



Somerleyton Hall.
Photo: Sbrandner

Discover Somerleyton on foot

Enjoy a spring walk in the picturesque village of Somerleyton, home to one of the county's finest stately homes

WORDS: Discover Suffolk

This walk starts and finishes in the picturesque village of Somerleyton. Somerleyton is named after a peace-loving Viking, Sumarlithi, who arrived in the 10th century.

Adjoining the village is the stunning Somerleyton Hall. Originally a Jacobean residence, Somerleyton Hall was remodelled in 1844 by Victorian entrepreneur Sir Samuel Morton Peto. He transformed it into a fine example of an early Victorian hall in Anglo-Italian style, with magnificent carved stonework, fine state rooms and beautiful gardens. The hall and gardens are open to the public.



above: Enjoy this circular spring walk.

Photo: Discover Suffolk

Sir Morton also had built the thatched red-brick estate cottages for his workers and the thatched village school, all of which together contribute so much to this village's charm. Somerleyton is also famous as the birthplace of that great British invention, the Hovercraft. Christopher Cockerill experimented with his prototype hovercraft at Somerleyton Marina. It was also at Somerleyton that bricks were made for London Liverpool Street Station.

This walk starts in Somerleyton, skirts the Somerleyton Hall estate, visits the village of Lound and follows the Angles Way along the Waveney Valley back into Somerleyton.

THE WALK

1 With Somerleyton Post Office and Stores at your back, turn left and follow the pavement out of the village passing the village green and school on your left. As you reach the edge of the village you will come to a road junction. Cross the road to follow the road signposted Ashby. Continue along this road for 250m.

2 Turn right by a thatched cottage. This is the pedestrian entrance to Somerleyton Hall. After 400m you will come to a gap in the hedge on your left just before two tall pine trees. It is signposted as a circular walk.

3 Turn left along this farm track for about 200m, reaching a junction of track and path. At this point there is a choice of routes.

4 For the longer walk go to 4b and for the slightly shorter walk go to 4a.

4a Turn right along farm track toward farm buildings. Follow the track all the way through the farm buildings until reaching the bungalow/cottage on your right. The track finishes at this point – keep straight ahead onto the grassy path, keeping right going around the edge of a field. Keeping the hedge on your right, continue into the next field and at the end turn right towards a woodland. Follow the path

towards the woodland and then to the left, keeping the woodland and hedge on your right. Continue around a small pond and straight through a small woodland. As you emerge out of the woodland cross a stile and then look for a gap in the hedge to your right and bear half-left on to a cross-field path to reach a lane (please note that on occasions the field may be ploughed – please follow field edge to lane). When reaching the lane turn right – rejoin long walk at 7. **4b** Continue straight ahead and after approx 800m reach the isolated Ashby Church, St Marys, with its impressive round tower and thatched roof. Look out for a memorial to a British bomber crew in the fence close to the gate.

5 Just after the church, turn right. Continue along the farm track towards the village of Lound, passing several fields and woodlands. Eventually pass through a gate and into the village. The Village Maid pub is on your right and the village pond opposite.

6 Turn right and walk through the village along Flixton Road until reaching Green Lane on the right – 400m from the edge of Lound (please take care on this slightly busier road as the pavement finishes at the boundary of the village).

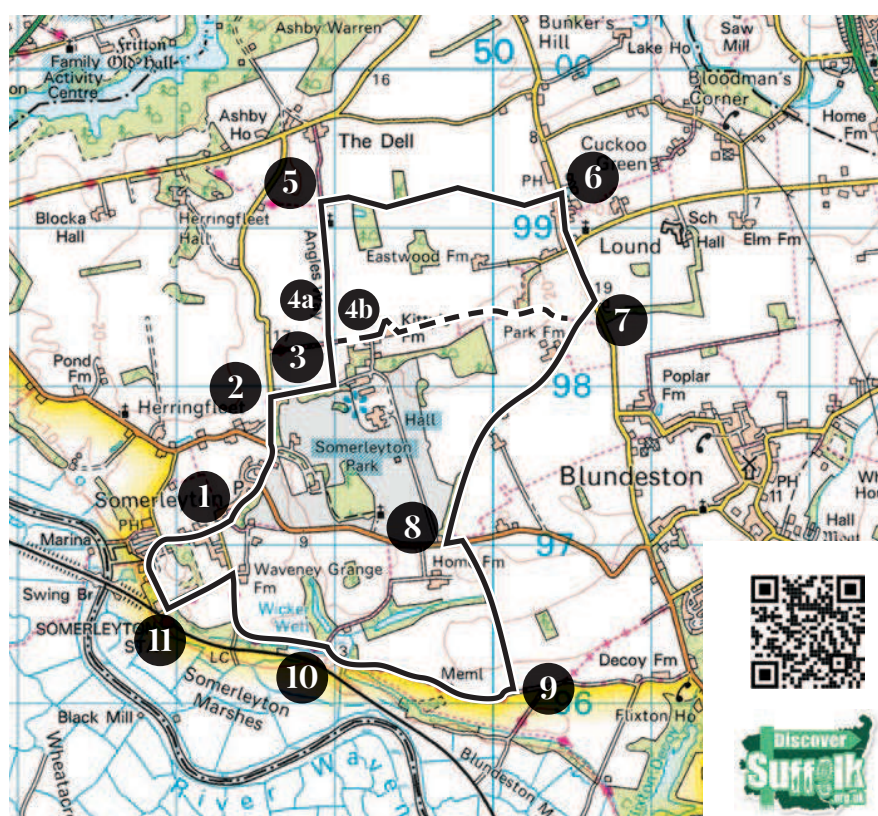
7 Turn right into Green Lane and follow for one mile with views to the right of Somerleyton Hall.

8 Just before the end of the lane turn left along a footpath, then turn right through the gap in the wall. Cross this busy road and over the stile opposite. Walk straight ahead with the hedge on your left for approx 800m.

9 At the wooden gates turn right following a track. You will soon pass a memorial to United States Air Force airmen on your right. To your left are great views of the Waveney Valley.

10 At the fork in the path take the left path, Angles Way. Where a track comes from the left, keep walking straight ahead until reaching a lane. Turn left and walk towards the bottom of the hill.

11 Opposite the entrance to the station turn right along a footpath that brings you to the remains of the Somerleyton brickworks. After the brickworks you can turn left to reach Somerleyton Marina before retracing your route back to the brickwork cottages before reaching the road. Turn right and back into the village to end the walk. ●



COMPASS POINTS


PARKING: On-street parking close to the Somerleyton Post Office and Stores.

TRAIN: The train from Lowestoft to Somerleyton station is just 13 minutes. travelineeastanglia.co.uk

LENGTH: Seven miles or six miles with shortcut.


TYPE: Easy to moderate. Mostly flat farm tracks, footpaths and quiet lanes. One slightly busier road section of approx. 600m.

REFRESHMENT STOP: Lound – Village Maid Public House



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