

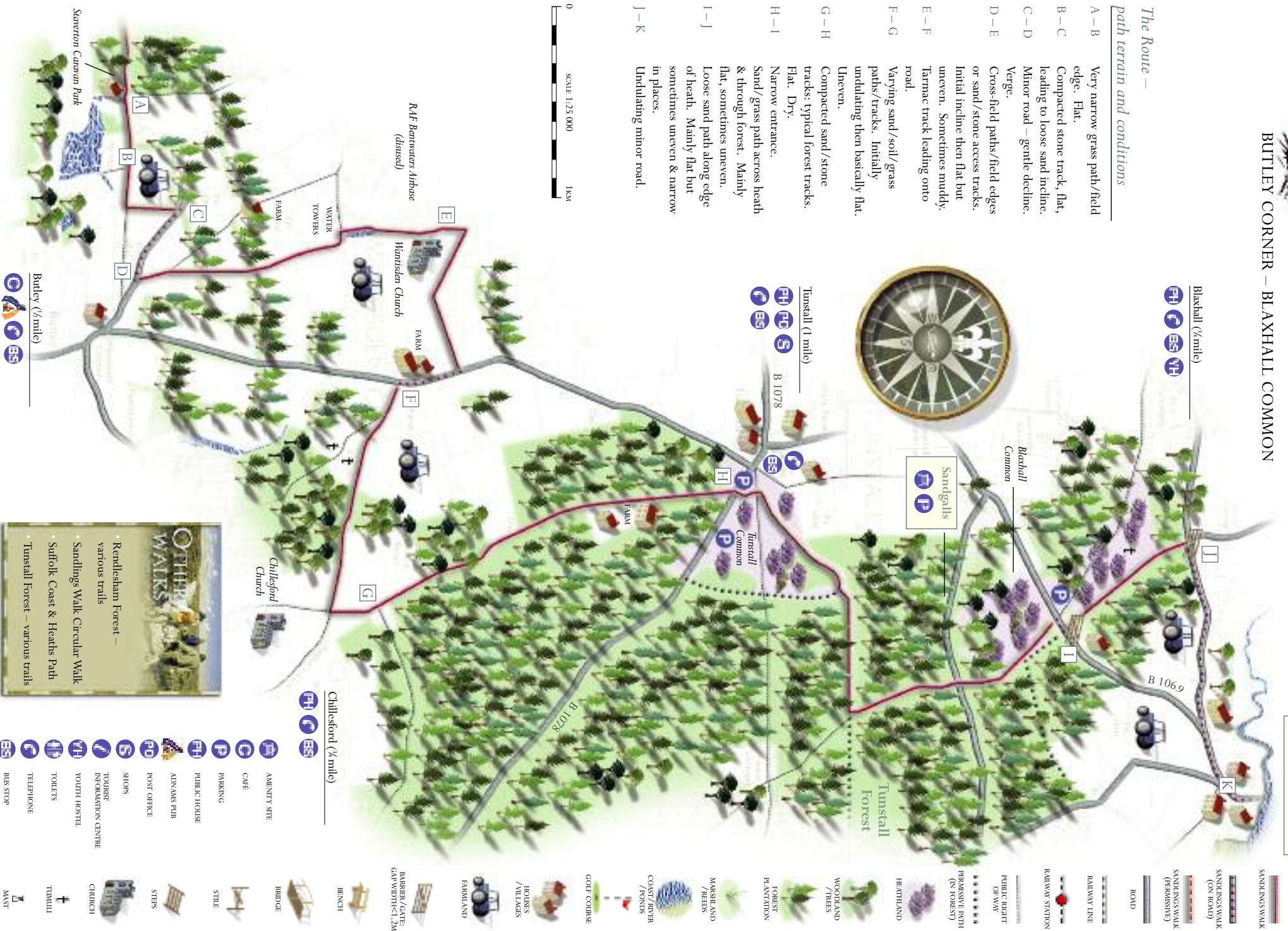
# Walk 6



BUTLEY CORNER – BLAXHALL COMMON

Shape Matchings

- The Route –  
*path terrain and conditions*
- A – B Very narrow grass path/field edge. Flat.
  - B – C Compacted stone track, flat, leading to loose sand incline.
  - C – D Minor road – gentle decline. Veige.
  - D – E Cross-field paths/field edges or sand/stone access tracks. Initial incline then flat but uneven. Sometimes muddy. Tarmac track leading onto road.
  - E – F Varying sand/soil/grass paths/tracks. Initially undulating then basically flat. Uneven.
  - F – G Varying sand/soil/grass paths/tracks. Flat. Dry.
  - G – H Compacted sand/stone tracks, typical forest tracks.
  - H – I Narrow entrance. Sand/grass path across heath & through forest. Mainly flat, sometimes uneven.
  - I – J Loose sand path along edge of heath. Mainly flat but sometimes uneven & narrow in places.
  - J – K Undulating minor road.



