

## 1 Anger Fen Local Nature Reserve



Suffolk's ancient 'Wildwood' has almost disappeared which is why you should visit this largely unspoilt and very important area.

Apart from the trees you'd normally expect to see in a traditional Suffolk wood, there is an unusually large number of wild cherry trees. On the field edge, you'll find a magnificent service tree.

The area is home to interesting wildlife, including grasshoppers, warbler and nightingales in the Summer and hawfinch in the Winter.

*Between Bures and Nayland, 2 miles south of Assington village.*

01473 264782

## 2 Barham Picnic Site



The sheltered, grassy picnic site is an ideal place to spend time near the River Gipping and nearby lakes. Both the river and lakes are handy for good angling, there's disabled access and plenty of wildlife.

The picnic area is near the Gipping Valley Centre, which is the base for a stimulating and varied programme of themed walks, talks and events. Contact the Countryside Service to find out more.

*Signposted from the A14, off Pesthouse Lane in Barham village.*

01473 264782

## 3 Belstead Brook Meadows



A traditional grazing meadow on the north bank of the Belstead Brook, this is part of the popular Belstead Brook Park. The meadow is a fine example of its kind and a pleasant place in which to walk and observe wildlife.

You can also wander along the oak avenue that was planted to celebrate the 90th birthday of the late Queen Mother.

*Part of Belstead Brook Park, park at Bobbit's Lane.*

01473 433995

## 4 Bramford Meadows Picnic Site and Local Nature Reserve



Conveniently close to Ipswich, this is a charming series of small traditional water meadows separated by drainage ditches that follow the course of the original River Gipping. The river was straightened in 1790 to make it easily navigable.

You can stroll in the meadows, watching out for unusual butterflies, fish from platforms – with disabled access - on the River Gipping, and visit Bramford Church over the bridge.

*Use the car park off Ship Lane, Bramford.*

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## 5 Brandon Country Park



This popular Country Park – the gateway to the Brecks – has something for everyone. You can enjoy a gentle stroll by the lake, a picnic and spend time among the flowers and herbs of the walled garden. If you're feeling more active, you can follow the tree and history trail, cycle off-road or tackle the orienteering course.

Contact the Ranger to find out more about the year round programme of events.

*On the B1106, 1 mile south of Brandon.*

01842 810185

## 6 Buttrum's Mill Woodbridge



This is one of the finest mills of its kind in England. It dates from 1835, last worked in 1928, and has been fully restored. There are four impressive shuttered sails and a working fan tail, used to turn the cap and sails to face the wind.

Climb to the top of the tower and there are superb views of the nearby historic town of Woodbridge.

*Signposted from the A12, off Burkitt Road, Woodbridge.*

01473 264755

## 7 Cattawade Picnic Site



You're in the heart of Constable Country here. Flatford Mill, the former home of the painter John Constable, is a bracing walk away. The picnic site itself is on the edge of the Stour estuary and is excellent for bird watching. You could see redshank, lapwings and oystercatchers breeding on the pastures of Cattawade Marshes.

If you like to fish or canoe, you can do so from the purpose-built platforms.

*Near the junction of A137 and B1070 at Brantham.*

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## 8 Clare Castle Country Park



Ancient and modern combine here in a most unusual way. The castle itself is Norman. But, curiously, there's a Victorian railway station inside the castle and the visitor centre is today housed in the old goods shed.

The remains of the old castle moat are now a series of ponds and there's also a charming nature trail along the old railway line. Contact the Ranger to find out more about the year round programme of events.

*On the A1092, signposted from Clare town centre.*

01787 277491

## 9 Dunwich Greyfriars



Until it disappeared under the waves, the medieval town of Dunwich was one of the most important ports in the country. Today, Dunwich Greyfriars is all that remains.

When you walk through the gateways and enter the magical ruins of this 13th century friary, look out to sea from the cliff-tops and imagine what lies beneath the sea.

*On Westleton Road, Dunwich. Parking available in the village car park.*

01473 264782

## 10 Fen Alder Carr Local Nature Reserve



Perhaps one of the most mysterious spots in a county blessed with them, this is an intriguing woodland of large alder trees, ditches and a pond. Follow the board walk round the wood into the a large open area of fen and you almost step out of time.

The perfect place to soak up some of the sense of ancient, unspoilt mystery so characteristic of the Suffolk countryside.

*From Needham Market, pass Hawks Mill, turn left at t-junction, right at Fen Lane.*

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## 11 Glemsford Picnic Site



As soon as you head slightly off the beaten track, you discover that the countryside in this part of Suffolk is lovely. Whether you're visiting, or simply just breaking your journey, you'll enjoy relaxing or strolling on the banks of the lazily meandering River Stour.

The meadow is bursting with wild flowers in the spring. In summer you can watch the dragonflies and damselflies constantly darting over the water.

