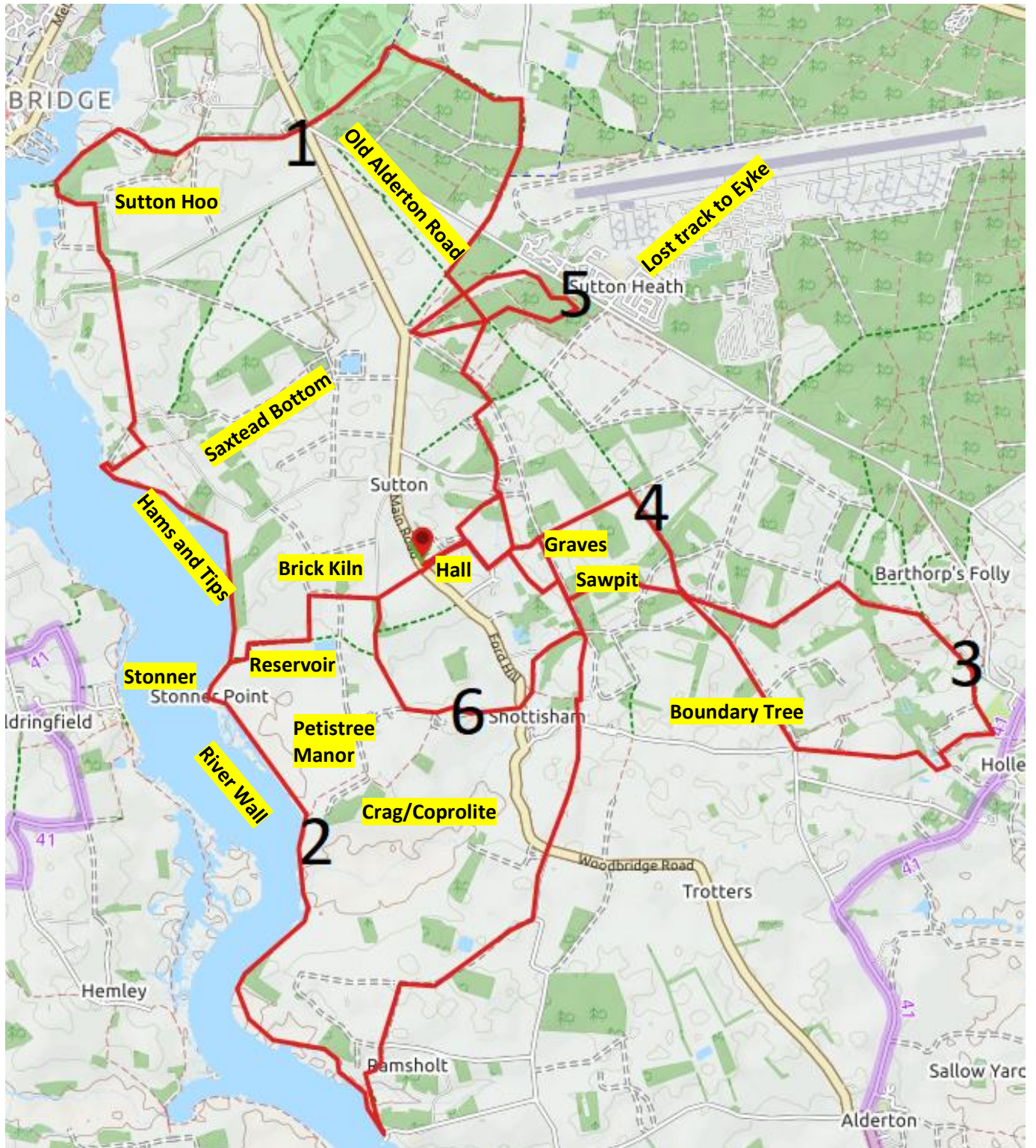


Places of Interest around Sutton, Suffolk

The map below shows some of the places around Sutton and the walks on the website. A few words about each can be found on the following pages.



The notes below are in alphabetical order but first a few background notes:

Sutton is on the 'Suffolk Sandlings' so the ground under your feet is sand but go down only a couple of metres in places and you'll find clay. This varies from fine clay suitable for making bricks; marl which is lime rich and was used for improving the poor soils; crag, deep red containing masses of seashells of fossils.

Sutton village, as seen along the B 1083 and Old Post Office Lane is relatively new. If you drove (or more likely walked/rode in a cart) through Sutton in 1900 you would pass the 'Flint Cottage' at the beginning of the village, the school, then a cluster of cottages around the pub, then nothing until Old Post Office cottages. Most people lived out in the numerous farms scattered around the parish and many of the tracks which served them and the traffic to the river are now our paths and bridleways. Today a little under 350 people live in the village, in 1851 it was 732.

