

Southwold is a beloved town on the Suffolk coast, with its traditional pier, sandy beach and long promenade.

At Southwold Harbour, the River Blyth flows out to sea past colourful boats and black painted sheds.



Highlights



1 Southwold Pier, with its wooden buildings, traditional amusements and gift shops, evokes seaside holidays of the past. At Southwold Pier, you'll find delicious food, excellent shopping, breathtaking sea views and eccentric British seaside fun reaching 623 feet into the North Sea from the Suffolk coast.



2 The Lighthouse was built around 1889 to guide ships entering the River Blyth and to warn of dangerous shingle banks along the coast. It remains a working lighthouse today, although remotely controlled. During the summer it is sometimes open to visitors, offering spectacular views.



3 The Town of Southwold has many fine Georgian, Regency and Victorian buildings. Fire destroyed the town in 1659 and the numerous 'greens' of Southwold are thought to have been left as fire breaks. Near the lighthouse is the Sole Bay Inn. The name recalls the Battle of Sole Bay fought off Southwold in 1672, part of an on-going war with the Netherlands over trade and naval superiority. Southwold is well known for its brewing industry. Adnams has brewed beer in the town since 1872.



4 The Marshes are part of the Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserve. They are an important home for birds such as bittern, marsh harrier and heron. The Marshes were reclaimed from the River in the 19th century when flood defence banks were built.

5 Southwold Harbour is used by a handful of fishing boats and many pleasure craft. In the early 1900s there were over 100 working boats and a fish market and processing unit. The Harbour Inn has a line on the wall showing the height of the floods in 1953, a reminder of the vulnerability of coastal communities. Near the river mouth, the 1893 Alfred Corry lifeboat is displayed in a traditional boat shed.

6 Walberswick Ferry is a traditional family run rowing boat service operating across the River Blyth from Southwold to the picturesque village of Walberswick. The wooden rowing boats are based on the Suffolk punt design and carry up to 12 passengers at a time. Seasonal operating schedules apply, times can be found at walberswickferry.com.



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.

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



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**.

Visiting Southwold

- Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 231 (Southwold and Bungay)
- Car:** Easy access via the A12 and A1095. Plenty of parking near the pier
- Bus information:** Visit traveline.info or suffolkonboard.com
- Train information:** The nearest train stations are Halesworth and Darsham (9 miles away). Train timetable at nationalrail.co.uk



Design and illustration: wearedrab.co.uk Cover image: © Gill Moon

Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence 2024. Licence number LA10023395

