

LAVENHAM Highlights

The Suffolk village of Lavenham, a historic 'Wool Town', sits on the northern edge of the Stour Valley and is home to an array of picturesque historical streets and buildings.

① LAVENHAM is considered to be Britain's best preserved medieval village and one of Suffolk's most important wool towns. Lavenham was the 14th richest town in Tudor England thanks to its famous Lavenham Blue



broadcloth. Medieval charm can still be found at every turn with timber framed buildings lining the narrow streets and lanes leading up to the impressive market place.

Over 300 buildings are listed as being of architectural and historic interest,



including the beautiful and stately church of St Peter and St Paul, the Guildhall, Little Hall, and De Vere House, to name but a few.



Today Lavenham is also a hub of independent boutique shops and galleries, fantastic restaurants, chic hotels and luxury holiday cottages, plenty of cafes and pubs, and has a full diary of events and activities for locals and visitors alike.

② LAVENHAM CHURCH The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul dates largely from the period between 1485 and 1525, although the chancel survives from an earlier mid-14th century building. It is constructed of freestone from quarries in Northamptonshire with locally-



sourced knapped-flint decorative facing and oak roof timbering. The wealth of the medieval clothiers and the Earl of Oxford (then lord of the manor) is reflected in elaborate stone and wood carving, both internally and externally. A major restoration took place in the nineteenth century. The church is open to visitors almost every day from 8.30am until 6pm (4pm in winter).

③ DYEHOUSEFIELD WOOD The name comes from the earliest recorded use of the site dated around 1580. The upper woodland's 1,500 trees were planted in November 2005, and comprise of tree types you will find in any ancient woodland in this part of East Anglia. The lower woodland,



mainly ash, had been planted some ten years before. The woodland is often used for outdoor learning with young people as a Forest Schools. You will find benches at various locations, where you can rest and appreciate the beautiful woodland scenery, as well as its sounds and scents. There are two walks around the woodland which are set up

as orienteering courses. Each marker post has a code and the image of an adjacent tree to be ticked off on maps found on the gate post as you enter the wood. Do help yourself to a map and enjoy the orienteering activity.

④ THE LAVENHAM WALK follows the path of what was the Great Eastern Railway that originally ran from Bury St. Edmunds to Marks Tey. It is a much prized 2.5 kilometre/1.6 mile corridor that runs from the Bury Road (A1141) and Lavenham High Street to south-west of the bridge across Bridge Street Road, where it joins the public right of way that leads to Long Melford. It enjoys the combined status of a County Wildlife Site and a Local Nature Reserve, and also leads to a Site of Special Scientific Interest - located beyond the Bridge Street Road, to the edge of Lineage Wood. Today it is home to well over fifty different species of birds as well as to a variety of rare insects, and sixteen species of butterflies. Reptiles and small mammals thrive in the protection it provides. Kestrels can be sighted as they hunt for prey along the track and the adjoining woodland and meadows. Orchids, thistles and quaking grass can be found in abundance.



THE STOUR VALLEY

Picturesque villages, rolling farmland, rivers, meadows, ancient woodlands and a wide variety of local wildlife combine to create what many describe as the traditional English lowland landscape on the Suffolk-Essex border. The charm of the villages, fascinating local attractions and beauty of the surrounding countryside mean there's no shortage of places to go and things to see.

VISITING LAVENHAM & THE STOUR VALLEY

📍 Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 196 (Sudbury, Hadleigh and the Dedham Vale), and 211 (Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket) if using the route to Preston St Mary.

🚗 By car: Lavenham can be reached by taking the A1141 off the A134.

🅑 Limited free parking at Market Place (CO10 9QZ). More free parking can be found at The Cock Inn (Church Street, CO10 9SA).

🚌 By Bus: Lavenham is on the route between Bury St Edmunds and Colchester. Details at www.traveline.info

🚆 By train: Lavenham is 7 miles from Sudbury Train Station. Train information: www.nationalrail.co.uk or call: 03457 48 49 50

