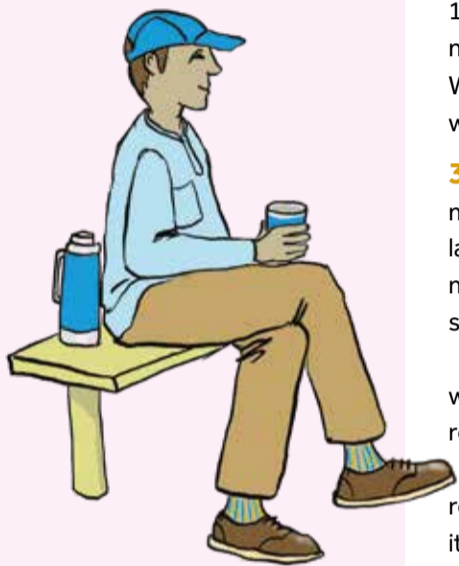


Woodbridge is an historic market town on the beautiful **Deben estuary**.

Streets lined with traditional buildings lead to a waterfront, where yachts and house boats lie at anchor.



Highlights

1 Woodbridge waterfront is a bustling place with a fascinating history. From the 1400s to the 1700s the area was the centre of a thriving ship building industry. Merchant and naval ships were built for customers including Edward III and Sir Francis Drake. The quays allowed the town to prosper, with local products such as cloth and rope being traded.

Today, the former Whisstocks Boatyard has been regenerated into a bustling public meeting point with a museum, café, restaurant, shops and seating overlooking the Tide Mill.

2 Market Hill is a beautiful collection of old buildings. At its centre is the Shire Hall, which was built in the 16th century as a local court and corn exchange. Nearby is the imposing 15th century St. Mary's Church. It contains memorials to many wealthy residents of Woodbridge, including Thomas Seckford, who died in 1587.

3 The Tide Mill is an unusual kind of grain mill. As the tide rises, water is trapped in a large pool, which is then released to turn the machinery. There has been a tide mill on this site for over 800 years.

The present mill dates from 1793 and was working until 1957. It was saved in 1968 and restored to working order a few years later.

The mill has undergone further restoration, allowing visitors to learn about its history and see it in action.



© Gill Moon



©Woodbridge Tide Mill Trust



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4 Sutton Hoo sits on the hill across the river from Woodbridge and is one of Suffolk's most popular and historic visitor destinations. In 1939, then owner Edith Pretty employed local archaeologist, Basil Brown, to excavate some mounds on her Sutton Hoo estate.

This uncovered the burial of an Anglo-Saxon King, possibly King Raedwald of the East Angles, who died around 625 AD. He had been buried in a great ship surrounded by stunning artefacts, including the iconic helmet, now displayed in the British Museum.

The story featured in the film, *The Dig*, on Netflix. Sutton Hoo is managed by the National Trust, with a fantastic visitor centre and observation tower over the famous burial mounds.

5 The River Deben is a great habitat for breeding and migrant birds. The extensive mudflats and salt marsh support dozens of species of bird, including cormorants, oystercatchers and curlews.

The estuary has one of the most significant overwintering populations of avocets in the UK and a large population of redshank, which is the flagship species of the National Landscape. The importance of this habitat is recognised by its designation as a Special Protection Area by Natural England.



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.

