

Shotley

Walk Explorer Guide



Explore ships, shores
and local heritage in
and around Shotley

Suffolk
Coast &
Heaths



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Shotley

Suffolk Coast & Heaths *Walk Explorer Guide*

Highlights of Shotley and Erwarton

1 **Harwich Haven** is the best natural harbour on the east coast of England. On the north bank of the River Orwell is the Port of Felixstowe. It is the UK's largest port, handling 40% of all containerised trade. Harwich International Port lies across the estuary on the south shore of the River Stour. Harwich hosts a busy ferry and cruise liner terminal.

2 **HMS Ganges Museum**, located at Shotley Marina, tells the story of HMS Ganges with many exhibits, photographs and artefacts on display. The Royal Navy Training Establishment at Shotley opened in 1905 and over 150,000 Naval Cadets were trained up until it closed in 1976. The former site of HMS Ganges at Shotley Gate is now designated for housing.



3 **The Stour and Orwell Estuaries** contain mudflats and saltmarsh which are a haven for wading birds. Every autumn 40,000 wildfowl and wading birds make an incredible journey to feed and roost here. You can often see vast flocks probing the mud. Migrating birds, such as sandpiper and greenshank, are present in spring and autumn. Drainage dykes inland of the river 'walls' provide a vital habitat for insects, including the Emperor Dragonfly, the largest in the UK.



Images: Front cover – The River Orwell.

A. The Orwell Estuary – a great wildlife habitat.

B. Port of Felixstowe – The Stour and Orwell host busy ports. C. St. Mary's Church and Naval Cemetery – peaceful and poignant. D. Enjoy Golden Wood wildflower meadow. E. St. Mary's Church, Erwarton. F. Arthur Ransome's Walking Trail

- 4 **Shotley Church and Naval Cemetery** are located on high ground some way from the village. St. Mary's Church dates from the 1400s. Opposite the church is a naval cemetery. It contains the graves of sailors from the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and the Dutch and German Navies who died during WWII.



- 5 **Shotley Heritage Park.** In 2012, Shotley Parish Council purchased 8 acres of woodland and 50 acres of foreshore adjacent to the River Stour at Shotley Gate. Babergh District Council, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB and the local County Councillor all contributed to help fund the purchase. This community recreational area has outstanding views of Parkeston Quay, Harwich, and across the River Stour to the County of Essex. The woodland is being managed to help protect flora and fauna, and to inform visitors about the heritage of Shotley.

- 6 **Golden Wood and Wildflower Meadow** is a 'community woodland' established in 2004 and managed by local people. The land was donated by local landowners and funding for the project came from environmental organisations, such as the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Local children have planted native trees and hedges.



Shotley Gate sits at the tip of the Shotley Peninsula, where the rivers Orwell and Stour meet. These walks visit peaceful countryside and offer views of the docks at Felixstowe and Harwich. You may see some of the largest ships in the world manoeuvring in the harbour.

7 **St. Mary's Church, Erwarton** is well worth a look. Rumour has it that the heart of Anne Boleyn (d.1536) is buried in the wall of the church as she often visited her uncle, Sir Phillip Parker, who lived in Erwarton Hall. The 15th century church tower was repaired after lightning damage in 1837. Erwarton Hall and its Gatehouse, both Grade II* listed, date from 1575 and have been rebuilt. The gatehouse, a post-Reformation Gothic fantasy, sits on the road through the village.



8 **Arthur Ransome**, the famous children's author (1884-1967), moved from the Lake District to live near Pin Mill on the River Orwell so that he could enjoy sailing on the sea. In *We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea* (1937) he immortalised life on the river in the 1930s, and many of the locations he described in his books can still be enjoyed today.



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‘Two Rivers Walk’

Distance: 5.4 miles (8.7 km)
Time: 2 hrs

Start at the Pier, walk with river wall on your right, to Shotley Marina. This walk begins by using the Stour & Orwell Walk, a way marked route (grey with yellow arrow). Cross inner lock gate and continue around seaward side of marina. Turn right along river wall, following the Stour & Orwell Walk signs for some time (ignore path to left and steps near sluice). Turn left at a footpath sign, away from the river, where the path curves around saltmarsh (Crane’s Hill). Follow this footpath along field edge, onto a track.

Pass St. Mary’s Church, Shotley, and continue straight at crossroads. Opposite Shotley Hall, take path left. Follow path through trees, across footbridge and along field edge. At houses, turn left along path to road. Turn right and follow road to junction with main road. Turn right until opposite Rose Farm.