OTHER WALKS

- Rendlesham Forest – various trails
- Sandlings Walk Circular Walk
- Suffolk Coast & Heaths Path
- Tunstall Forest – various trails

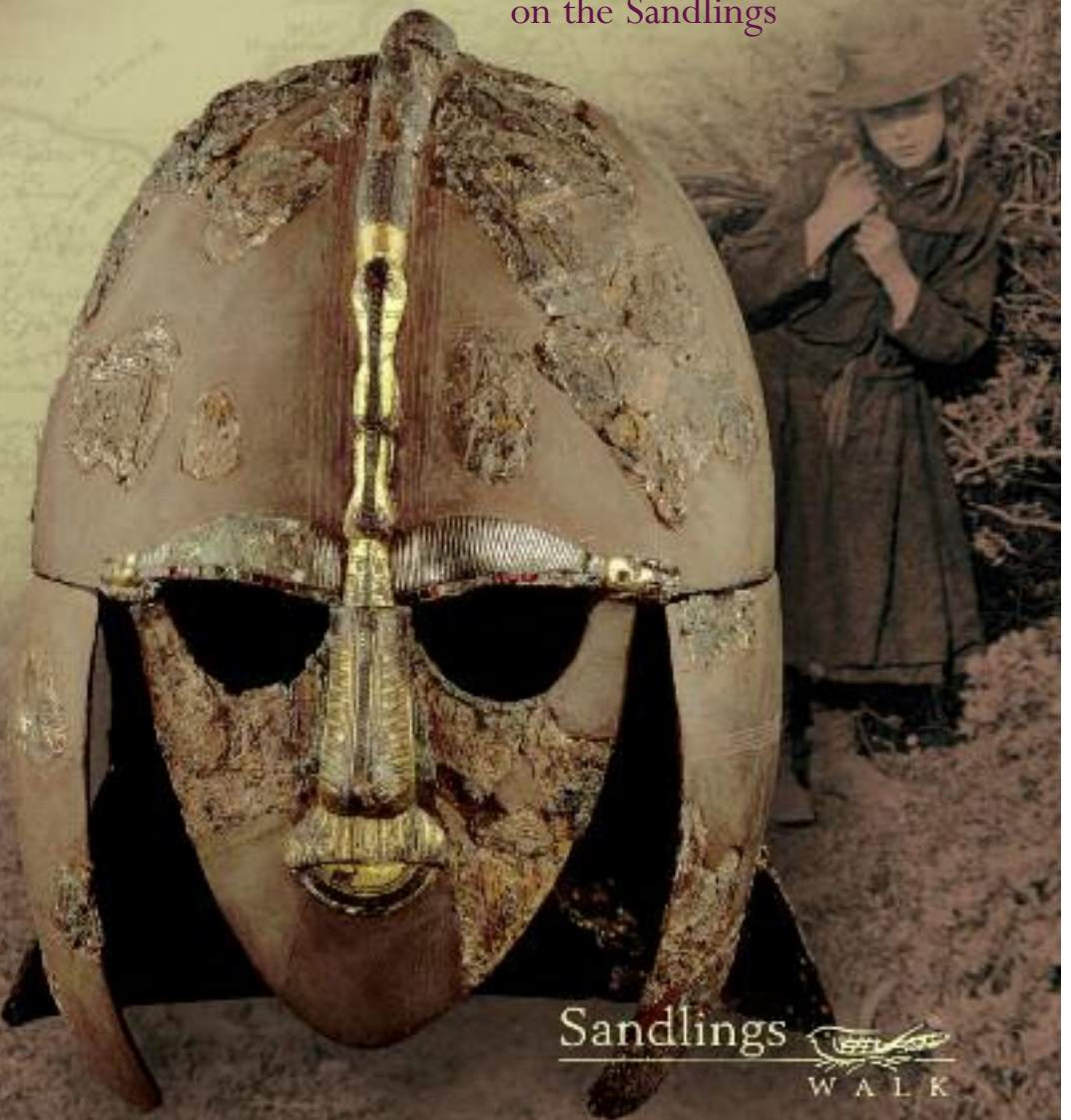
- AMENITY SITE
- CAFE
- PARKING
- PUBLIC HOUSE
- ADVANCE PUB
- POST OFFICE
- SHOPS
- TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
- YOUTH HOSTEL
- TOILETS
- TELEPHONE
- BUS STOP

