Pin Mill walk pub

Long walk – 3.25 miles/0 km

Begin at Butt and Oyster, and head up-river in front of Harry King's boatyard. Follow path (waymarked Stour and Orwell Walk), leaving Pin Mill Sailing Club to your right. Turn right at fingerpost to pass between houses and boat storage area, to reach open country.

Follow path at lower edge of field. Crossing a sleeper bridge ( ), you will have great views of mudflats, the river and Pin Mill. After a small spining the path crosses a crop field, and you'll see Woolverstone Hall to your left. The path goes down, and through light woodland with very old oak trees, close to the saltings. You may see some of the bird life for which these estuaries are famous on this saltmarsh. As you pass on these rivers in summer, but in the winter, geese, ducks and other waders are in residence. The nearby farmland provides most sites for the visiting bird populations. Bird habitats are constantly under pressure from commerce, recreation and agricultural uses. Activity in this estuary is overseen by the Stour and Orwell Management Group, a partnership of local authorities and other agencies, to promote sustainable use.

Woolverstone Marina and Orwell Bridge will soon be visible ahead. At the Marina pass in front of the Royal Harwich Yacht Club Race Control ( ), following the Stour and Orwell path waymark, then turn left onto a concrete road.

On the right is the Cat House, built 1792. It is said that the owner, who was sympathetic to smugglers, would place a stuffed white cat in the window to indicate that no customs boats were patrolling. The west coast has a long (and ongoing history of smuggling, in which Pin Mill, and the Butt and Oyster pub, allegedly played key parts.

Cross a metal road onto a rough vehicle track, past cottages. Track goes into a dip, and soon after it starts to climb, turn left onto a bridleway (Church Lane) opposite a sign ( ). Follow this path all the way back into Chelmondiston, crossing Collimer Close, to emerge on a road with the church to your right.

Before the T-junction, turn left down a track, past cottages. Track goes into a dip, and soon after it starts to climb, turn left onto a bridleway signed Pin Mill. Cross a stile and paddock then further stiles into a rough pasture. Path leads down towards the boatyard.

Go straight on to a further stile and follow the path alongside an old iron fence. The green dome across the river is the observatory at Orwell Park School.

Cross the final stile into the boatyard where you can go either left-then-right or right-then-left, back to the pub.
Pin Mill

Short walk - 2 miles/00 km

Begin at Butt and Oyster pub, and take one of the following alternative routes parallel to the river to Clamp House:

Either: walk along foreshore in front of pub. (At high tide, use ladder from pub car park down to the foreshore - with care) Continue parallel to river until path descends to Clamp House.

Or: go 200m back up the road from pub, take footpath to left, up a flight of steps, past some bungalow and through a kissing gate. Keep straight along this path (part of the Stour and Orwell Walk) to Pin Mill Plantation to "Clamp House 2."

The steep slope here has been cut back by the river. Trees stabilise the slope, and it is protected from further undercutting by a wooden revetment.

This area is managed by the National Trust. Large areas of coniferous woodland were felled in the 1987 gales, and have been replanted with a rich variety of conifers and deciduous trees. Gold-tipped larch (a conifer woodland), and in winter join in floods with Blue Tits and Great Tits. Look (and listen) for water ouzels too.

In the 17th century, Pin Mill was a stopping point on the river for coastal vessels to offload to shallop barges. Barges were also used to collect produce from local farms. By Clamp House, Buttermans Bay (named after fast river-going houseboats). The path then turns right, up and away from river, and joins the Stour & Orwell Walk at "Tuition: turn left and continue parallel to river until path descends to Clamp House."

You will find a map on a board showing here that you are now crossing the boundary between Suffolk Coastal & Heaths (SC&H) AONB and Suffolk Coastal & Heaths AONB (SC&H AONB). The Orford Peninsula is in the social and economic heartland but within easy reach of the North Norfolk coast and the North Sea. Keep to a small sandy beach has wonderful views of the river and the observer at seafood.

A short diversion (left, just before the house) leads to a small sandy beach with wonderful views of the river and the observer at Southwold. Turn left at a T-junction of paths, heading through woods, with river just visible to the right. (If you started out on the alternative "high tide" route, you are now retracing it.)

Follow the path as it bears right, then straight on through the woods. Leave Plantation at a kissing gate, and follow path past bungalows down some steps down to reach a small car park. Turn right — back to the Butt and Oyster.}

Further information
East of England Tourism
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB
Public transport: Charingworth has a regular bus service from Aldeburgh. For route information, call Traveline 0870 200 22 33.

Orwell at Pin Mill, just north of Chelmondiston, and accessed via a walk up the road from pub, take footpath to left, up a flight of steps, past some bungalow and through a kissing gate. Keep straight along this path (part of the Stour and Orwell Walk) to Pin Mill Plantation to "Clamp House 2."

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