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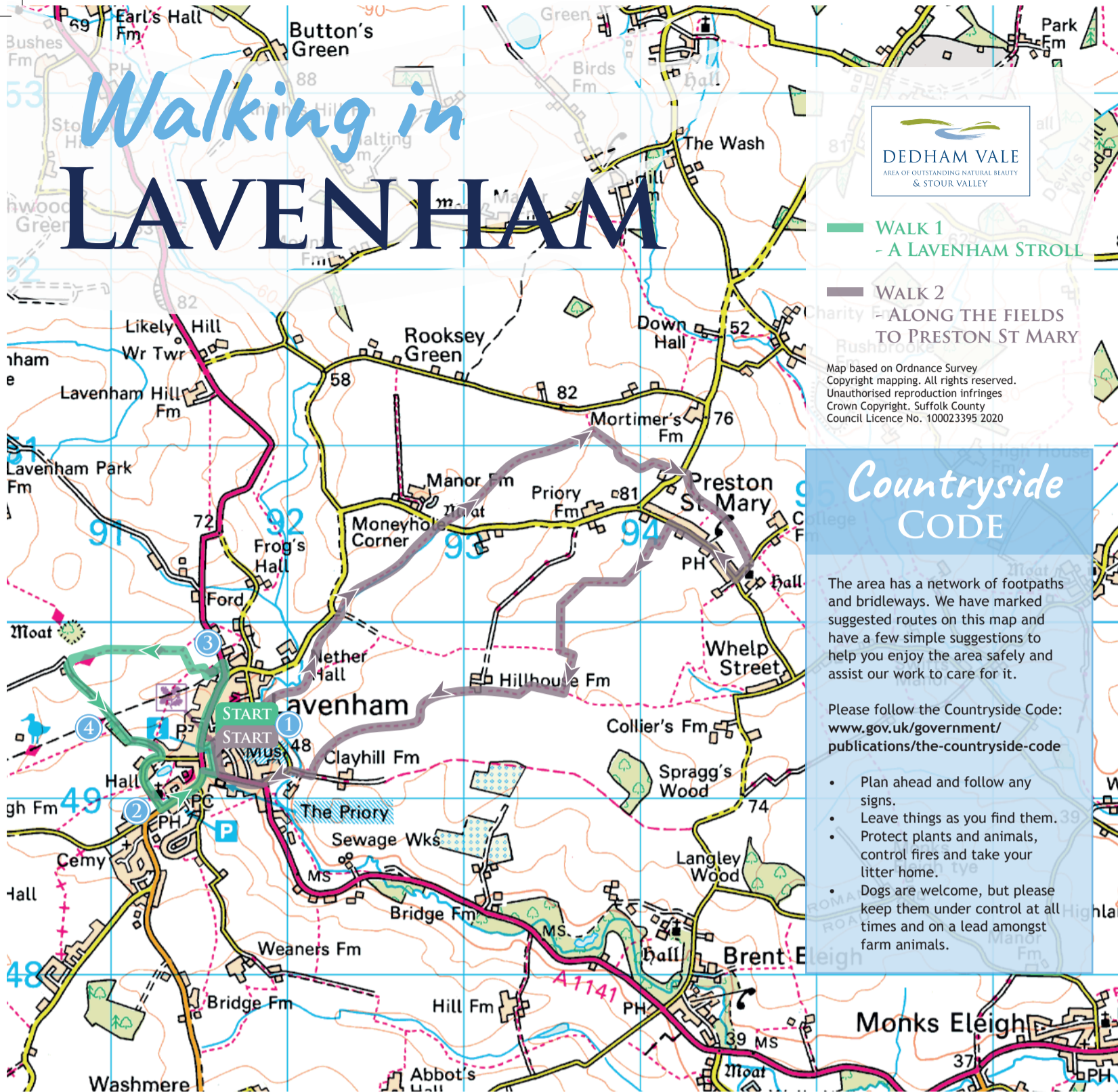


Walking in LAVENHAM



Follow quiet paths and explore the natural environment of the beautiful rolling countryside surrounding the picturesque historic village of Lavenham





the hedgerow and ditch now on your right hand side. Continue along this path, which crosses via a small wooden footbridge to the other side of the margin, until you reach a road. Cross the road (take care), continuing along the



FIELD MARGIN FOOTPATH

next field margin, with the treeline now on your left. At the first corner of the field, follow the path straight ahead (ignoring the bend around the right) and follow the path around the next field margin. You will come to a junction where the footpath turns right through a gap in the tree line, in front of a large tree. Turn right and almost immediately left, passing a pond ditch on your right.

Follow the field margin path with the field on your left and the ditch and tree line on your right until the next field corner where you will find a fork in the path, signposted with a way marker. Turn right. Follow the path along the left hand side of the field, with the tree line on your left. The path will enter a wooded area. Continue along the path, carrying on straight at the clearing, continuing along the next field margin path. Follow the path as it bends round to the left around the corner of the field. Shortly after this bend, turn right along the footpath through the treeline into the next field.

