

## Local Adnams pubs

In partnership with  
**ADNAM'S**  
SOUTHWOLD

**CROWN INN** Tel: 01728 688324  
Bridge Road, Snape, Saxmundham, IP17 1SL

Location: <b>Village</b>		Restaurant/dining room	<b>Yes</b>
Garden/courtyard	<b>Yes</b>	Bar meals	<b>Yes</b>
Children welcome	<b>Yes</b>	Accommodation	-
Disabled access	-	Dogs welcome	<b>Yes</b>
Parking available	<b>Yes</b>	Credit cards welcome	<b>Yes</b>

**THE GOLDEN KEY** Tel: 01728 688510  
Priory Road, Snape, Saxmundham, IP17 1SA

Location: <b>Village</b>		Restaurant/dining room	<b>Yes</b>
Garden/courtyard	<b>Yes</b>	Bar meals	<b>Yes</b>
Children welcome	<b>Yes</b>	Accommodation	-
Disabled access	-	Dogs welcome	<b>Yes</b>
Parking available	<b>Yes</b>	Credit cards welcome	<b>Yes</b>



**Suffolk Coast  
& Heaths**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



This leaflet has been produced with the generous support of Adnams to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.

"Adnams has been proud to work with Suffolk Coast and Heaths for many years on a variety of projects. We are based in Southwold, just inside the AONB and it is with this beautiful location in mind, that we have great respect for the built, social and natural environment around us. Over several years we have been working hard to make our impact on the environment a positive one, please visit our website to discover some of the things we've been up to.

We often talk about that "ah, that's better" moment and what better way to celebrate that, than walking one of these routes and stopping off at an Adnams pub for some well-earned refreshment.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the walks (and the pubs!), please upload your comments and photos to our website [adnams.co.uk](http://adnams.co.uk)."

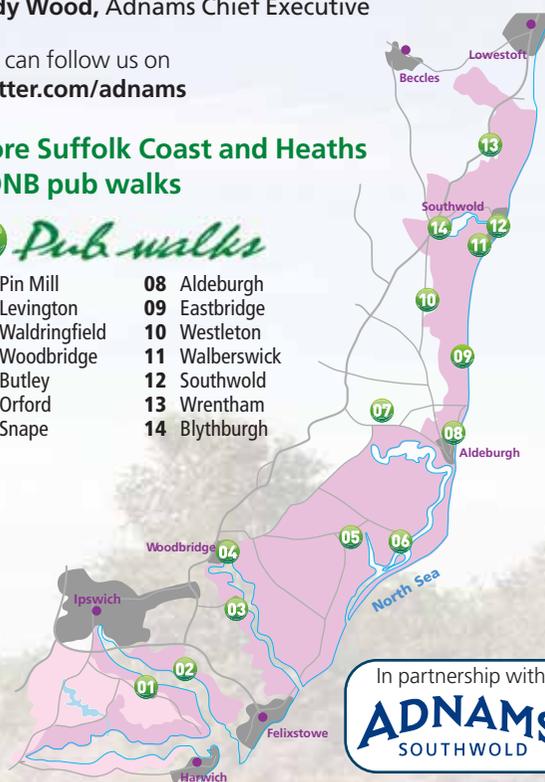
**Andy Wood**, Adnams Chief Executive

You can follow us on  
[twitter.com/adnams](https://twitter.com/adnams)

### More Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB pub walks



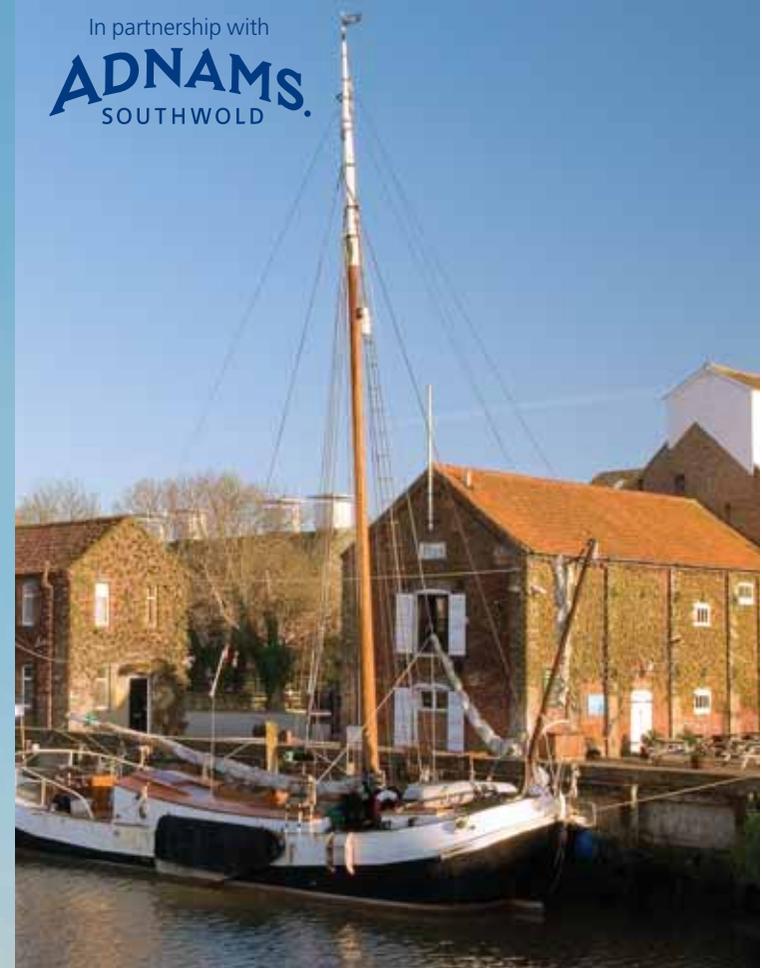
- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 01 Pin Mill      | 08 Aldeburgh   |
| 02 Levington     | 09 Eastbridge  |
| 03 Waldringfield | 10 Westleton   |
| 04 Woodbridge    | 11 Walberswick |
| 05 Butley        | 12 Southwold   |
| 06 Orford        | 13 Wrentham    |
| 07 Snape         | 14 Blythburgh  |