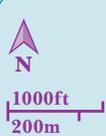
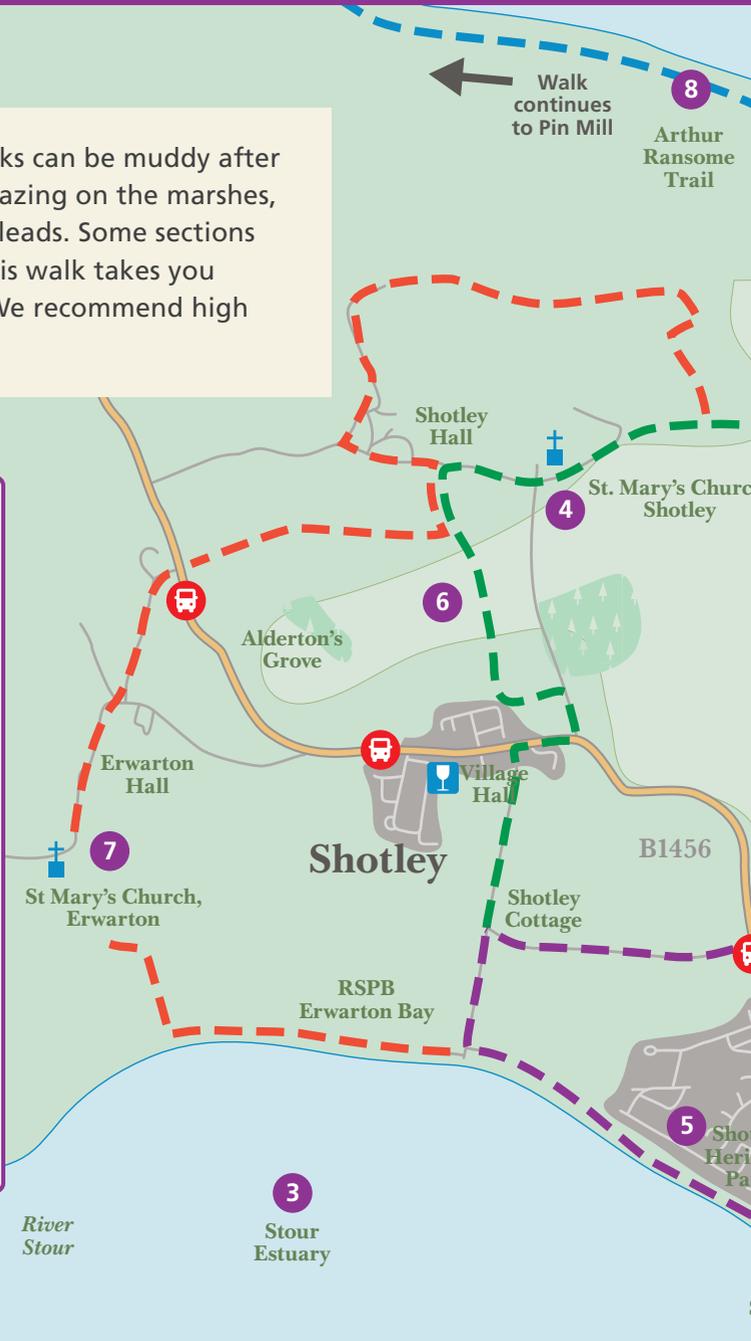
Cross road and take ‘Restricted Byway’ to right of farm. At cross tracks beside Shotley Cottage, continue straight towards River Stour. When you reach houses turn left. Follow path beside gardens, along field edge. At the coastal footpath sign you can either take a right turn and continue back along the river to the Pier. Alternatively, you can walk up the hill and follow a woodland path through the Heritage Park.

Emerge from woodland, turn right into Estuary Road. Continue down to main road and turn right to the Pier.



Terrain: Paths and tracks can be muddy after rain. Cattle are often grazing on the marshes, so please keep dogs on leads. Some sections are near deep water. This walk takes you onto public highways. We recommend high visibility clothing.

-  Two Rivers Walk
-  Shotley Point Stroll
-  Farms & Rivers Walk
-  Arthur Ransome's Trail
-  B Road
-  C Road
-  'Highlights' Location
-  Parking
-  Public House
-  Church
-  Settlements
-  Marsh Land
-  Wooded Areas
-  Bus Stop
-  Public Toilets
-  Foot & Bicycle Ferry



Walk continues to Pin Mill
 Arthur Ransome Trail

These walks explore the Orwell and Stour estuaries. Enjoy superb views of Harwich Haven and the Port of Felixstowe. The 'Two Rivers Walk' visits Shotley Naval Cemetery and community woodland.