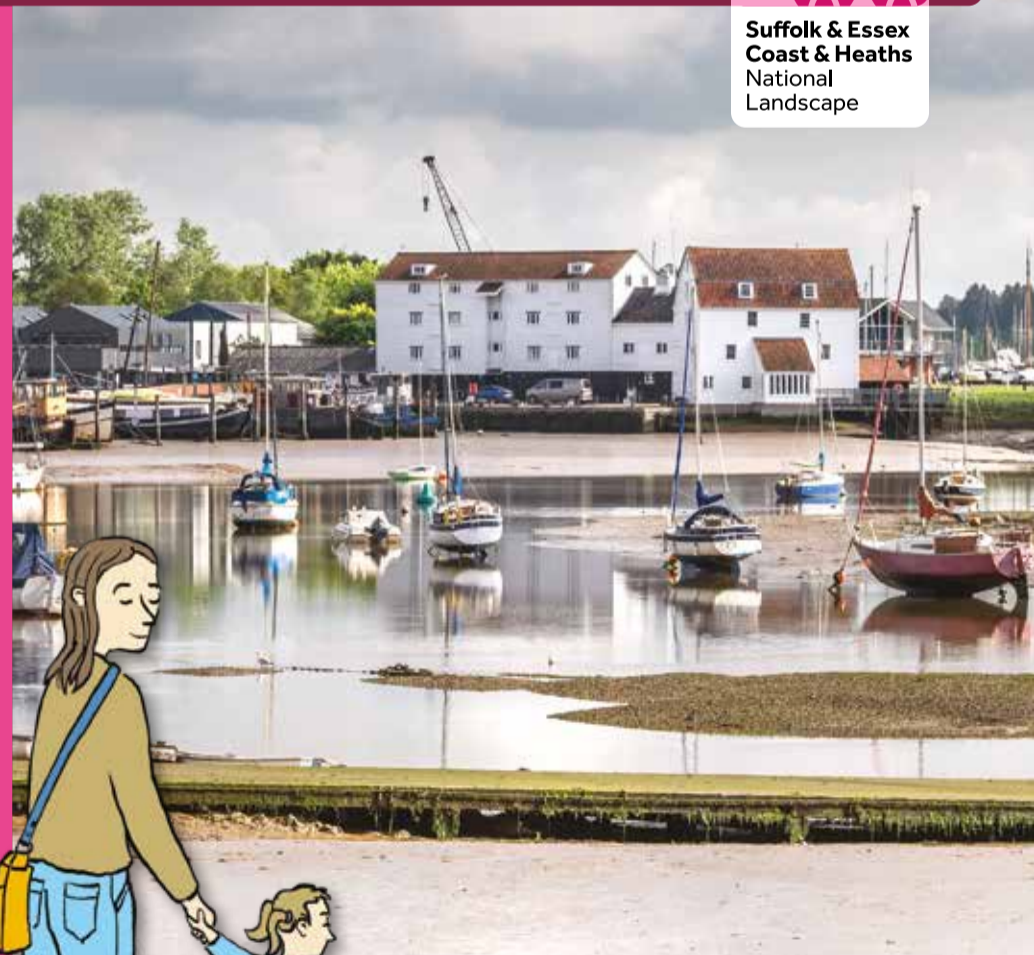
Key to map

- 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



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

Woodbridge Explorer Guide



Explore the historic market town of **Woodbridge** and the **Deben estuary**



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 Woodbridge

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 212 (Woodbridge and Saxmundham) or Explorer Map No.197 (Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich)

Car: Woodbridge Station car park: accessed via the B1438 or B1079 from the A12

Bus information: Visit traveline.info or suffolkonboard.com

Train information: Woodbridge Station is on the East Suffolk Line (regular services from Ipswich to Lowestoft). Train timetable at nationalrail.co.uk



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Woodbridge Explorer Guide

These three walks explore the town of Woodbridge, the river Deben and the surrounding landscape.



Ships, Saltings and Thomas Seckford

Terrain:

Route follows exposed paths beside deep, tidal water. Some sections can be muddy. Follows some busy roads and passes through urban areas. High visibility clothing recommended.

Start from Woodbridge Railway Station. Cross railway by bridge just north of station and bear right along river wall path, keeping river to left. Follow path for some distance. When you enter woodland, bear left and join track. *(If route is flooded return to where you bore left and follow optional shorter route shown right*)*. Almost immediately bear left off track to shore. Walk along shore then re-join path at grassy area. Follow path around Kyson Point and onto river wall beside Martlesham Creek. Continue to end of Creek, then turn right at path junction. Follow path to road. Turn right and follow road until junction with main road, then turn right along pavement. †After short distance, take path on opposite side of road to right of Sandford Place. Climb steps and bear right at path split. When road reached, go straight over into Portland Crescent. Follow Portland Crescent, ignoring all exits and continue on road through cemetery. When road becomes track, bear right downhill. At bottom of hill, turn left. Follow path beside green and up steps to road. Turn right along road between houses.

At Market Square, keep on right pavement.

At bottom of Market Square, cross road and take road to left of Bull Hotel – this is New Street. Follow road downhill, bearing right and ignoring all left exits. Go straight across main shopping thoroughfare. Keep straight on until car park, then turn left. Follow road as it bends to right and passes roundabout. At main T-junction, cross to far side of road using pedestrian crossing and turn right along pavement. After short distance, turn left into Tide Mill Way. When quay reached, turn right along path to station.

Distance:
3.6 miles (5.8 km)
Time:
2 hours



*Optional shorter route

(saves you 30 mins)

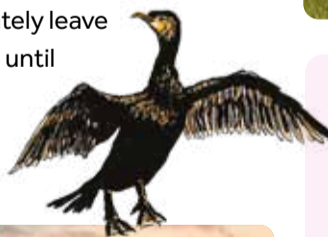
Turn right and follow track for shortcut or if above route is flooded. Continue on path. Cross over the railway line and follow track until you reach road. Turn right and follow road until junction with main road, then turn right and continue with remaining walk from point †.

River and Countryside Wander

Terrain:

Route follows exposed paths beside deep, tidal water. Some sections can be muddy. Some sections on roads and through urban areas. Route crosses railway line so take great care. Several stiles crossed. High visibility clothing recommended.

Start from Woodbridge Railway Station. Cross railway line by bridge just north of station and bear right along river wall, keeping river to left. Follow path along river wall to Kyson Point, then turn sharp right and follow path. Cross railway and bear right across recreation ground, keeping playground and tennis courts to right. On far side of tennis courts, woodland, immediately leave this path ('double back'). Follow path until left bend. turn right along road. Re-cross railway line. At river wall, turn left and return to station.



Distance:
1.6 miles (2.6 km)
Time:
1 hour

A Stroll by the Deben

Terrain:

Route follows exposed paths beside deep, tidal water. Some sections on roads and through urban areas. High visibility clothing recommended.

Start by catching train from Woodbridge to Melton. Leave Melton station; turn right beside road and cross level crossing. Turn right just beyond crossing and follow path to river wall. Turn right along river wall path. Follow path for around half a mile. When tarmacked area reached beside level crossing, turn left and then right in front of brick cottage. At junction with road to Tide Mill, turn left then right beside quay and return to Woodbridge station.

Distance:
1.6 miles (2.6 km)
Time:
1 hour



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.