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# Snape

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## Snape Route overview

The two Adnams pubs in Snape are close to each other, and both are suitable start points for either walk. Directions are given in both cases as if starting from the Crown, then passing the Golden Key.

The two routes overlap, and share some landmarks, so they are not all in numerical order in both walks. Both pubs have car parks, but out of courtesy, check before you leave your car there unattended, especially if you plan to walk first and visit the pub later.

The short walk takes in some marsh and heath to the north of the river Alde. The long walk is in the same area but extends as a longer loop. Both walks may be muddy underfoot in the low-lying sections near the river. Dogs will enjoy both routes, but please observe the Open Access restrictions on heathland, and keep dogs on leads between 1 March and 31 July to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds.

### Further information

#### Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB

Tel: 01394 384948 [www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org)

**East of England Tourism** [www.visiteastofengland.com](http://www.visiteastofengland.com)

#### Public Transport

**Buses:** Snape is on a bus route from Ipswich to Leiston, but the service is infrequent and the last bus back to Ipswich is mid-afternoon, so aim for an early walk.

The nearest **railway station** is Saxmundham, 5 miles away. [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com), 0845 606 6171



## Snape

Short walk – 2.25 miles/3.6 km

Starting from the Crown pub, turn right along road (towards Aldeburgh), then first right to the Golden Key pub.

Snape was once known as 'Snapes', meaning 'boggy lands'. This very low lying stretch of road bridges the Alde, and marks the navigable head of the river. Flooding, particularly on high spring tides, is an ever-present risk here, for the road, for land fringing the river and for a significant number of houses – as well as the two Adnams pubs.

Soon after pub, turn right onto track 11, signed as footpath, immediately after Bonnie Doone bungalow (very muddy in wet weather). Follow footpath sign to left 10, with dragonfly carved on post.

The fence here marks the boundary of a new 60-acre nature reserve – **Snape Marshes**, purchased by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in 2009 – that adjoins the RSPB's Snape Warren nature reserve. All of the **Alde-Ore Estuary** is designated a **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**, and, because of its international importance for migratory wading birds and wildfowl, a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar wetland site.





**The straight grassy path runs beside a drainage ditch, passing through reeds to an oak woodland area.**

The **reedbeds** are home to Bearded Tits, Reed Warbler, Reed Bunting, Water Rail, and occasionally, Bittern. Egrets are often on the marshes, and Marsh Harriers and Barn Owls fly over them.

In autumn, at dusk, large starling flocks often gather here before settling to roost in the reeds near the **Maltings**, making a spectacular sight as they wheel across the sky.



*Barn Owl (FLPA)*



**Turn right here, soon to join a larger path, but keep bearing right. The footpath opens onto the Alde Estuary with a view of Snape Maltings to the right at 9.**

In the middle of the 19th century Newson Garrett started malting barley next to the River Alde at Snape, and his maltings became one of the largest in Suffolk, finally closing in 1965. The striking complex of brick and slate buildings is now Grade II-listed.

The concert hall, with its vast roof and ventilators, is frequently glimpsed from the marshes. Attracting 500,000



visitors a year, the Maltings also house shops and galleries in some of the renovated buildings. More of the old buildings have recently been developed as a 'creative campus', while others have been converted for residential use.



**Follow the path along the river to a kissing gate on your left 8. Go through the gate and up the slope through the heathland of North Warren, a reserve managed by the RSPB.**

The pink and purple ling and bell heathers characterise **heathland** which is Britain's rarest habitat. It's home to some very rare wildlife, including the Silver-studded Blue butterfly, birds such as Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler. Reptiles also thrive on these warm, dry soils. Look out for Common Lizards and Adders that bask in bare patches between the Heather. Both are very shy creatures and, although Adders are venomous they present little threat to humans and will only bite in self defence. It's best to give them a wide berth and if you have a dog keep it on a lead.



