



27 SUFFOLK SNAPE

▶ Distance: 12 miles/19km ▶ Time: 6 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



The Suffolk Coast Path along the River Alde.



PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP

A SYMPHONY OF SUFFOLK SIGHTS



CHOSEN BY...
FIONA BARLTROP

Situated beside the attractive River Alde, Snape Maltings is home to a renowned concert hall, shops, galleries and restaurants. It is one of the main sites of the Aldeburgh Festival, founded by Benjamin Britten, who lived

in the town, and it also hosts the Snape Proms in the summer. Two long-distance paths, the Suffolk Coast Path, and the Sandlings Walk, intersect at Snape Maltings. This circuit combines a stretch of each to create a lovely walk, with a particularly scenic initial section along the river. →

'Cygnet' moored at Snape Maltings.

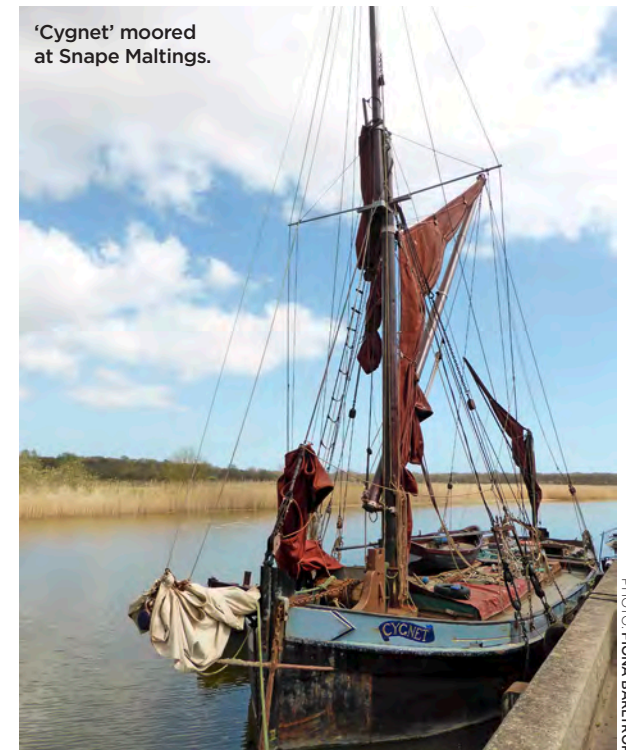


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▶ OS Explorer map 212 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

1 Start
From the entrance to Snape Maltings on the south side of Snape Bridge, walk alongside the river, then turn R along the wooden boundary boardwalk – good view of the concert hall on your R – to the Barbara Hepworth sculpture, Family of Man. In the field beyond is the shire horse sculpture, Perceval. Although there isn't a public right of way, it is (at present) permissible to walk round the field past the sculpture – just follow the trodden grass. Bearing R you join the Suffolk Coast Path and turn L. Follow the path across boardwalks and alongside the river to Iken Cliff, from where in the past vessels transported corn and coal to London and elsewhere.

2 1½ miles/2.5km
The original Iken Hall, a large Victorian house, was the

setting for a children's opera by Britten. Today, idyllically situated overlooking the river here are Iken Barns, beautifully converted self catering barns, an ideal base for this and other walks in the area (see www.ikenbarns.com and www.suffolk-secrets.co.uk). The view from here towards the church in the distance is particularly fine. Continue along the riverside path to the road and turn L, then L again to atmospheric, part-thatched St Botolph's pilgrim's church.

3 2½ miles/4km
Retrace your steps to Iken Cliff and, continuing on the Suffolk Coast Path, turn L and again to the road. Turn R, then L and head on southwards. The route takes you past fields of pigs, then through Tunstall Forest, crossing a couple of roads, to B1084 and Chillesford.

4 6½ miles/10.5km
Turn R passing the pub, then R along Pedlar's Lane (track). At the next junction, bear R, now following the Sandlings Walk. Keep ahead at another junction passing Bracken Farm on the R. Re-cross the B1078, continuing on a narrow path on the other side, keeping ahead (where a faint path forks L) to a track. Turn L and soon R, with another R bend a few yards on. A signpost here says Snape 3.5 miles. Keep following the Sandlings Walk waymarks (ignore the Viking Trail cycle ones), watching out for a L turn.

5 9½ miles/15.25km
From here the route leads to Blaxhall Heath/Common. Cross the B1069 and at the next road junction turn R to return to Snape Maltings. **CW**



St Botolph's church at point 3.

PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP



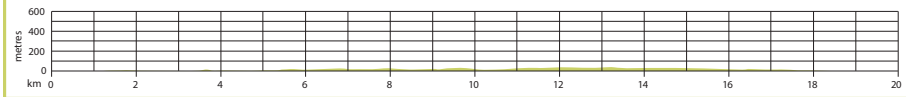
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Looking along the River Alde towards Iken Cliff.

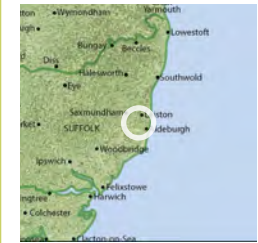
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GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Free parking at Snape Maltings, grid ref TM392575. If busy, free parking at Iken Cliff Picnic Site (between pts 1 & 2)
Is it for me? Long but easy walk following well waymarked Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk. Initial stretch alongside river may be flooded at high spring tides
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest towns Aldeburgh and Saxmundham
Refreshments Plenty of choice at Snape Maltings; The Froize Inn, Chillesford; Tel: 01394 450282
Public toilets At start
Public transport Bus 65 Ipswich-Aldeburgh
Maps OS Explorer 212; Landranger 156

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING