

LONG MELFORD *Highlights*

1 LONG MELFORD'S HISTORICAL BUILDINGS
Long Melford is home to many historic buildings with interesting architecture. The grand red brick building in front of the church is Holy Trinity Hospital, built in 1558 by Sir William Cordell, Lord of the Manor of Melford. On the green in front of the old hospital you can see the stump of the old 13th century village market cross where a market was held from 1235. Further south, on the green opposite Melford Hall there is



an unusual red brick building. This is a water conduit, built in the 16th century to supply spring water to Melford Hall. Moving down Hall Street, The Mill B&B was formerly the home of WW1 poet and author, Edmund Blunden who died in 1974. Next are the Bull Hotel (built 1450) and Brook House (built 1495) that was once an inn. Cocoa-nut House is a remnant of the coconut matting industry in Long Melford during the 19th Century. The Crown pub, built 1610 as a coaching inn, was where the notorious

Riot Act was read to assembled villagers in 1885. At the southern end of Hall Street, look out for a Victorian post box set into the wall of The Old Cottage, and old pub emblems above shop doorways. At Chapel Green there is another old maltings building, and the area further along the green (in front of the houses on Roman Way) has been excavated as part of the Roman road that originally ran through the village. Further south is The Maltings (now residential flats), built 1878 and owned by the brewer Trumans. The brewing industry played a vital role in Long Melford during the Victorian era. The old Railway Station, open between 1865 and 1967 on the Stour Valley line between Sudbury and Cambridge, is now a house.

2 THE TWO MANORS OF MELFORD
Kentwell Hall, one of England's finest Tudor houses, was built between 1520 and 1550 by the Clopton family who were local wealthy wool merchants. The house stands at the end of a ¾ mile long driveway flanked by ancient lime trees and has 30 acres of gardens and grounds. A classic example of an Elizabethan e-Plan manor house, with the most extensive moat in the county. The house still retains its grandeur including a Great Hall with a

Minstrel's Gallery. Melford Hall is a large red brick Elizabethan house, built around a quadrangle and ornamented with mitre-topped turrets. It was mostly



constructed in the 16th Century, and sold to the Hyde Parker family in 1786, who still own the hall to this day. Beatrix Potter was a cousin of the family and a frequent visitor to the Hall from the 1890s onwards. The house is now managed by the National Trust. Both houses are open for visitors and events at various times throughout the year.

3 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
This impressive church stands on a hill at the north end of Long Melford. There has been a church on this site for at least 1,000 years, although the church was almost entirely re-built in the 15th century at a time of growing prosperity among the local cloth merchants. The main body of the church was completed in 1484, with the Lady Chapel being completed in 1496. The only parts of the structure dating from before this time are the five bays of arcading at the west end of the nave, which are considered on

architectural grounds to be about a century earlier, and possibly the porch. The original tower of the church was destroyed by lightning around 1710. A Georgian brick and plaster replacement was built around 1772, however this was considered rather unappealing. The present tower, which is 118 feet tall and dates from 1903, was therefore built around this older tower as part of a commemoration to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

4 MELFORD COUNTRY PARK & THE LONG MELFORD WALK
Melford Country Park is an 8 hectare Local Nature Reserve, made up of grassland, deciduous woodland and flooded former gravel workings. The River Stour forms the western boundary of the park, and there is a beautiful walk through the woodland, lakes, grassland and along the river. There is a car park, toilets and plenty of picnic tables and benches for visitors. Melford Walk is a 2 km stretch along the former railway line on the eastern boundary of Long Melford. It forms an area of over 4 hectares and passes under old bridges, through wooded valleys and on top of raised embankments with views of the village.



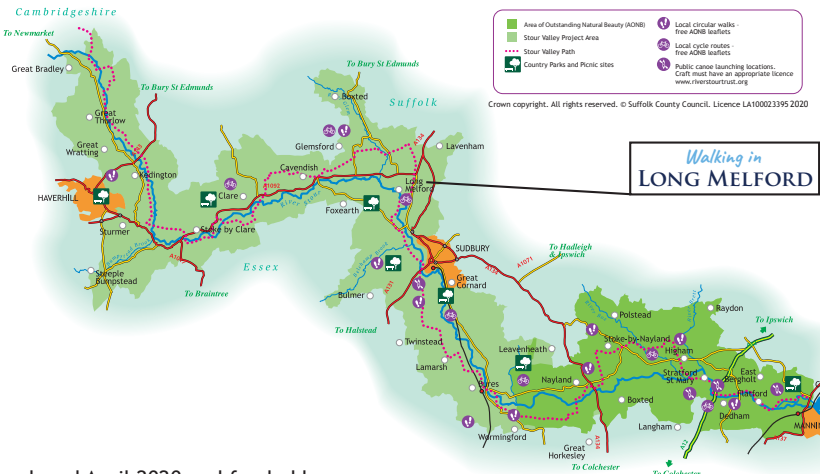
THE STOUR VALLEY

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 LONG MELFORD & THE STOUR VALLEY

- Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 196 (Sudbury, Hadleigh and the Dedham Vale).
- By car: Long Melford is bypassed by the A134, 12 miles south of Bury St Edmunds and 16 miles north west of Colchester. The A134 is easily accessible from the A14, A12 and A604.
- For more information about the history of Long Melford, visit the Heritage Centre situated at the rear of the Village Memorial Hall in Chemists Lane. The centre is open from April until November on Saturdays and Sundays 10am to 4pm, and Wednesdays 2pm to 4pm. Admission is free.
- By bus: buses operate regularly between Long Melford and Sudbury. For timetables, visit: www.traveline.info
- By train: Long Melford is 3 miles from Sudbury Train Station. For timetables, visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call: 03457 484950
- There is parking available at Long Melford Country Park and the Long Melford Heritage Centre (the starting points for the walking routes), and next to The Old School Community Centre (CO10 9DX). Donation boxes are present at all car parks.

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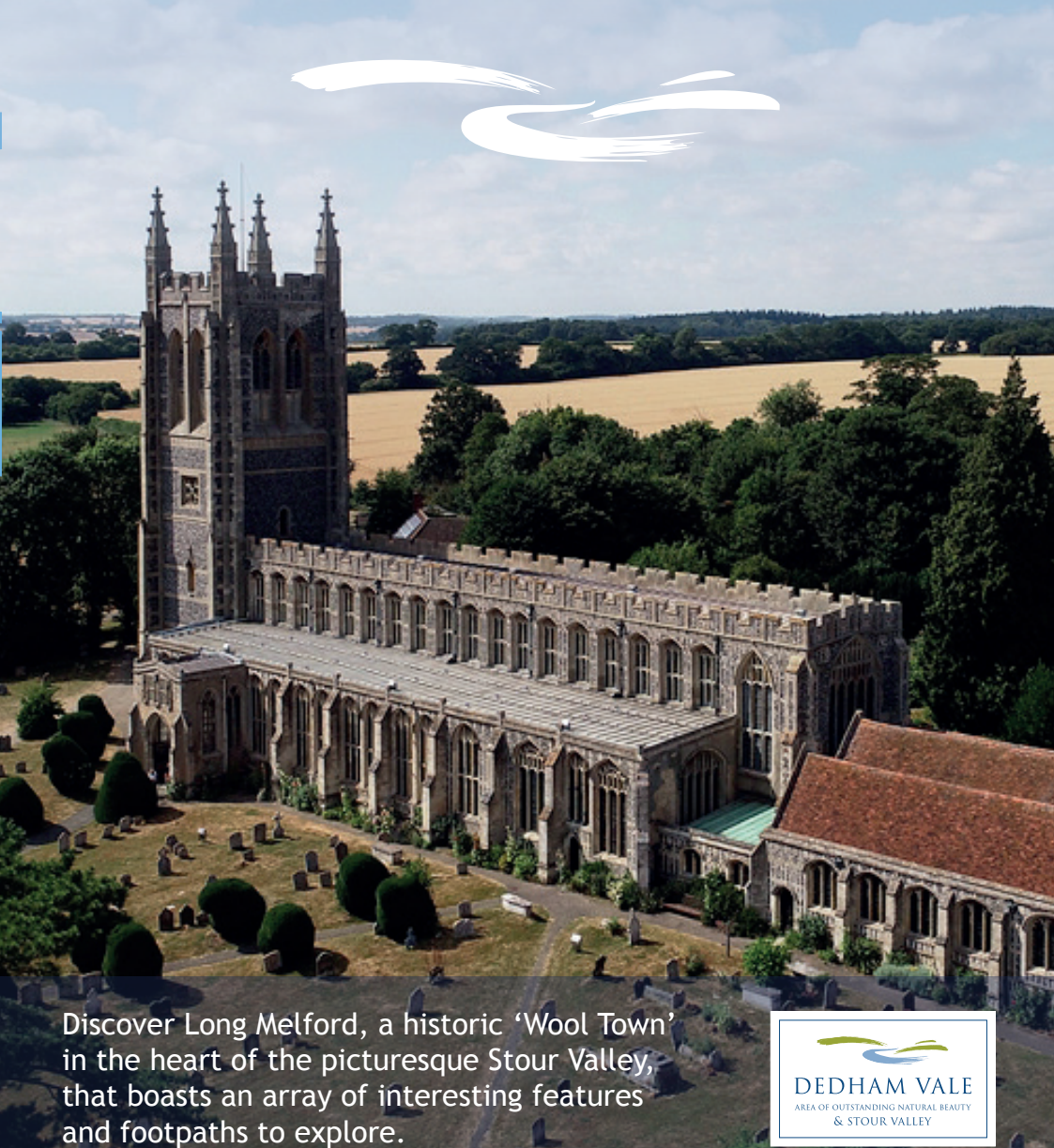


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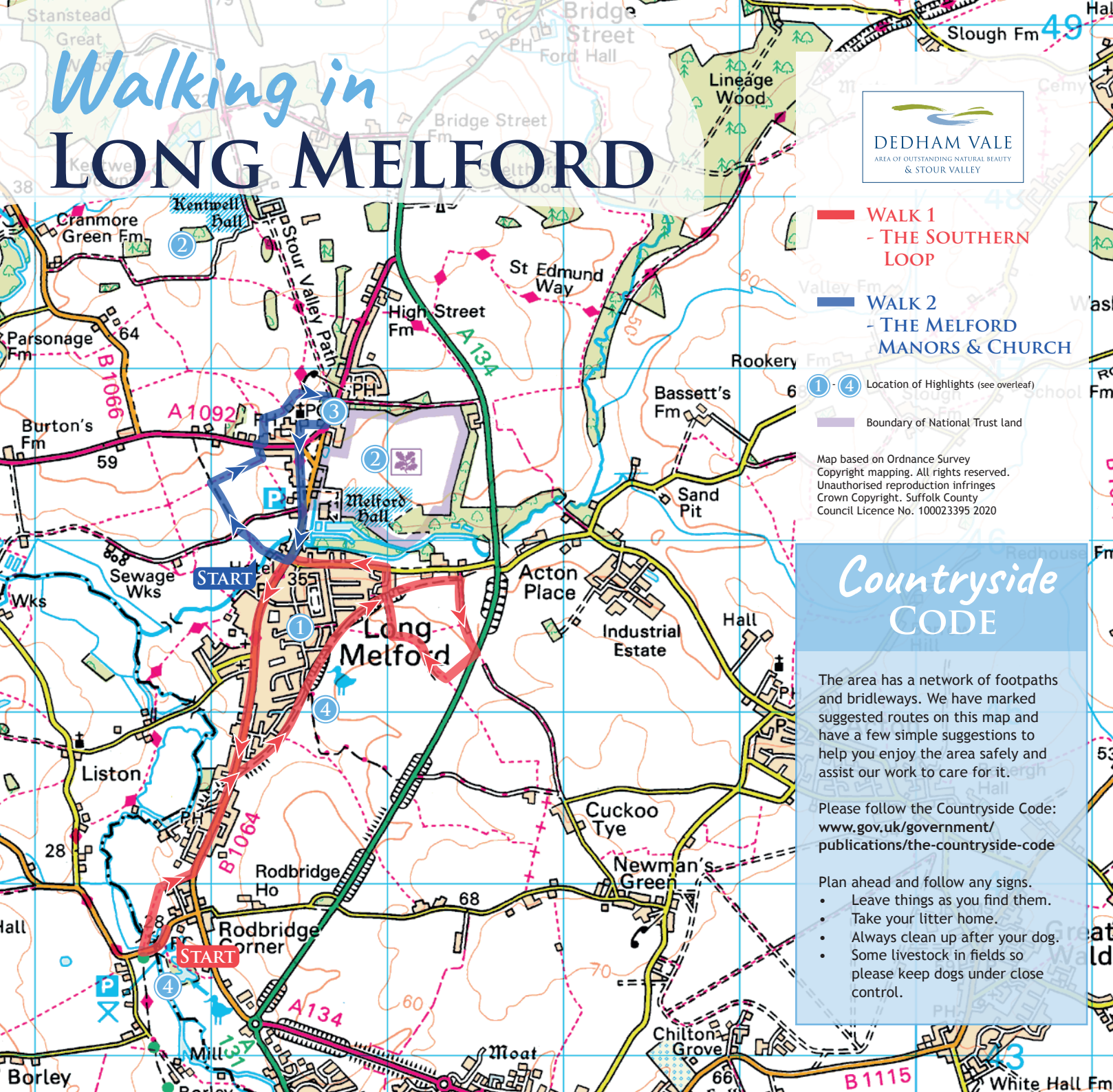
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Walking in LONG MELFORD



Discover Long Melford, a historic 'Wool Town' in the heart of the picturesque Stour Valley, that boasts an array of interesting features and footpaths to explore.