Southwold Explorer Guide

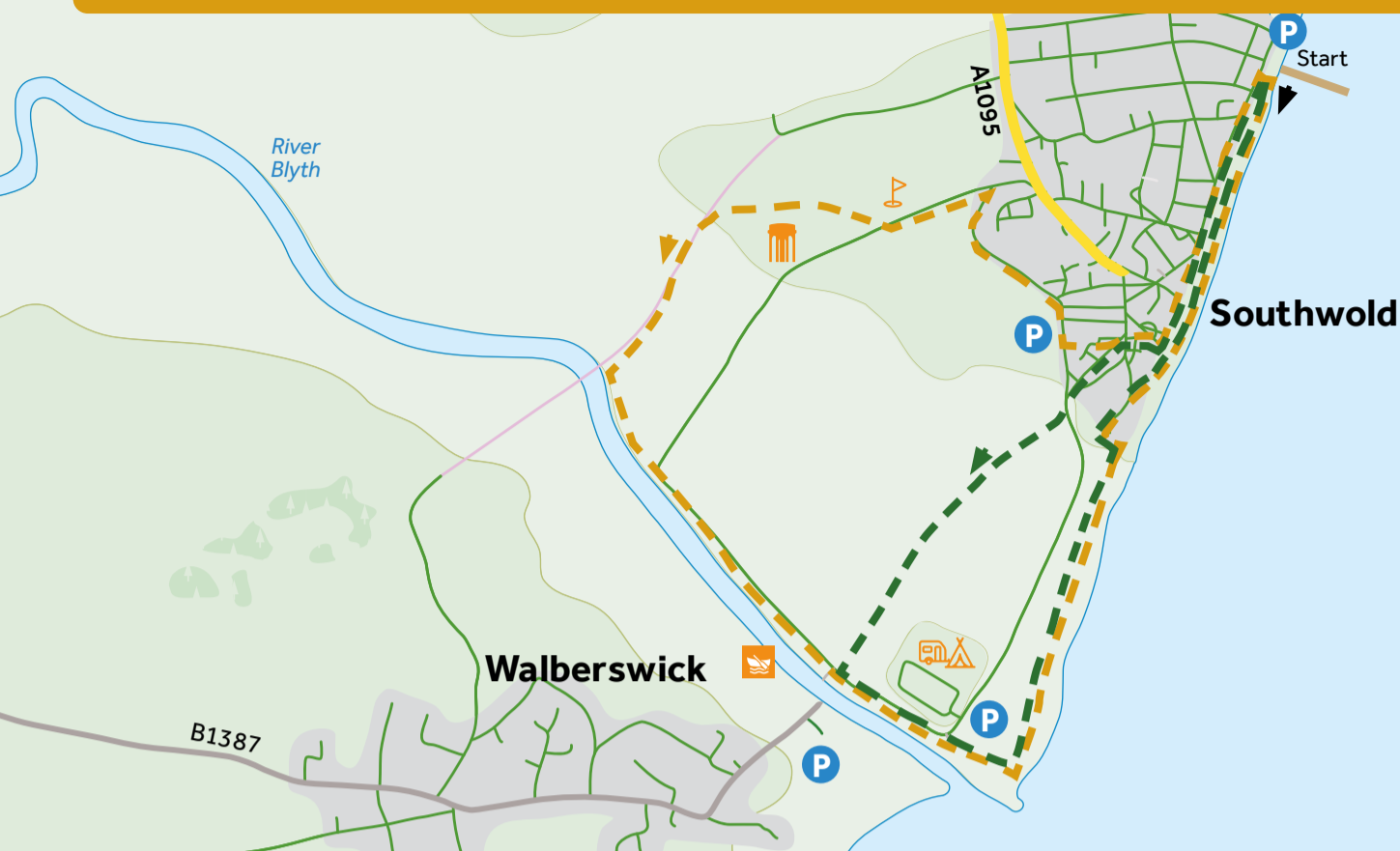


Discover the seaside town its famous beach, pier and independent shops



Southwold Explorer Guide

These two walks visit the elegant seafront, the traditional harbour and the open marshes.



Please note this map is illustrative and does not show all roads and features

	Buildings and Boats beside the Sea		Parking
	Harbour, Marshes and a Bracing Beach		Water Tower
	A Road		Seasonal Ferry Crossing
	B Road		Caravan Park
	C Road		Southwold Golf Club
	Bridleway/ Foot Path		Marshland
			Settlements

Some walks take you onto or across public highways. Please be aware of traffic

Buildings and Boats beside the Sea

Terrain:

Paths and tracks, which can be muddy after rain. Section of beach walking. This walk takes you onto public highways. Please be aware of traffic. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Start in front of Southwold Pier facing inland. Turn left and follow the path beside the railings onto the low cliffs. The path continues past greens and elegant houses. When you reach South Green (signed) turn right. Walk inland across the grass until you come to a large green. Cross the road and head towards the post box. Continue past the post box into a short dead-end lane. At the end, take the path between two flint walls. As the path turns left, continue ahead on the footpath.

Distance:
4 miles (6.4 km)
 Time:
2 hours



Turn left, towards Walberswick. This is the track bed of the Halesworth to Southwold Railway, which closed in 1929. Just before the river bridge, turn left. Follow the footpath alongside the river to join the unmade road through Southwold Harbour. When the road turns sharply left, leave it and cross the car park. Walk over the dunes onto the beach or follow the wide grassy area



behind the dunes. When you reach the first beach huts, look for the Gun Hill Beach Kiosk. Take the path beside the Café that turns right and leads up Gun Hill Cliff. Walk through the gardens beside the railings and drop down to the promenade. Continue along the promenade to the Pier or explore the town.



Harbour, Marshes and a Bracing Beach

Terrain:

Well surfaced paths and tracks. Section of beach walking. This walk takes you onto public highways. Please be aware of traffic. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Follow 'Buildings and Boats beside the Sea' Walk until you reach the post

box. Turn left at the post box and follow the road as it drops downhill. At the bottom, where the road turns left, keep straight ahead on the footpath towards Southwold Harbour. When you reach the road at Southwold Harbour, turn left. When the road turns sharply left, cross the car park and walk over the dunes onto the beach or follow the wide grassy area behind the dunes. Follow the beach (or grassy area) and promenade back to the Pier.

Distance:
2.2 miles (4.5 km)
 Time:
1 hour 30 mins



Cross the road into the wooded area with a wood-chip pathway. Follow this pathway through the trees bearing right until you reach a car park. Turn left at the junction along Godyll Road. Follow the road past attractive houses with Southwold Common on the left. Soon another big green opens up on the right. Continue along the road as it bends to the right. When you come to the T junction, cross the road and turn left towards the two water towers, using the mown path alongside the road. Soon, a grass path leads off diagonally across the green, heading just to the right of the towers. Keep on this path across the golf course until you reach a junction with a track.

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.