*South of the A1092 at Glemsford, off minor road to Pentlow and Foxearth.*

01787 277491

## 12 Haughley Picnic Site



If you're travelling between Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds on the A14, this 'green stop' is the perfect place to picnic and get some fresh air. You can also stretch your legs in the nearby Gallowsfield Wood.

The Wood was planted in 1987 to commemorate European Environment Year and includes an arboretum featuring the trees of Suffolk's celebrated countryside.

*On the A14 3 miles north of Stowmarket.*

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## 13 Holton Post Mill



Fans of windmills will be delighted with this immaculately preserved and unusual 18th century post mill on a 2-storey round house. The mill is still turned to face the wind by a fantail.

Overlooking the pretty Blyth River valley, the mill is a stone's throw from the village of Holton and not far from the attractive town of Halesworth.

Holton Mill is privately owned and only open to the public one or two days a year.

*On the B1123, 1 mile east of Halesworth.*

01473 264755

## 14 Hoist Covert



If you want to spend time at Walberswick National Nature Reserve this former gravel working site is a good place to start.

Keen walkers will discover plenty of invigorating walks across the Nature Reserve and beyond. The nearby reedbeds and heath are very popular with serious birdwatchers, and when you're done, it's a perfect place for a picnic.

*Near Walberswick, on minor road to Westwood Marshes.*

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## 15 Iken Cliff Picnic Site



With its wonderful views across the River Alde, this is a great spot to picnic and enjoy nature. The mud flats and salt marshes are internationally important feeding grounds and migration sites for waders and wildfowl. You might see shelduck, redshank and avocet.

When you've finished your picnic, it's a short walk to the internationally renowned Snape Maltings or charming Iken Church.

*On the Iken road, 2 miles south of Snape.*

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## 16 Knettishall Heath Country Park



To get a sense of the significance of the Brecklands and its historic past, visit this large, diverse, Country Park.

You walk through open grass and heather heathland, mixed woodland and river side water meadows. It is home to a fascinatingly diverse range of wildlife. The park's many earthworks include a superb example of a Bronze Age round barrow.

Contact the Ranger to find out more about the popular year round programme of events.

*Signposted from the A1066, 6 miles east of Thetford.*

01953 688265

## 17 Landguard Local Nature Reserve



440 species of wildflower and grasses, including the nationally very rare Stinking Goosefoot, grow on Landguard Common - a sand and shingle spit near Felixstowe port.

Little terns and ringed plovers nest on the bare shingle with their eggs artfully camouflaged. The view from Landguard Fort, at the southern tip of the spit, is well worth the walk.

*Access from Manor Terrace car park, Felixstowe.*

01394 673782

## 18 Lavenham Walk



Lavenham is celebrated for its half-timbered houses, a reminder of the town's medieval prosperity arising from the cloth trade.

Try this easy 1.5 mile walk along the railway line, and you'll see cowslips. They grow up on the chalk exposed when the railway was built in 1865.

The walk takes you past Lavenham Church, the ancient Lineage Wood and Lavenham Hall.

*Start at the Lineage Arch Bridge car park, Street Road, Lavenham.*

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# You'll love exploring all of these countryside recreation sites...

Nature Reserve

Picnic site

Walks and trails

Woodland

Car parking

Wildlife and birds

Visitor Centre

Information

Limited opening

Disabled Facilities

Toilets

Castle

Ancient Monument

Windmill

Height Barrier



## 19 Melford Walk



Passing behind the main street of pretty, historical Long Melford, is this pleasant grassed walk. The walk itself is a short link between the Valley and Lavenham Walks, should you be wanting to really stretch your legs and discover them all.

If you want to break up your walk, you might want to picnic here or head into Long Melford for refreshment.

*Near Bull Lane car park, Long Melford.*

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## 20 Nacton Picnic Site



Some of the best river views in Suffolk are on the River Orwell – which gave the writer George Orwell his name. From the picnic site, you can sit and watch ships navigating the narrow channel up-river to Ipswich.

The Orwell's mudflats are an extremely valuable food source for a wide variety of wintering birds. Between December and March, the bird watching is terrific.

*Signposted from Nacton village.*

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## 21 Ramparts Field Picnic Site



If you keep an eye out when you walk on this pleasant Breckland heath, you can spot many plants such as harebells and thyme that are special to the Brecks.

The site itself is a gorse-filled ancient gravel workings and is a good starting point for exploring nearby King's Forest. It's also convenient for the well known West Stow Country Park, with its fascinating Anglo-Saxon village.

*Off the A1101, 5 miles north of Bury St Edmunds, 1 mile south of Icklingham.*

01953 688265

## 22 Rede Wood Local Nature Reserve



If you love nature, this fragment of ancient woodland is perfect. It's mature oaks, hazel, ash and field maple are home to over 100 flowering plants, 49 species of fungi and 45 kinds of bird.

When you visit in the spring, you'll see wood anemone and the unusual early purple orchid. And you may hear the drilling of woodpeckers or the song of the nightingale.