*Common Lizard*



*Nightjar (Foto Natura/FLPA)*

This was part of a larger area of heathland known as the **Sandlings** that once extended from North Suffolk to Ipswich. The dry sandy soils were unsuitable for intensive forms of agriculture, so sheep grazing dominated

farming here for many centuries, keeping the woodland at bay and resulting in an open landscape of grass, heather and scattered trees.

In the last 100 years, modern farming, forestry and the growth of towns and villages have meant that much of the Sandlings heathland has been lost, and only fragments remain. These are managed again by grazing animals, to ensure that the heathland does not revert to woodland and retains its value for wildlife.



**Continue straight on, crossing over the grassy track which cuts through the path, down a slope, then through kissing gate 12 and take footpath to right. Follow the fence line and turn right when you join waymarked path. When you reaching the road turn left – this leads back past the Golden Key and on to the Crown.**

The Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of Britain's finest landscapes. Located on the coast of East Anglia and covering 403 square kilometres, the AONB extends from the Stour estuary in the south to the eastern fringe of Ipswich and to Kessingland in the north.

[www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org)

# Snape

Long walk – 3.75 miles/6.0 km

 **From the Crown pub, turn right along road (towards Aldeburgh), then first right, past Golden Key pub.**

**Near top of hill, just before tree bearing sign for 'Belle Vue House', turn left on to bridleway 1. Stay on this track (Guilding's Lane) as it bends left – sports field hedge and play area on right – then past housing to left, open fields to right – to an uncultivated grassy area, with views of Snape church tower.**

**Areas of long grass** are excellent for butterflies. In spring Green Hairstreaks often congregate in secluded corners, establishing territories, perching on vantage points and chasing each other in short bursts of swift flight. In summer: orangey brown Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, and the diminutive Brown Argus may be seen.



Green Hairstreak

 **At t-junction of paths 2, with red brick house on left, turn right along sandy track, through heath then open fields.**

Tolerant of low nutrient levels, **Gorse** thrives in heathland areas, where it has few plant competitors. It can grow up to 2½ m and can be invasive. The yellow flowers, with a heady coconut scent, are carried all year round, but are most abundant in spring and early summer.

Insects appreciate its nectar in winter and early spring, when few other flowers are out, and country lore holds that 'When the Gorse is in bloom, then kissing is in season' ...

Gorse also provides security for some nesting birds, and the Dartford Warbler especially relies on its protection in harsh winter weather.

 **At T-junction with road 3, turn right. Where road bends right, take the third track on left 4 – signed "Public Footpath", "Aldeburgh 4 miles" and "New England Farm". This is the Sailors' Path.**

Until a few hundred years ago, Snape was larger than Aldeburgh, the maltings generating considerable trade by the 19th century. **The Sailors' Path** between Snape and Aldeburgh was the route the Snape dwellers used for access to coastal fishing and boatbuilding, not to mention a bit of smuggling on the return journey. **The Crown Inn** allegedly played a part here, by signalling when the militias were safely tucked up in the bar.

 **Continue straight on (do not bear right) past a pair of red brick cottages – Sailors' Path Cottages. Go through gate on right 5 into Open Access land. Follow path through woodland, broadly right, to a clearing, then make your way to a wire fence boundary on your right, and follow this downhill, to a kissing gate 6.**

Cross road, go through kissing gate opposite.

Continue to follow the fence line through this open access land, Snape Warren.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 took effect in 2005, after over 100 years of public campaigning. It designated Open Access land, where you can walk freely without having to keep to paths.

This is **Open Access heathland**, and dogs must be on a lead between March 1st and July 31st, to protect ground-nesting birds such as the Nightjar, whose lowland heath habitat has diminished rapidly over the last 100 years.

Open Access allows us to explore remote secluded places, but in doing so, we may endanger the very wildlife we have come to see.

 **At foot of slope 7 is another kissing gate – just before it, bear left uphill. Head straight on through mixed birch/oak woodland then heath, and eventually you will see the square church tower of St. Botolph's Church at Iken in the distance.**

The length of the **Alde estuary** is visible from here. Much of the wide expanse of water – or mud, if low tide – ahead was once reclaimed land, but it flooded earlier this century and reverted to mudflat, whilst the main channel of the river rediscovered its natural course.

 **Go down slope towards river, and through kissing gate at foot 8. Turn right, beside saltings – Snape Maltings visible in the distance. When you reach Snape Explorer interpretation board 9, turn left to follow the path along the river wall. At the road turn right, back to Crown Inn.**

**Alternative route from 9 – river wall may be sticky clay in wet weather – turn right through woodland, left beside a ditch and right at a track 10, bringing you back near the Golden Key pub.**