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In winter, the estuaries are home to rare birds feeding and nesting in the area. They are easily disturbed and fly off, but you can help during these sensitive months by;

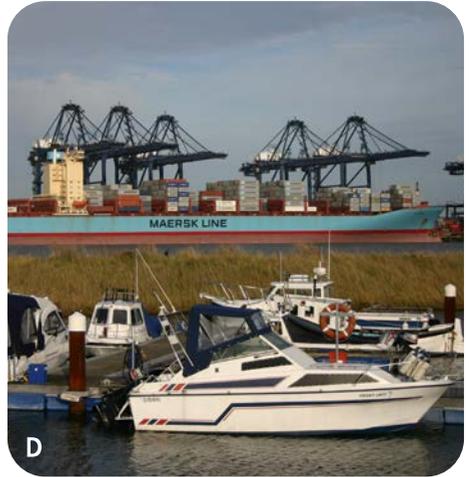
- Keeping your dog on a lead when walking on the paths by the river
- Avoiding the river paths as a running route at low and high tides
- Keeping a respectful distance from groups of birds if you're on the water
- Reducing noise in general

‘Shotley Point Stroll’

Distance: 3.1 miles (5 km)
Time: 1½ hrs

Begin as Two Rivers Walk, to just past the marina. Turn left at next path junction and follow path behind marina. Take next right and continue beside fence to road. Cross road and turn right.

At end of row of houses, take track left. You are now briefly on the Stour & Orwell Walk way marked path. At cross tracks beside Shotley Cottage, turn left towards River Stour. When you reach houses turn left. Follow directions back to the Pier as per the Two Rivers Walk.



Further short walks include a stroll along the River Stour and back (begin with the river on your left), or a slightly longer stroll through the Shotley Heritage Park – begin as above then turn right up a hill on the upper woodland path. Emerge from woodland, turn right into Estuary Road. Continue to main road back to the Pier.



Images: A. Boats at Shotley Marina – all sizes of craft use the estuary. B. Shotley Naval Cemetery – contains the graves of sailors who lost their lives in WWII. C. The River Stour – a tranquil scene, yet bustling Parkstone Quay is close by. D. The Port of Felixstowe – spectacular views from this walk. E. Shotley Picnic Area – a great place to have a snack after your walk.

'Farms & Rivers Walk'

Distance: 7.5 miles (12 km)

Time: 3 hrs

Begin at Shotley Marina lock. Walk westwards towards Shotley Gate (River Stour and Harwich are on your left). Continue through the picnic area on the coast path, RSPB Erwarton Bay reserve lies to your left.

As you walk out of Shotley Heritage Park a small sign 'Shotley and Erwarton Coastal Path' points the way through the 'Brickyards'. Keep the river close to your left, pass cottages. At the 'Erwarton One' sluice gate, head inland towards Erwarton. Fork left towards St. Mary's Church, Erwarton.

Turn right at the church along a B-road (be careful of traffic). Pass Warren Lane and turn left into Erwarton Walk. Cross over the B1456 Ipswich road, keep it on your left for 50 metres then turn right at the way mark towards 'Cow Meadow'. Alderton's Grove can be seen on your right. Take Cow Lane left out onto Church Walk. With Shotley Hall opposite turn left and then second right. The footpath is a hard farm track to Wades Lane.

Turn right, sign posted Hill House Farm. Leaving the farm to your right walk on down Wades Lane through an area of holiday cottages and farm buildings.

Continue on the path, then down through a gate to Shotley marshes with the Port of Felixstowe in view. Turn left towards the River Orwell then through another gate. The steps on the left lead to the top of the river wall. Follow the way marker between the river and the Orwell salt marshes. At the Marina, turn left at the finger post, back to the Lock.



‘Arthur Ransome’s Walking Trail’

Distance: 6 miles (9.6 km) (One Way)
Time: 2 ½ hrs

The Arthur Ransome Walking Trail (way marked with a boat symbol) can be followed from Shotley Pier to Pin Mill, along the bank of the River Orwell.



The trail, with information boards along the route, discovers the history, landscape, wildlife and locations that feature in Ransome’s book, [‘We Didn’t Mean To Go To Sea’](#). Copies of the trail leaflet are available locally.

This is a linear walk. A scheduled bus can take you to/from the starting point.

Images: F. Shotley foreshore – looking across the Stour to Harwich. G. Arthur Ransome trail markers – near the Marina. H Arthur Ransome book and trail markers – by Shotley Pier.

Welcome to Shotley

Nestled between the rivers Orwell and Stour on the Essex/Suffolk border, Shotley is a picturesque village with around 2,500 residents and a strong community feel, only 9 miles from Ipswich.

