

Aldeburgh is world-renowned thanks to its connection with composer **Benjamin Britten**, the founder of the **Aldeburgh Festival**, which takes place in June every year. A short walk along the coast, **Thorpeness** is a seaside village like no other, with the



Meare at its heart, fairytale features and pretty mock Tudor houses.

Highlights



1 Aldeburgh was once a thriving fishing and boat building town, until the industry declined with the silting up of the River Alde after violent storms which eroded the east coast and destroyed many buildings.

The fortunes of Aldeburgh were revived in the 1800s by the tourist trade, when it became a fashionable place to enjoy clean fresh air and excellent sea water. Today it is arguably the most famous town in Suffolk, ever popular for its arts scene, majestic beach, shopping and fish and chips.

2 The Scallop is the iconic stainless-steel sculpture created by Maggi Hambling and dedicated to Benjamin Britten, who often walked along the beach. It is inscribed with words which are taken from Britten's opera Peter Grimes.

3 Thorpeness, or Thorpe as it was known in the 1900's, was owned by the Ogilvie family who decided to create a fantasy holiday haven. The outlet of the River Hundred was permanently blocked to create the Meare in the centre of the village. The shallow water, ornamental gardens and islands were hand dug in the winter of 1912 -1913. JM Barrie, the author, was a family friend of Ogilvie's and the Meare is based on his Peter Pan stories.



4 The House in The Clouds is a truly unique feature sitting on the horizon. An old water tower that used to supply Thorpeness with water, the tank was disguised to look like a fairy-tale cottage, in keeping with the Ogilvie vision of the village, with accommodation below. In the 1970's the tank was removed to create more living space.

5 RSPB North Warren Nature Reserve, reedbed is a great place to see hobbies, marsh harriers, bearded tits and dragonflies and hear male bittern's booming. Along the length of the path, which was once an old railway line, sheltered places and areas of scrub attract dragonflies, bees, butterflies, warblers, bullfinches and nightingales.

6 The Martello Tower at Slaughden is the largest and northernmost of 103 English defensive towers built between 1808 and 1812 to resist a Napoleonic invasion. It stands at the root of the Orford Ness peninsula and is the only surviving building of the fishing village of Slaughden, a once busy fishing village that was lost to erosion by the North Sea.



The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape

The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape stretches from Kessingland near Lowestoft, down to Parkeston near Harwich on the Stour Estuary in North Essex. It is one of Britain's finest landscapes, nationally important for wildlife and beloved by residents and visitors alike.

The National Landscape conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the area through nature enhancement, landscape restoration, creating habitats for wildlife, volunteering activities such as beach cleans and hedge planting, and providing funding for community projects.



Scan the QR code to find out more about the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape or you can visit coastandheaths-NL.org.uk. Get in touch on **01394 445225**.

Key to map

- National Landscape area
Estuaries are also included
- Additional project area
- Town and villages
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Main roads
- Railways/stations
- Suffolk Coast Path
- Stour and Orwell Walk
- Sandlings Walk



Visiting Aldeburgh & Thorpeness

- Ordnance Survey Map No. 212 (Woodbridge and Saxmundham)
- Car:** Aldeburgh accessed via the A1094 or B1122. Thorpeness is approximately 2 miles (3.2 km) north of Aldeburgh. Parking at Fort Green Car Park, IP15 5DE
- Bus information:** Visit traveline.info or suffolkonboard.com
- Train information:** The nearest train station is Saxmundham (7 miles away). Train timetable at nationalrail.co.uk



