent Hill is about 8 miles.
 - ii. Continue ahead along Falkenham road for about 1 mile, turning right along the road signed to Goseford Hall. Follow sinuous but self-evident path to Falkenham Marshes; to Felixstowe station via Bent Hill is about 9 miles.
 - iii. As ii, but via Falkenham church and creek; to Felixstowe station via Bent Hill is about 10 miles.
- Walk distances can be reduced by nearly a mile by following the more direct route to Felixstowe station along High Road East or by about 2 miles by using occasional buses from Felixstowe Ferry to the station at Great Eastern Square.

Planning your walk

Time:	Allow about 5-6 hours for the full distance
Suggested map:	OS Explorer sheet 197 Ipswich, Felixstowe and Hanwich
Refreshment:	Most of the routes are in remote countryside, so be sure to carry enough refreshments for the whole of your walk, especially drink. Pubs, shops and cafes in Trimley villages, Felixstowe Ferry, seafront and town centre
Useful info:	Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre - 01394 276770, ftic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the Suffolk Area of the Ramblers' Association for their input towards the production of this publication. Sally Louth gave valuable help with the presentation of the route diagrams and Phil Archer generously created the website version.

www.eastsuffolkinewalks.co.uk

East Suffolk Line Community Rail Partnership

The East Suffolk Line CRP was set up in 2004 and is a joint venture between Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, the East Suffolk Travellers' Association and the local rail network operator. It aims to promote and develop the East Suffolk Railway by working with local communities and can be contacted via ESLCRP, c/o Rail Officer, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX.

The Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) www.acorp.uk.com

The ESLCRP is a full member of this organisation that is: "focused on practical initiatives which add up to a better more sustainable local railway. Improved station facilities, better train services and improved integration with other forms of transport are central to the work of ACoRP and its members."

East Suffolk Travellers' Association Lowestoft (ESTA) www.eastsuffolktravel.org.uk

The independent voluntary body for local train and bus users. Regular dialogue takes place with train and bus operators, politicians and local councils. Meetings and other events are held in East Suffolk locations. Members receive a quarterly bulletin and other information. Details from the Membership Secretary, 51 Links Way, Thurnton, Norwich NR14 6RF.

Felixstowe Travel Watch www.onesuffolk.co.uk/ESTA/Felixstowe

Felixstowe Travel Watch is a voluntary organisation begun in 1972 to fight the perceived threat to close the Branch line. Since then, its role has broadened to promote the revival and greater use of public transport in our area. We do this in a number of ways, but chiefly by liaison with the managements of National Express East Anglia, First Eastern Counties Buses and National Express Coaches regarding their timetables, routes, quality and frequency of services.



East Suffolk Line www.eastsuffolkline.com

The line is well used and actively supported by the community it serves. A dedicated website provides information about the line, its history, its present day facilities & services, and its future.

Ramblers' Association (Registered charity 1093577) www.ramblers.org.uk

The Ramblers' Association protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open countryside and defends the beauty of the countryside. Suffolk Area has some 2,000 members and local groups are active in Ipswich, Alde Valley, Waveney, Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury, Stowmarket and Newmarket.

The Adrian Bell Society

Generously contributed to the cost of waymarking walk No. 11 'A Walk in Adrian Bell Country'.

The Long Distance Walkers Association www.ldwa.org.uk

The LDWA is an Association of people with the common interest of walking long distances in rural, mountainous or moorland areas. By joining the LDWA, you will meet other like-minded long distance walkers and gain access to information on walking events and long distance walking routes all over the UK.

Other Suffolk Walks websites

Other websites giving information about walks in Suffolk include:

- www.anderton.btinternet.co.uk
- www.walkinginsuffolk.co.uk
- www.discoversuffolk.org.uk
- www.marpa.org.uk

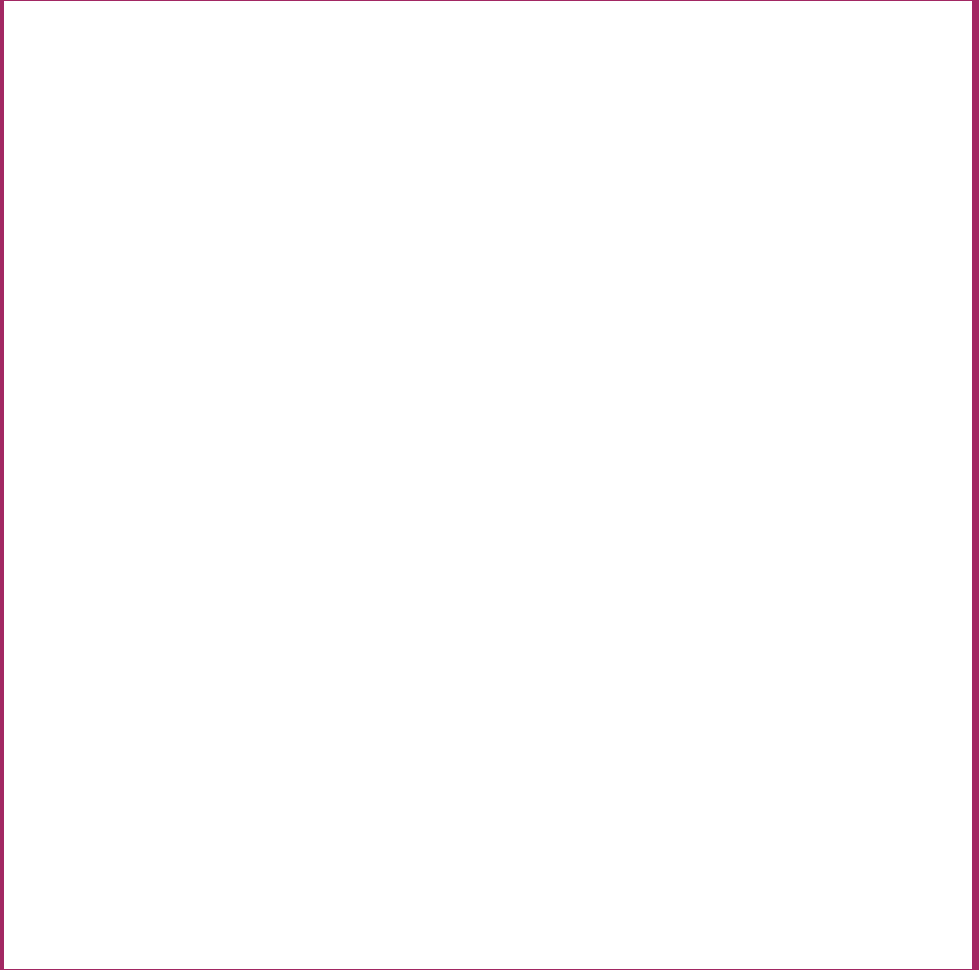
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ESTA published the first edition of the Ipswich to Lowestoft booklet





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East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership are:

Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Waveney District Council, Felixstowe Town Council, East Suffolk Travellers' Associations, Suffolk Passenger Transport and National Express East Anglia

**For further information visit
www.eastsuffolklinewalks.co.uk**