Orford walk pubs

PUBS

King’s Head

Front Street, Orford, IP12 2NU

Tel: 01394 450271

Quay Street, Wavertree

Tel: 01394 450243

Sponsored by Suffolk Coast & Heaths

Suffolk Coast & Heaths

Due to parking restrictions in Orford these walks start off together at the public car park just behind the quay and opposite the Jolly Sailors pub.

Both walks: From the car park turn left, opposite the Jolly Sailors pub, and walk to the quay.

Turn right at the quay and take the path up onto the river wall. From here there are fine views of the castle, and the “pagodas” on Orford Ness.

Orford is the largest vegetated shingle spit in Europe, internationally renowned for its flora and fauna. It has been under the care of the National Trust since 1993, and is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a National Nature Reserve.

The spit is joined to the mainland in the north, at Aldeburgh, and the south by the river Alde. The river has swept shingle along the coast, and diverting the course of the river Alde to join the river Ore.

The sea has swept shingle along the coast, and diverting the course of the river Alde to join the river Ore.

The path around Chantry Point, with excellent views of Havergate Island to the left.

RSPB reserve Havergate Island is now particularly noted for Avocet, extinct in the British Isles as a breeding species from 1842, when sea wall building and land reclamation destroyed the bird’s coastal lagoon habitats. During WWII Havergate flooded when a stray bomb damaged the river wall, while grouting marshes elsewhere along the east coast were flooded as defensive measures. The resulting shallow mudflats and lagoons were ideal for the Avocet, and by 1947, four breeding pairs had hatched at Havergate.

Avocets and terns win a star attraction during spring and summer, and, in autumn and winter, there are large numbers of ducks and wading birds in the estuary as well.

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The short route and long route diverge at this point.
The reclaimed land is productive agricultural acreage but only if it is not contaminated by salt water flooding – from which it takes years to recover.

When the river wall path turns sharp left by a post, turn right down the bank, cross a wooden bridge and steps, then after about 100m turn left through a wooden gate onto a footpath alongside a ditch. Bear left at sewage works, then right to join a wider access track. At thearmac lane turn right, and after the entrance to Green Lane House take the next left up a footpath past the barn.

At the cross tracks turn right to emerge below the imposing castle keep.

Follow the common route (see below, at end of long route) back to the quay car park.

Orford

Orford can be enjoyed by walkers at any time, and parking can be in Orford Quay Car Park, on foot back into town to just opposite the Jolly Sailors pub, or on the walks from here.

The walks start together, but where the short route cuts back to Orford across the marshes, the long route continues to take in a larger circuit. The route then sign off Castle, and pass the site of the town which was later known as Orford.

Floods from the river will act as a counterweight to the sea, so keep your back to the wall.

Prepare for some muddy paths in winter. The terrain is flat but big in getting up onto the quay wall.

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