Boundary Tree	Hundreds of years ago it was common to plant trees to mark parish boundaries and the old hollow ash tree on the old Alderton road marks the boundary between Sutton and Hollesley. It, like many of these trees, has been pollarded to distinguish it from other trees.
Brick Kiln	Kiln Walk Plantation (on OS maps) – Brick clay was extracted from the pit on the south side of the path and fired in a kiln on the other side. The kiln and the workers cottages have long gone but the bricks remain in local cottages and they were probably shipped up the river to Woodbridge.
Crag/coprolite	There are numerous outcrops of crag in Suffolk and Essex and Sutton has its share. The outcrop near the track has information boards and is the subject of a number of scientific papers. The crag often contains Coprolite which is fossilised dinosaur dung (some believe the deposits around here are naturally occurring phosphate nodules) and they were dug up to be used for fertiliser. In the second half of the 19 th century the business boomed with 10,000 tons being mined along the Deben in a single year. There are stories of Waldringfield miners working all day around Sutton, getting the ferry back across the river and stopping of at the Maybush to quench their thirst. In the morning they woke up on the benches outside the pub and caught the ferry for another days work.
Graves	The isolated house to the west of the track was the site of a post mill and, just to the north of it, a chapel. There are number of old graves from this era behind the house.
Hall	The Memorial Hall was built by villagers after the Second World War and replaced a wooden building over the road (it was to the left of Old Post Office Cottages). The inquest which decided that the Sutton Hoo treasure belonged to Edith Pretty as the landowner was held in the old wooden building presumably because it was found on the Sutton side of the parish boundary that runs through the site. Mrs Pretty donated everything to the British museum and she is buried in the village church graveyard.
Hams and Tips	A 19th century land owner built them with a view to reclaiming the entire bay and there are two stories about why he failed. In one, the Admiralty was worried about the effect this might have on siltation and navigation in the river and told him to stop. The other version says that he paid the workers very poorly so they paid him back by doing a shoddy job and, during a westerly storm, a lot of the work was washed away so he gave up.
Lost Track to Eyke	Before the roads were tarmaced after the First World War farm traffic from as far afield as Eyke used the tracks to get to the quays on the river and then onto market in Woodbridge (see 'Stonner' for information about the quays). The route to Eyke disappeared when the airbase was built for the Second world War.
Old Alderton Road	The line of this bridleway and permissive path from the Hollesley junction to 'Holy Stile' is the old main road to Alderton. When roads where tarmaced after the First World War

	it was left behind.
Pettistree Manor	This was one of 4 manors in the parish. Sutton (near the church, now vanished), Woodhall, Ferry Farm, and Pettistree. There also numerous farms marked on OS maps and most of these were absorbed into two large estates around the end of the 19 th century. Many of these farms would have had housing for workers, a threshing barn and a horse pond (to provide water for the farms horses). Few farms in Sutton have all three of these now but a number of barns and ponds still exist.
Reservoir	This reservoir was built around 1995 and is another example of the use of the clay under the sandy soil. When the reservoir was being built they hit the clay and were able to use it to line not just this reservoir but also another a mile and half or so north.
River Wall	Long stretches of the riverside footpath are raised above adjoining fields. All this land was reclaimed from the river 5-600 years ago by a process called 'inning' . At low tide hazel or willow wands (long sticks) were pushed into the mud along the line of the proposed wall and more wands were woven horizontally between them. As the tide came in it would run through the barrier bringing silt with it. As it went out the silt would be deposited behind the barrier so, over years, the area was reclaimed, the salt levels dropped and new fields 'appeared'. The long straight stretch downstream from Stonner was known in 1596 as 'Burrell's Long Walk'.
Sawpit Covert	The sawpit (for cutting planks from tree trunks) that this woodland gets it's name from vanished many years ago. The area was the site of a vehicle maintenance operation during the Second World War.
Saxtead Bottom	The name is possibly a corruption of 'Saxon' and this is thought to be the site of a battle between Saxons and Vikings. There are a lot of these sites in East Anglia and whether this was the site of a battle, a skirmish, a bit of a brawl or perhaps nothing at all is not known.
Stonner	Marked as 'Stone way' old maps. There was a quay on the river (the old wooden pilings can be seen at low tide but there were also wooden fishtraps called kiddles around here). Where the path inland jinks left and right, there's an old pond which marks the site of farm buildings with a green between the pond and the river. The quay was one of five on this side of the river; Ferry Farm opposite Kyson, Methersgate, Stonner, one around Shottisham sluice that's vanished and Ramsholt. Known locally as 'Hards' they were originally simple causeways to allow farm wagons to take produce down to barges beached alongside. Proper quays were a later development and all of them had ferry operations across the river.
Sutton Hoo	The National Trust's own website has all the information. The parish boundary runs right across the site.