Woodbridge walks

Short walk – 2 miles/0km

Long walk – 3.75 miles/0km

Both walks 1 and 2 start off following the same route: From station car park cross railway by footbridge. Turn left and follow path around edge of Ferry Quay. past houseboats and crane.

At road near Tidemill turn left (briefly), then, immediately after a floodgate, turn right onto footpath along river wall (marina to right).

The jetty-like structure on the opposite side of the river is a tidal attenuation barrier. This is an innovative method for managing saltmarsh — a habitat that is being lost in front of our flood defences along the estuary.

Woodbridge became a shipbuilding centre of excellence, using oak from the heavy lands of High Suffolk. Naval vessels, ocean-going traders, coastal-trade schooners and gentlemen’s yachts have come from here.

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The Deben is highly valued by migratory birds for winter feeding. High-tide roost sites are particularly scarce as man has often brought this land into his own use. In anticipation of sea level rise, and to make up for saltmarsh losses elsewhere, areas like this are candidates for encouraging regeneration of the saltmarsh habitat. Look out for estuary birds in winter – Black-tailed Godwits, Dunlin, Oystercatchers, Redshanks, Grey Herons and Little Egrets.

Continued overleaf.

Do not cross railway – stay on footpath to follow the river upstream for about 0.5 mile (1.2 Km).

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**Long walk – continued**

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Suffolk Coast and Heaths ANOB www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

The route starts by heading upstream along the river wall, but where the short route heads back through the town, the longer walk carries on to the neighbouring village of Melton and returns via the outskirts of Woodbridge. They meet up at the Kings Head, then take the same route back as the Cherry Tree to the station.

There are some hazards to take in: railway and road crossings in particular. Ferry Quay and the Granary Yacht Harbour are working crossings.

At Market Hill, just beyond the Shire Hall, you will find The Kings Head pub.

The Shire Hall was built by Thomas Seckford in 1575, to house the Sessions. A barrister and merchant, he was granted the charter of Woodbridge by Queen Elizabeth I. His charitable Foundation still benefits the town. Rearranging was added in the 17th century and later the stairs and railings. Today housed the Woodbridge Town Council and the Suffolk Horse Museum.

**Long walk – continued**

Short walk – continued

At Market Hill, just beyond the Steelyard pub on the left is a rare example of a timber-framed with lead cladding. Its original spire, damaged by fire in 1595, was replaced by several adult females.

At the end of Turn Lane, turn right - Cumberland Street.

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**Long walk – continued**

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