

## A walk to Sutton Hoo via the River Deben – 10 miles



This walk takes you down to the Deben and then along the river to Methersgate where you head 'overland' to re-join the Deben just before Sutton Hoo. Return is via a golf course, the edge of Rendlesham Forest and Sutton Common.

There are a couple of short steep bits and it may be muddy by the Deben near Sutton Hoo!

All place names are taken from OS maps.

### Directions

Leave the car park and turn left, cross the main road and take the foot path to the left of the garage - this leads you out onto a cross field path.

When you reach the tarmac road there is a footpath sign straight across but this is generally overgrown – turn right and immediately left down a wide track.

As this track drops down a slope, bear left into another track with hedges on each side.

When you reach a 'cross roads' turn right – this footpath leads past Lower Farm. You'll see the river ahead.

The bridle path goes left and right past a pond (bog?) and then, where it turns left just before reaching the river take the path on the right into the blackthorn thicket.

This path comes back up onto the field edge, follow it and watch out for it going left again by an oak tree (yellow waymarker). You now follow the river side path until you get to Methersgate.

The path turns half left along the river and as you approach 'The Hams', it climbs alongside a field into a bit of woodland – keep left (yellow waymarker) along the river avoiding the path that forks right.

After a short steep drop you will be on a field edge approaching a cottage at Methersgate Quay – just before you reach the cottage there's an old railway sleeper 'bridge' over the drainage dyke on the left. It's best to drop down the other side of the river wall here – if you try and stay on top there are a lot of hidden holes and bushes block it near the quay.

At Methersgate Quay turn right up the track then, at the five bar gate, go right along the fence then left through the gate.

Follow the path through a copse then up a field edge. Go through the gate at the end of this field and turn left (towards Methersgate Hall).

At the end of this path there's a tarmac drive, turn right and follow the drive between the buildings and, immediately after the drive turns right, take the field edge path on your left (the hedge should be on your left as you walk alongside the field).

After two fields cross the Haddon Hall drive and go straight on to reach Ferry Farm drive. Cross the drive and take the cross field path towards the corner of the woods.

At the corner of the woods go on with the woods on your right and a field on your left. Follow wood/field edge turning left (onto a sandy track), right and then left again – the Deben should now be on your right.

About three quarters of the way down the final field turn right down a path that drops down steps to the river.

Follow the path (it can get slippery down here) into Ferry Cliff woods and, at the far end of the woods, turn right away from the river along the field edge (keep to the right if it's very wet!).

The path emerges onto a tarmac drive by Little Sutton Hoo, turn left and take the next right up towards the National Trust Sutton Hoo café etc

## **Return via Woodbridge golf course and Sutton Common**

When you're ready to leave Sutton Hoo take the path towards the burial mounds (with your back to the café veranda it's at about 10:30).

Follow this path through a metal gate and then, at the wooden gate, turn left onto the broad track (away from the mounds) and then immediately veer right onto another track with trees on your left and fields on the right (there's usually a load of farm equipment around here).

This goes straight to the B1083 main road by the Hollesley/Bawdsey junction – when you reach it go straight over, straight across the verge opposite and onto a wide bridleway. Keep to the wide track (ignore any smaller paths into the woods) and you'll find yourself walking with trees on your right and golf course on your left.

A house will appear ahead, the 'Lion's Den', and the path follows waymarkers across a fairway, across a belt of 'rough' before emerging on the edge of another fairway.

Keep to the right of this second fairway - DO NOT cross the it towards the signpost way over the other side. Keep to the right and you'll pass a 'green' on your right and then, after a patch of bracken and a couple of trees, there's a signpost pointing left and right – turn right. The Lion's Den will now be on your right.

Follow this path alongside another fairway until you reach a gate – go through and turn right then swing left at the corner of the fence so the woods are on your right and fields on your left.

This path goes straight on until it meets a restricted byway – turn right. Stay on this through the trees and then alongside the fence for the base.

Cross the Hollesley road and carry straight on- this is now a byway.

Take the turning on the left into Sutton Common – this is another bridleway. Cross a couple of broad paths, and, after a stretch of woodland, an open field will appear ahead - look out for a gate in the fence on your right.

Go through this and follow the path over the open heathland – this path might not be in the same place as shown on a map!

This path meets a broad track - turn left (there are actually two tracks parallel to each other here either will do) and carry on down to the 'cross roads'.

Turn right and then, very soon, take the footpath to the left passing the buildings (Low Barn) to your right.

At the junction by the gates of Broxtead House go straight over and then, after a couple of houses and barns, turn right on a broad track.

Follow this track until it bends to the left – follow it around until you reach the tarmac road on the

right. This is Old Post Office Lane and will take you back to the car park.

Final Note – the distance from Sutton to Sutton Hoo via the Deben is about 5.5 miles so, if you want to do a 'one way walk' and have two cars available you can leave one at Sutton Hoo and the other in the village.