The wonderful views alone make Shotley a marvellous destination. If you add the history and culture gained from its two war cemeteries at St. Mary's Church, Shotley - maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission - and the HMS Ganges museum at Shotley Marina, you then have a wonderfully interesting area to explore.

Shotley's flat, tranquil landscape makes it an idyllic place to go walking or spend a gentle day on your bike. There are lots of well-marked trails that can take you across the peninsula from river



to river. Shotley is proud to be the first *Walkers Are Welcome* accredited village in Suffolk. This accreditation was achieved with thanks to Discover Suffolk and the Coastal Access team. Footpaths, resting spots, viewing points and other facilities are well signposted and maintained, so we hope you find a stroll through unspoiled countryside and the magnificent views over the Rivers Orwell and Stour simply irresistible.

Visit our websites to find out more

www.shotley.onesuffolk.net

www.shotleyopenspaces.co.uk

www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk

www.bristolarms.com

www.shotleyrose.com

www.shotleymarina.co.uk



The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB

The Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of Britain's finest landscapes. It extends from the Stour Estuary in the south to the eastern fringe of Ipswich and, in the north, to Kessingland. It covers 403 square kilometres, including wildlife-rich wetlands, ancient heaths, windswept shingle beaches and historic towns and villages.

Visiting Shotley

 Ordnance Survey Map No. 197 (Ipswich, Felixstowe & Harwich)

 Access via the B1080/B1456 from the A137/A12. Parking can be limited on very busy days.

 Public transport information: www.suffolkonboard.com or call **0345 606 6171**

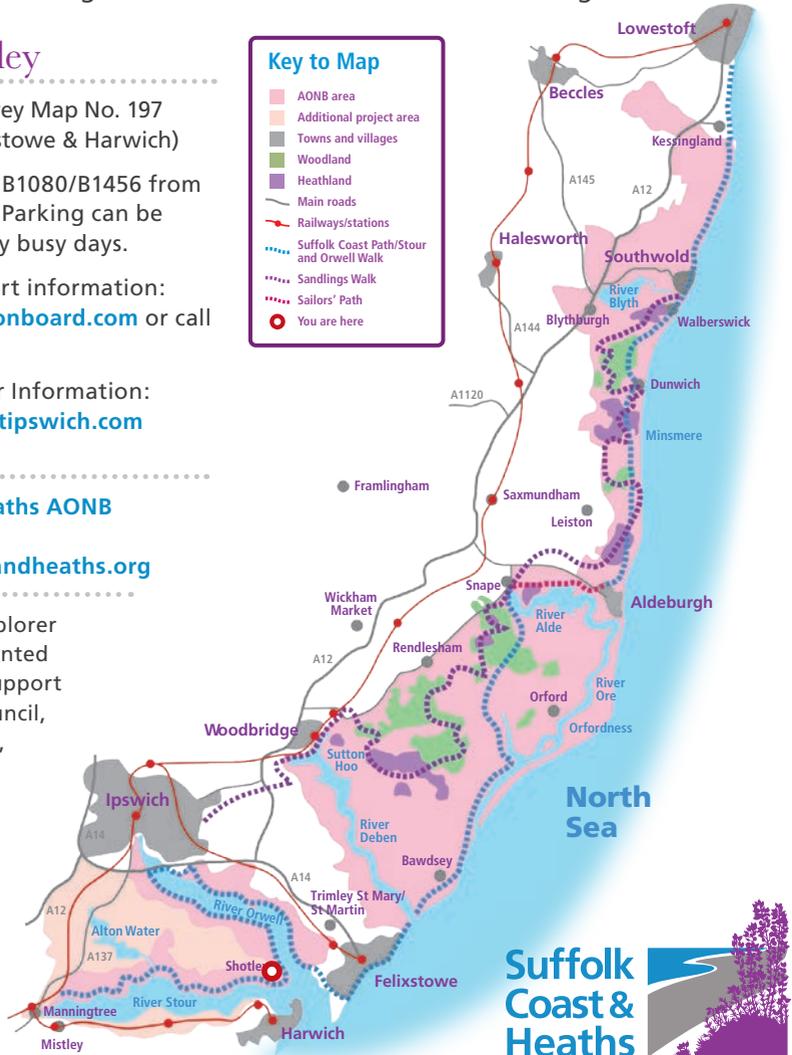
 Ipswich Visitor Information: www.allaboutipswich.com **01473 258070**

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB
01394 445225
www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

The Shotley Walk Explorer Guide has been reprinted with the generous support of Shotley Parish Council, Shotley Open Spaces, the Bristol Arms, Shotley Rose and Shotley Marina.



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