- SANDLINGS WALK
- SANDLINGS WALK (ON ROAD)
- SANDLINGS WALK (PERMISSIVE)
- ROAD
- RAILWAY LINE
- RAILWAY STATION
- PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
- PERMISSIVE PATH (IN FOREST)
- HEATHLAND
- WOODLAND / TREES
- FOREST PLANTATION
- MARSHLAND / REEDS
- COAST/BEACH / ROCKS
- GOLF COURSE
- HOUSES / TILLAGES
- FARMLAND
- BARRIER/GATE
- BRIDGE
- BENCH
- STILE
- STEPS
- CHURCH
- TILT MAST
- MAST

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# JUST A BUNCH OF HEATHENS?

A potted history of the people that have lived on the Sandlings

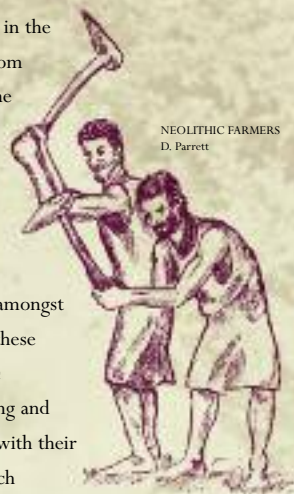


Sandlings WALK

# JUST A BUNCH OF HEATHENS? A potted history of the people that have lived on the Sandlings



The Sandlings heaths were created about 10 thousand years ago by Neolithic farmers who cut and burnt clearings in the 'Wildwood'. The ash from the burnt trees fertilised the poor, sandy soil for a short while, which allowed crops to be grown. These clearings were soon abandoned and another was created close by. Heather that was growing amongst the trees, quickly spread into these abandoned clearings. Nomadic



NEOLITHIC FARMERS  
D. Parrett

tribesman then came along and grazed the heather with their livestock, which prevented trees from re-growing. This way of farming carried on through the Bronze Age and Iron Age, until eventually the 'Wildwood' was completely cleared and had been replaced by large areas of heathland that we still know as the Sandlings.

During the Iron Age, there were two different tribes living on the Sandlings, the Trinovantes to the south of the Alde estuary and the Iceni to the north. It is still possible to find worked flints (scrapers and arrowheads) and ironwear from the early periods of history, so keep your eyes peeled. There are also many Bronze Age and Iron Age tumuli and earthworks along the Walk. The Bronze Age earthwork on Blaxhall Common is very close to the path.

By the time the Romans invaded in 43AD, the Sandlings had

small farm settlements and field systems. Frisians, Angles and Saxons came from Northern Europe after the Romans had left. They were pagan people and were the first people to be called 'heathens'. During the 7th century there were royal Anglo-Saxon villas at Woodbridge, Rendlesham and Blythburgh. As you walk between Woodbridge and Melton, imagine the majestic sight in 624AD of a Saxon Longship being hauled up the hillside on the opposite side of the river. This was in the preparation for the burial of King Redwald at Sutton Hoo.

There are excellent Anglo Saxon displays at both Ipswich Museum and the National Trust site at Sutton Hoo.

In the 12th century, the Normans introduced rabbits to Britain. Warrens were built so that the rabbits could be farmed for their meat and fur. Local place names, such as Snape Warren and North Warren are a reminder of this time. You will pass a disused warren on Sutton Heath. Rabbits, like sheep have helped to keep many areas of heathland clear of trees.

For a long time the Sandlings heaths belonged to nobody.



SUTTON HOO HELMET RECONSTRUCTION  
British Museum



A. Hobday

They were places where local people grazed their animals, collected plants to make medicines and gathered building materials and firewood. It was Anglo Saxon lords that claimed ownership and created commoners who were allowed rights to continue some of the activities they had been used to. Norman lords took away many of these rights and made life a real struggle for the poor commoners. Until this day most Sandlings heaths are owned and some still have commoners rights.



GATHERING FURZE FOR THE FIRE. LATE 19TH CENTURY  
Dorset County Museum

In the 20th century, as living standards improved, local people and commoners no longer needed heather, gorse, sheep and rabbits. Centuries of dependence on the Sandlings heathland were ended. With new fertilisers and improvements in irrigation, large areas of heath were ploughed up to grow sugar beet, potatoes, carrots, cereals and more recently, garden turf. 30% of Sandlings heath have been lost to the plough.



N. Catling

30% OF THE SANDLINGS HAS BEEN LOST TO FARMING



FLINT AXE HEADS  
Line Illustration D. Parrett