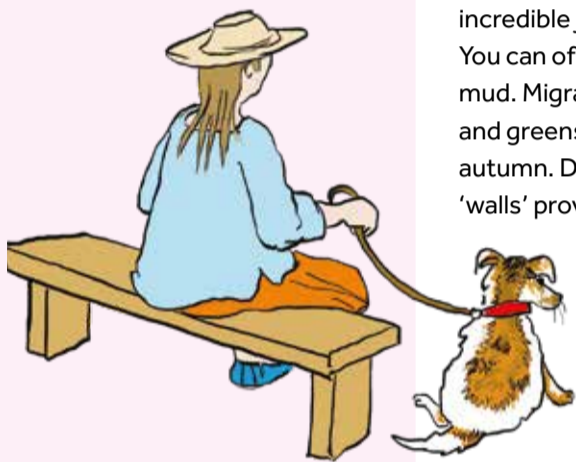


**Shotley Gate** sits at the tip of the **Shotley Peninsula**, where the rivers **Orwell** and **Stour** meet. These walks visit peaceful countryside and offer views of the docks at **Felixstowe** and **Harwich**. You may see some of the largest ships in the world maneuvering in the harbour.



## Highlights

**1 Harwich Haven** is the best natural harbour on the east coast of England. On the north bank of the River Orwell is the Port of Felixstowe. It is the UK's largest port, handling more than 40% of all containerised trade. Harwich International Port lies across the estuary on the south shore of the River Stour. Harwich hosts a busy ferry and cruise liner terminal.

**2 HMS Ganges Museum**, located at Shotley Marina, tells the story of HMS Ganges with many exhibits, photographs and artefacts on display. The Royal Navy Training Establishment at Shotley opened in 1905 and over 150,000 Naval Cadets were trained up until it closed in 1976. The museum is open seasonally.

**3 The Stour and Orwell Estuaries** contain mudflats and saltmarsh which are a haven for wading birds. Every autumn 40,000 wildfowl and wading birds make an incredible journey to feed and roost here. You can often see vast flocks probing the mud. Migrating birds, such as sandpiper and greenshank, are present in spring and autumn. Drainage dykes inland of the river 'walls' provide a vital habitat for insects, including the emperor dragonfly, the largest in the UK.



**4 Shotley Church and Naval Cemetery** are located on high ground some way from the village. St. Mary's Church dates from the 1400s. Opposite the church is a naval cemetery. It contains the graves of sailors from the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and the Dutch and German Navies who died during WWII.

**5 Arthur Ransome**, the famous children's author (1884-1967), moved from the Lake District to live near Pin Mill on the River Orwell so that he could enjoy sailing on the sea. In *We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea* (1937) he immortalised life on the river in the 1930s, and many of the locations he described in his books can still be enjoyed today.

**6 Shotley Heritage Park**. In 2012, Shotley Parish Council purchased 8 acres of woodland and 50 acres of foreshore adjacent to the River Stour at Shotley Gate. Babergh District Council, the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape, and the local County Councillor all contributed to help fund the purchase. This community recreational area has outstanding views of Parkeston Quay, Harwich, and across the River Stour to the County of Essex. The woodland is being managed to help protect flora and fauna, and to inform visitors about the heritage of Shotley.



## 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](http://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



# Shotley Explorer Guide



Explore ships, shores and local heritage in and around **Shotley**



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# Shotley Explorer Guide

These walks explore the Orwell and Stour estuaries. Enjoy superb views of Harwich Haven, wildlife and the Port of Felixstowe.



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

## Two Rivers Walk

### Terrain:

Paths and tracks can be muddy after rain. Cattle are often grazing on the marshes, so please keep dogs on leads. Some sections are near deep water. This walk takes you onto public highways. We recommend high visibility clothing.

**Distance:**  
5.4 miles (8.7 km)  
**Time:**  
2 hours

Start at the Pier, walk with river wall on your right, to Shotley Marina. This walk begins by using the Stour & Orwell Walk, a way marked route (grey with yellow arrow). Cross inner



© Gregg Brown

lock gate and continue around seaward side of marina. Turn right along river wall, following the Stour & Orwell Walk signs for some time (ignore path to left and steps near sluice). Turn left at a footpath sign, away from the river, where the path curves around saltmarsh (Crane's Hill). Follow this footpath along field edge, onto a track. Pass St. Mary's Church, Shotley, and continue straight at crossroads. Opposite Shotley Hall, take path left. Follow path through trees keep left at green oak man sculpture, across footbridge and along field edge. At houses, turn left along path to road. Turn right and follow road to junction with main road. Turn right until opposite Rose Farm.



Cross road and take 'Restricted Byway' to right of farm. At cross tracks beside Shotley Cottage, continue straight towards River Stour. When you reach houses turn left.

Follow path beside gardens, along field edge. At the coastal footpath sign you can either take a right turn and continue back along the river to the Pier. Alternatively, you can walk up the hill and follow a woodland path through the Heritage Park. Emerge from woodland, turn right into Estuary Road. Continue down to main road and turn right to the Pier.

## Shotley Point Stroll

### Terrain:

Paths and tracks can be muddy after rain. Cattle are often grazing on the marshes, so please keep dogs on leads. Some sections are near deep water.

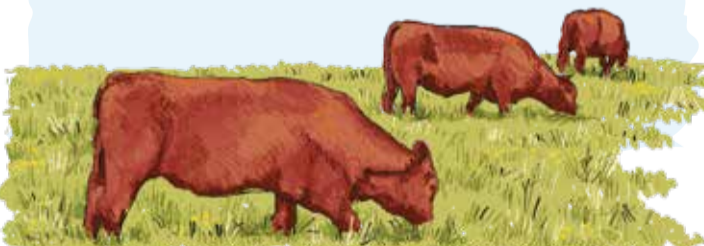
**Distance:**  
3.1 miles (5 km)  
**Time:**  
1 hour 30 mins

Begin as Two Rivers Walk, to just past the marina. Turn left at next path junction and follow path behind marina. Take next right and continue beside fence to road. Cross road and turn right. At end of row of houses, take track left. You are now briefly on the Stour & Orwell Walk waymarked path.

At cross tracks beside Shotley Cottage, turn left towards River Stour. When you reach houses turn left. Follow directions back to the Pier as per the Two Rivers Walk.



© Gill Moon



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## Other walks

Further short walks include a stroll along the River Stour and back (begin with the river on your left), or a slightly longer stroll through the Shotley Heritage Park.

The Arthur Ransome Walking Trail (waymarked with a boat symbol) can be followed from Shotley Pier to Pin Mill, along the bank of the River Orwell. This is a linear walk which is 6 miles (9.6 km) each way. The trail discovers the history, landscape, wildlife and locations that feature in Ransome's book, 'We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea'.



© Gill Moon

## 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](http://coastandheaths-nl.org.uk/exploring).