Once through the treeline, carry on straight along the path, with the field on your left. You will pass some houses on your right, and then come to a road. Cross over the road (take care and beware that there may be oncoming traffic from the blind bend to the right), continuing along a footpath.

At the next footpath junction, continue straight ahead, and follow path to the next road. Turn right and walk along the road (Church Lane)



THE SIX BELLS INN AT PRESTON ST MARY

until it joins The Street. Turn right and continue along The Street, passing The Six Bells Inn. Just beyond Laurel Cottage, you will find a footpath off to the left.

Follow this footpath along field margins, ignoring any farm tracks off to the right, until you come to a footpath junction. Cross the wooden footbridge and turn left. Follow the path around the field edge until you reach another footpath junction. Take the right hand fork, and keep following path across fields and through a wooded track until you reach the road.

Follow this road, Clay Hill Lane, over the bridge then straight ahead (bearing slightly to the left), passing the common on your right. After the common, continue straight onto Water Street, and take the third street on your right, Lady Street. Follow Lady Street back up to Market Place.

Countryside CODE

The area has a network of footpaths and bridleways. We have marked suggested routes on this map and have a few simple suggestions to help you enjoy the area safely and assist our work to care for it.

Please follow the Countryside Code: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

- Plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave things as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, control fires and take your litter home.
- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them under control at all times and on a lead amongst farm animals.

WALK 1 A LAVENHAM STROLL

Follow this route to explore the picture postcard village of Lavenham and see some of the nearby wildlife and nature spots.

Walking Distance: 2.2miles/3.5km
Time: 1 hour (not including stops)
Start/ Finish: Market Place, Lavenham, CO10 9QZ
Terrain: Paths and tracks, some minor roads and village roads which may contain road traffic. Route can be very muddy in places.

From Market Place, head down Market Lane to the High Street. Turn right and continue along High Street over the old railway bridge, ignoring (for now) the turn off to The Lavenham Walk. Continue along the road until you reach Dyehousefield Wood on your left. Enter through the gate. There are orienteering maps should you wish to take one. Carry on down through Dyehousefield Wood, belonging to the Lavenham Woodland Project, until you reach a path at the bottom. Turn right



continue along the footpath, then turn right again (the path leads you across a large field). You are now on the St Edmund Way. Continue along the path until the next junction, and then turn

left. Continue to follow the path until it meets Park Road. Turn left onto the road. You are now heading back towards Lavenham and can see the church in the distance. This is a quiet lane, but do take care of traffic, and walk facing oncoming vehicles so they can see you clearly. As you walk back along the road towards Lavenham, you will pass a gate with a signpost for Lavenham Walk on your left. At this point, you can go and explore the Lavenham Walk and part of the orienteering course, but will need to come back on yourself to continue along Park Road back into Lavenham or turn left onto footpath that brings you back onto Park Road. At the end of



LAVENHAM CHURCH

the lane, at the junction, turn right. Follow the picturesque Potland Lane until you reach Lavenham Church. After visiting the Church, continue to the end of the lane, where it meets Church Street. Turn left onto Church Street, and using the pavement, follow this road back onto Lavenham High Street and the centre of the village. You can return to Market Place by turning right at the Swan Hotel into Water Street, and then left up Lady Street.

WALK 2 ALONG THE FIELDS TO PRESTON ST MARY

Easy to follow paths and tracks take you in a circular route from Lavenham to Preston St Mary, with lovely views across rolling hills and to the village of Lavenham and its church.

Walking Distance: 5.5miles/8.8km
Time: 2.5 hours (not including stops)
Start/Finish: Market Place, Lavenham, CO10 9QZ
Terrain: Flat paths and tracks, mostly along field margins. Some minor roads and village roads to cross or walk along for short distances. There are steps in one location, and several small footbridges but no stiles. Route can be very muddy in places.

Starting in Market Place, head down Prentice Street. At the end of the street, you will find a footpath crossing over the bridge. Follow this path. Continue on the path diagonally across the field, over the brow of the hill, and continue along it where it follows the hedgerow margin over the other side of the field. Follow path along the edge of the field, keeping the hedgerow and Preston Road on your left. At the edge of the field, use the steps to cross into the next field, continuing along the field margin with