

Orford is a beautiful village on the Suffolk Coast, famous for its history, food and quay. Streets of red brick cottages, the dramatic Norman Castle and the ancient church of St Bartholomew sit beside the River Ore, facing mysterious Orford Ness.



Highlights



1 Orford Quay is a bustling place, with boats leaving for Orford Ness, day-trippers enjoying the views, dog walkers and fishermen returning with their catch. Many boats are drawn up on the shore in front of the black painted fishing sheds.

2 Orford Ness is an internationally important coastal nature reserve and the largest shingle spit in Europe. From the First World War until the late 1980s, it was used as a secret military testing site but has since been left to nature.

Now it's where nesting and wading birds, hares, Chinese water deer and Suffolk's first breeding colony of grey seals all make their home, as well as precious vegetated shingle.

Special events are also held throughout the year, from ranger walks and talks to stargazing events, Young Ranger days, art exhibitions and more, each celebrating the diversity of the landscape and its many stories.

Open to visitors on set days between April and October each year, visitors can book a ferry and enjoy different walking routes past grazing marshes, lagoons, concrete, brick and metal. Book online at nationaltrust.org.uk.



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3 Orford Castle was commissioned by Henry II and completed in 1173. Built to assert Henry's authority over the powerful Suffolk Barons, the castle keep remains today. Originally there would have been a surrounding wall or 'bailey'. The castle is an effective navigation mark for shipping. From the castle roof you can savour views stretching for many miles.

4 Orford village has fine buildings, many constructed of warm, red brick. The roads are arranged in a grid pattern, a layout dating from the Norman period. Until the 16th Century, fishing and the wool trade brought prosperity to Orford.

However, the growing shingle spit of Orford Ness cut off the harbour and Orford lost its buzzing port. St Bartholomew's Church dates from the mid to late 1100s and remains a beautiful building to this day, with fine stained glass and a 15th century stone font.

5 Local food on offer in the village has helped Orford become something of a hotspot for foodies. Tuck into some of the country's finest fresh fish from Pinney's, enjoy sumptuous baked goods and handmade chocolate at Pump Street Bakery, or relax and rehydrate in the pubs after a day exploring the river.



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



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Orford Explorer Guide



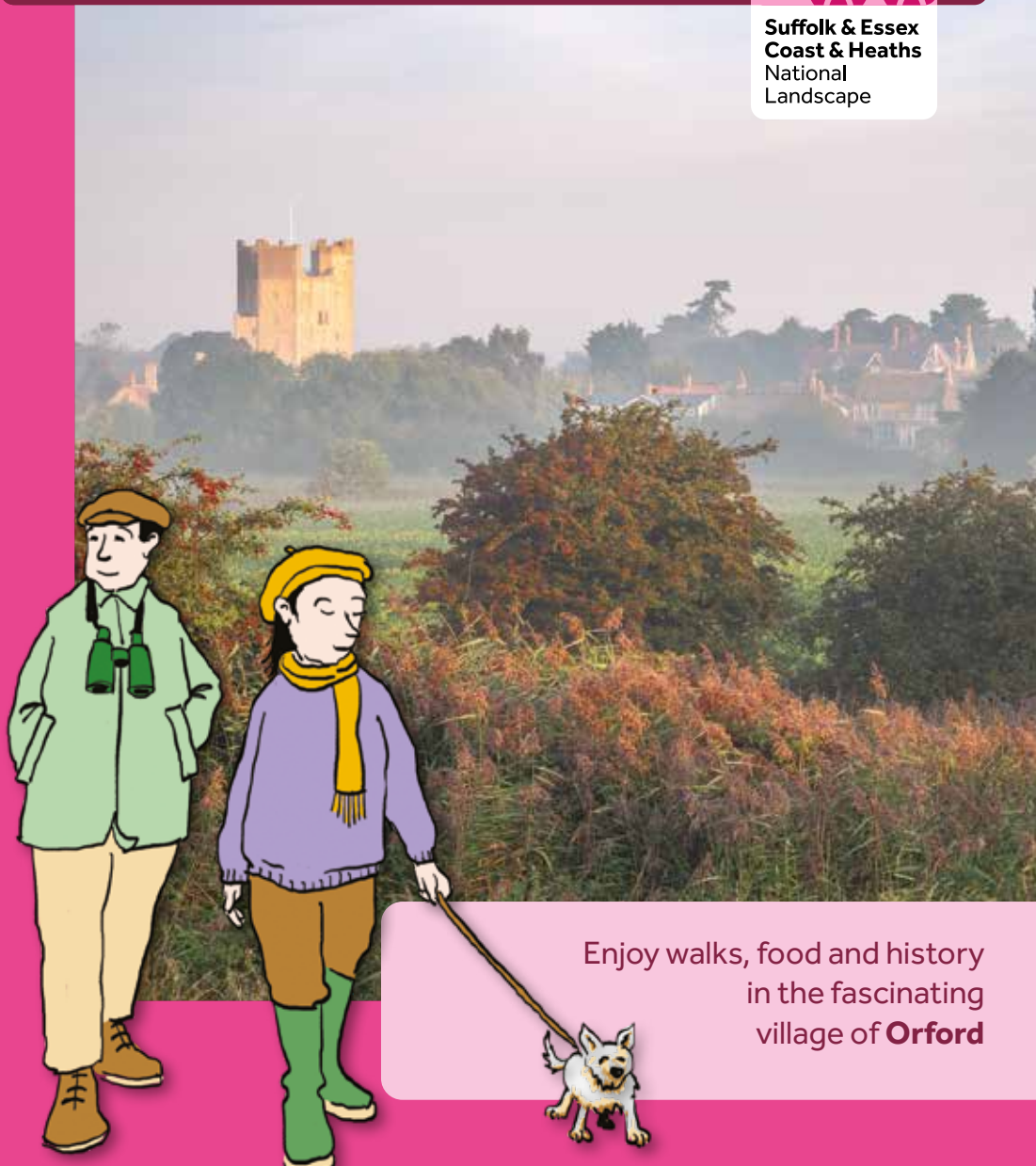
Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape

