Woodbridge is an historic market town on the beautiful Deben estuary. Streets lined with traditional buildings lead to a waterfront, where yachts and house boats lie at anchor. Dates from 1793 and was working until 1957. It was saved in 1968 and restored to working order a few years later. Recently, the mill has undergone further restoration, allowing visitors to learn about its history and see it in action.

Sutton Hoo is a mysterious place on the hill across the River from Woodbridge. In 1939, the then owner, Edith Pretty employed local archaeologist Basil Brown to excavate some mounds on her Sutton Hoo estate. This excavation uncovered the burial of an Anglo-Saxon King, possibly King Raedwald of the East Angles, who died around 625 AD. He had been buried in a great ship surrounded by many stunning artefacts. These included the famous helmet, which is now displayed in the British Museum. Sutton Hoo is managed by the National Trust.

The River Deben is a great habitat for breeding and migrant birds. The extensive mudflats and salt marsh support 70 species of bird, including cormorants, oystercatchers and curlews. The estuary has one of the most significant overwintering populations of avocets in the UK and a large population of redshanks. The importance of this habitat is recognised by its designation as a Special Protection Area by Natural England.

The River Deben with Sutton Hoo beyond – a mysterious landscape.

Woodbridge waterfront is a bustling place with a fascinating history. From the 1400s to the 1700s the area was the centre of a thriving ship building industry. Merchant and naval ships were built for customers including Edward III and Sir Francis Drake. The quays allowed the town to prosper, with local products such as cloth and rope being traded. The Whiststocks Project aims to reopen one of the boat building yards as a training centre.

Market Hill is a beautiful collection of old buildings. At its centre is the Shire Hall, which was built in the 16th century as a local court and corn exchange. Nearby is the imposing 15th century St. Mary’s Church. It contains memorials to many wealthy residents of Woodbridge, including Thomas Seckford, who died in 1587. He established the Seckford Foundation, which still plays a major role in the town and owns almshouses and schools. Further down New Street is the ‘Ye Olde Bell and Steelyard’ Inn. The projection from the first floor housed a device that weighed goods being traded at the market.

The Tide Mill is an unusual kind of grain mill. As the tide rises, water is trapped in a large pool, which is then released to turn the machinery. There has been a tide mill on this site for over 800 years. The present mill dates from 1793 and was working until 1957. It is an unusual kind of grain mill. As the tide rises, water is trapped in a large pool, which is then released to turn the machinery. There has been a tide mill on this site for over 800 years. The present mill

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 then north to Keswick. The AONB covers 403 square kilometres, including wildlife rich wetlands, ancient heaths, windswept shingle beaches and historic towns and villages.

Visiting Woodbridge

**Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 212**

Woodbridge and Saxmundham or Explorer Map No.197
(Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich)

**Car**

Woodbridge Station car park: accessed via the B1438 or B1079 from the A12.

**Bus information**

- www.traveline.info or call 0871 200 2233
- www.suffolkonboard.com or call 0845 606 6171

Woodbridge Station is on the East Suffolk Line (hourly service Ipswich to Lowestoft). Train information: www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 0845 748 4950

**Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB**

01394 445225 www.suffolkcoastandeheaths.org

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is a partner of the BALANCE project part-finance by the European Union through the Interreg IV A 2 Seas Cross-border Programme.
These three walks explore the town of Woodbridge, the river Deben and the surrounding landscape.

‘Ships, Saltings and Thomas Seckford’

Time: 2 hours  
Terrain: Route follows exposed paths beside deep, tidal water. Some sections can be muddy. Follows some busy roads and passes through urban areas. High visibility clothing recommended.

Start from Woodbridge Railway Station. Cross railway by bridge just north of station and bear right along river wall path, keeping river to left. Follow path for some distance. When you enter woodland, bear left and join track. (If route is flooded return to where you bore left and follow optional shorter route shown below). Almost immediately bear left off track to shore. Walk along shore then re-join path at grassy area. Follow path around Kyson Point and onto river wall beside Martlesham Creek. Continue to end of Creek, turn right at path junction. Follow path to road. Turn right and follow road until junction with main road, then turn right along pavement. After short distance, take path on opposite side of road to right of Sandford Place. Climb steps and bear right at path split. When road reached, go straight over into Portland Crescent. Follow Portland Crescent, ignoring all exits and continue on road through cemetery. When road becomes track, bear right down hill. At bottom of hill, turn left. Follow path beside green and up steps to road. Turn right along road between houses.

‘River and Countryside Wander’

Time: 1 hour  
Terrain: Route follows exposed paths beside deep, tidal water. Some sections can be muddy. Some sections on roads and through urban areas. Route crosses railway line so take great care. Several stiles crossed. High visibility clothing recommended.

Start from Woodbridge Railway Station. Cross railway by bridge just north of station and bear right along river wall, keeping river to left. Follow path for some distance. At woodland, immediately leave this path (‘double back’). Follow path until left bend. Cross railway line by bridge just beyond. At river wall, turn right and bear right across recreation ground, keeping playground and tennis courts to right. On far side of tennis courts, turn right along road. Re-cross railway line. At river wall, turn left and return to station.

‘A Stroll by the Deben’

Time: 1 hour  
Terrain: Route follows exposed paths beside deep, tidal water. Some sections on roads and through urban areas. High visibility clothing recommended.

Start by catching train from Woodbridge to Melton. Leave Melton station; turn right beside railway line. At river wall, turn left and then right in front of Tide Mill. At junction with road to Tide Mill, turn left then right beside quay and return to Woodbridge Station.

Optional shorter route (saves you 30 mins)

Turn right and follow track for shortcut or if above route is flooded. Continue on path. Cross over the railway line and follow track until you reach road. Turn right and follow road until junction with main road, then turn right and continue with remaining walk from point †.