Cross over the bridge opposite the Heritage Centre and take the footpath forking to the right and walk up a sunken lane. There is a good view of Melford Hall on your right. Walk straight ahead at the intersection of paths, where there is a great view of Holy Trinity church and the Alms Houses on your right. At the next intersection of paths, follow the footpath on the right across the field, following line of telegraph poles. At the edge of field turn left up to the road. Cross over the road in front of Westgate House. Head right and take the marked footpath on your left, down the side of Westgate House. Follow path as signposted.



On reaching a paddock, head right towards Holy Trinity church through a steel gate and walk across the paddock. Go through the next steel gate. To your right, you can go and visit Holy Trinity Church. Then continue down the marked footpath opposite the church driveway, accessed through a wooden gate. Head down towards a steel gate approximately 30



yards on right. Walk across a paddock to the far-right corner and go through woodland to another steel gate. Turn right keeping the fence and church on your right. Cross over a stile to the bottom of Kentwell Hall drive. The Hall is at the end of the drive to your left if you wish to visit. Turn right down the drive to the main gates. At the gates head right along pavement with Lodge Cottage on your right. At end of the stone wall turn right and walk across the green in front of the Holy Trinity church. (Public toilets available Easter to November). Cross over the green to Church Walk. Turn right if you wish to visit Holy Trinity Church. Turn left. Walk past the Black Lion Hotel and cross the road. Continue walking down passing Melford Hall on your left, the Old Village School on your right and crossing over the bridge. Opposite the Bull Hotel turn right alongside Brook House and make your way back to the start point.

WALK 1 THE SOUTHERN LOOP

This circular walk will lead you past old Maltings buildings, along disused railway lines, down Long Melford's eclectic main street and through the beautiful country park. Keep an eye out for the remnants of the town's Victorian industry.

Walking Distance: 4.9miles/7.9km
Time: 2 hours (not including stops)
Start/ Finish: Long Melford Country Park, Borley Road, CO10 9HH
 Free Parking at Country Park. Public toilets and café.
Terrain: Footpaths, tracks and village roads. Route can be muddy in places. Dog friendly walk.

From Melford Country Park, exit car park in corner at pedestrian gate signposted "Welcome to the Valley Trail". Cross over an iron bridge, turn right following the footpath sign crossing old railway bridge. Follow the



track around to the right up to main road (Station Road). Turn left. At Cameron Close, cross the road to join the old railway footpath signposted "Welcome to The Melford Walk". Walk straight ahead along the disused railway line for approximately one and

a half miles, following the footpath signs. You will go under two railway bridges. At the end of the railway walk you will reach a disused tarmac road, turn right and go around a 6-bar metal gate. Walk up the tarmac road. At the end of the road, head right up a concrete path. On reaching



a hard standing, go straight ahead and follow a slight right onto an old car track between the fields. There is a good view of Holy Trinity church on your right and the Old Maltings



straight ahead. Follow the track round to the right and continue left keeping hedgerow on your right for approximately 10 metres. Look for a right turn through the hedge. Cross over a foot bridge and follow the footpath crossing the field. Cross over another foot bridge through the hedgerow into next field and follow path across field to hedge end. Walk on right side of hedge. After about 50 metres head right across the field

THE SOUTHERN LOOP CONTINUED...

(waymarked unrestricted byway). Cross over the old railway bridge (this was one of the two bridges you walked under when on the old railway track). Go straight ahead between houses and down onto Bull Lane. Turn left. Just before the Bull Hotel there is a public toilet on your left, next to the Parish Council office. Pass along to the right of the Bull Hotel with care. Turn left in front of the hotel onto Hall Street. Carry on down Long Melford's main road - Hall Street. Once past the George & Dragon pub use the traffic island opposite Long Melford library to cross the road. Continue down the street that becomes Little St Mary's. Carry on walking and you will soon reach the point of retracing your steps back to the Country Park.

WALK 2 THE MELFORD MANORS & CHURCH

Follow this route to explore the picture postcard village of Long Melford, taking in views of historic Manor Houses and Churches.

Walking Distance: 1.8miles/2.9km
Time: 1 hour (not including stops)
Start/Finish: Long Melford Heritage Centre, at Long Melford Village Memorial Hall, CO10 9JQ
Terrain: Footpaths, tracks and village roads. One stile. Route can be muddy in places.
 Dog friendly walk.