Visiting Orford

- Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 212 (Woodbridge and Saxmundham)
- Car:** Access via the B1078 or B1084 from the A12. Main car park near the Quay
- Bus information:** Visit traveline.info or suffolkonboard.com
- Train information:** The nearest station is Wickham Market (8 miles away). Train timetable at nationalrail.co.uk



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Enjoy walks, food and history in the fascinating village of **Orford**

Orford Explorer Guide

These two walks cross the mysterious marshes before returning to Orford to visit the castle and church. Both walks feature superb views of Orford Ness and the winding river.



Across the Marshes to the Castle

Terrain:

Paths and tracks, which can be muddy. The path along the river wall is exposed. Part of route on public roads. Please be aware of traffic. We recommend high visibility clothing.

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



Starting at the Quay looking out towards Orford Ness, turn right along path beside river. Follow this path along river wall towards Chantry point. Round the point and follow path as it leads along winding river wall. Ignore path that leads back across Chantry point. Follow river wall around to left until path turns right and drops down off river wall towards gate. Go through gate and follow track inland. When you reach road, turn right

Just before you reach houses on right, take track that leads off left. Just past barn, take path on right up steps through hedge. Follow path across fields to castle. Walk past impressive castle keep until you reach road.

Turn left up tarmacked road, passing hotel. Walk across Market Hill and enter churchyard beside King's Head Inn. Walk up to church porch and turn right. Leave churchyard by second gate and turn left along lane (if you want to shorten route, walk straight down road to quay). Follow lane for short while, before taking first turning right. At end of lane, turn left.



Walk along lane until you come to wall of High House on left. Opposite end of wall, take footpath that leads off right. Follow path beside fields and across dyke to river wall. Turn right and follow path back to quay.



River and Village Stroll

Terrain:

Paths and tracks, which can be muddy. The path along the river wall is exposed. Part of route on public roads. Please be aware of traffic. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Distance:
2 miles (3.2 km)
Time:
1 hour

Starting at the Quay looking out towards Orford Ness, turn right along path beside river. Keep walking along river wall, away from the town, until you reach path that leads off right. Take this path as it drops down off the river wall and goes through gate. Turn right shortly after gate, along path that leads inland. Follow this path past sewage works and join access track.

When you reach road, turn right. Follow road until road junction, then turn left between cottages. Pass castle on left and follow road as it bends to right, passing hotel. Walk across Market Hill and enter church yard beside King's Head Inn. Walk up to church porch and turn right. Leave church yard by second gate and walk straight down road to quay.



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.