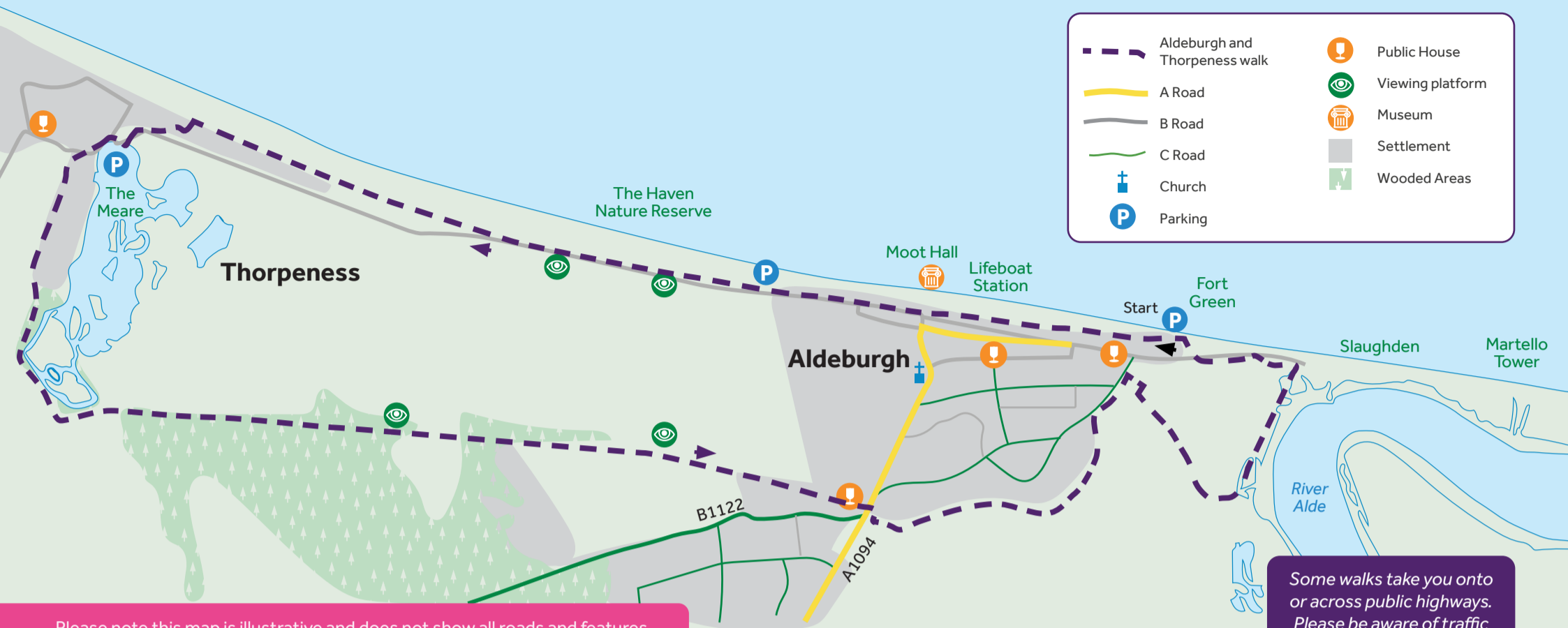
Aldeburgh & Thorpeness Explorer Guide



Explore a popular seaside town, unique village, plus reedbeds, woodland and shingle beach

Aldeburgh Explorer Guide

This walk takes in the coastal town of Aldeburgh, its spectacular shingle beach, the unique village of Thorpeness, with an abundance of wildlife along the way.



Aldeburgh & Thorpeness Walk

Terrain:
Mostly flat. Paths and tracks – can be very muddy after rain. Some sections on minor roads. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Distance:
6.5 miles (10.5 km)

Time:
3 hours

Starting from Fort Green car park. Head north towards the public toilets and pass on the sea side of them to join Crag Path which runs between the edge of Aldeburgh Town and the shingle beach.



On leaving the built-up area of Aldeburgh the vegetation on the shingle beach increases. Continue along the shingle and grass path, past the Scallop sculpture to Thorpeness.

When you reach the houses walk past them keeping the sea on your right and the houses on your left. Take the first boardwalk on your left between two bungalows. To shorten your walk, simply follow your steps back to Aldeburgh the way you came.

For the longer route, walk past the Emporium and cafe, through the car park and emerge opposite Thorpeness Meare. Cross the busy road and onto the grass verge on the outside of the Meare to follow the road signed Aldringham.



Cross over Lakeside Avenue, the road that leads to Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club and take the footpath on your left along the gravel track of Uplands Road which will lead you past the House in the Clouds and the Mill.

When you reach the car park of the golf course continue ahead between trees. This path follows the edge of the Meare on your left with the golf course on your right. On reaching a T-junction of paths near to the old gatekeeper's house and other red brick houses turn left to walk to reach Aldeburgh along the old railway line.

On reaching a caravan park on your left where footpaths cross, continue straight ahead. When you reach a road, cross over, then turn right and then immediately left onto a footpath which leads to the A1094. Cross this main road, turn right. When you see the Railway Inn on the other side of the roundabout turn left, following the sign for public toilets.



Follow the tarmac path which you can see on the right of the play equipment. From here you can enjoy expansive views over Aldeburgh Marshes and the masts of Orford Ness in the distance. The path becomes an access road, keep straight on passing the Pumphouse.

When you reach the road turn right. About 60m before the High Street turn right on to the footpath leading to the river wall. Stay on the path turning right and then left. Head across the marshes, bearing left to the river wall.

Go up the steps onto the river wall and turn left to walk along the top of the wall. Cross over the track and then up a set of steps onto the sea wall, turn left and follow the path back to Fort Green Car Park.



Countryside Code

The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape has a network of footpaths and bridleways.

To protect you, other people, wildlife, and the landscape, please make sure you:

- Stick to marked footpaths
- Leave things as you find them
- Do not light fires or BBQs
- Take all litter home with you
- Please keep dogs under close control at all times and on lead as advised

Scan the QR code to find more advice and visitor guides, or visit

coastandheaths-nl.org.uk/exploring.