*On the minor road between Claydon and Ipswich, south west of Henley.*

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## 23 Rodbridge Picnic Site



Whether you simply want to picnic or try the 3 mile Valley Walk to Sudbury, this is a delightful place to visit. Since they were flooded, the gravel pits near the River Stour have become an excellent place to observe wildlife.

The walk along the riverbanks, shaded by willow and poplar trees, is particularly pleasant. It's also popular with anglers.

*Off the A134 at Rodbridge Corner, 2 miles north of Sudbury.*

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## 24 Thorpeness Beach and Mill



Scottish playwright G Stuart Ogilvie bought Thorpeness in the early 1900s. He decided to create a mock-Tudor model holiday village – which remains intact today - and moved the 19th century mill to the village in 1923. It is still a working mill, supplying water for the village's unique water tower.

The unspoilt beach, with a charming view of picturesque Aldeburgh, is a short walk from the car park.

*On public footpath to the north of Thorpeness Mere.*

01394 384948

## 25 Toby's Walks Picnic Site



With a splendid view of Blythburgh church, known locally as the 'cathedral of the marshes', Toby's Walks is a wonderful place for a picnic and, if you're feeling active, to walk or even cycle.

According to legend Toby Gill was a black drummer in Robert Rich's dragoon regiment, assigned to the area in the late 18th century to try and stop smuggling, which was then rife. The spooky story behind the name Toby's Walks is fascinating, so it's well worth a visit to discover more.

*On the A12, 1 mile south of Blythburgh.*

01473 264782

## 26 Valley Walk



If you're intrigued by supernatural Suffolk, you have to take this walk, but do it in daylight.

At first, public footpaths take you onto the tranquil riverside meadows of King's Marshes and Sudbury Common Lands. But, take the former railway line and you pass very near Borley Rectory, which was the most haunted house in England between 1863 and 1939.

*Access from either Rodbridge Picnic site or Ballingdon Road and Station Road car parks, Sudbury.*

01787 277491

## 27 Walberswick Visitor Centre



From the 13th century to World War I, Walberswick was a thriving port. Today, it is a charming and very popular seaside village. It's also a good starting point for walks along the beach, on the nearby marshes and heaths or over the river to Southwold.

You can find out more at the village and surrounding countryside at the visitor centre.

*On Walberswick village green, near the car park.*

01394 384948



Which site will you discover next?



## Explore Suffolk

One of the great things about our sites is that you're never too far from a sleepy village or bustling market town.

When you've worked up an appetite walking in the countryside or stimulated your hunger for history, you might want to sniff out a traditional pub or 'best kept secret' restaurant.



## Experience history

You're never far from the past in Suffolk. These are just some of the many sites of historical interest in which you might want to spend time.

The Heathland Walk at **Knettishall Heath (16)** is certainly charming but you'll also be surprised and intrigued when you come across a 4000 year old archaeological feature.

When you visit **Clare Castle (8)** which has a close connection to 1066, as well as getting a real feel for what it must have been like to live in a Norman castle, you'll also find out why Clare Castle Country Park is utterly unique

**Dunwich Greyfriars (9)** is an atmospheric ruined 13th century friary on the cliffs above Dunwich beach. It's all that remains of what was once one of Britain's busiest ports.

Just down the coast, **Thorpeness (25)** is a model holiday village, with an unspoilt beach, built round a classical boating lake in 1923. Taking out a boat, with ice-cream to follow, is still very popular with visitors. When you visit the Mill, you'll be amazed at the famous "House in the Clouds".

## Enjoy nature

We have plenty of countryside sites in which to walk, look at wildlife and simply enjoy nature.



Walk in the footsteps of travellers throughout history, in ancient woods, across heathland, through fens and alongside rivers. As you go, you might want to go birdwatching or keep your eyes peeled for the other wildlife



Several of our sites have a lively year-round programme of walks and events. You can hunt for varieties of unusual fungi and go looking for glow-

worms. Who knows, you might strike lucky and see the extremely rare nightjar bird. The kids can go on safe, organised Easter and Halloween trails as well as have a go at pond dipping



If you're a lover of traditional country pursuits like fishing (freshwater or sea), cycling or orienteering, you're spoilt for choice in Suffolk.

## Where will you go?

Did you know that Suffolk County Council manages over 27 Countryside Sites. You might be visiting for the first time, coming back for a closer look or wanting to find out more about what's on your doorstep. Whoever you are, whatever you want to do, you'll be delighted to discover the wealth of magical places tucked away in our countryside.

*All different and all special in their own way.*



Explore Suffolk's countryside

Explore Suffolk's countryside

### Did you know?

**Buses and trains** – Many of our countryside sites are served by Public Transport. Call the Suffolk County Council TravelLine on 0870 608 2608 for more information.

**Disabled people** – Disabled people are very welcome at all our sites and, where possible, they have facilities for wheelchair users. If you need more assistance, contact a Ranger.

**Group visits** – We welcome all types of group visits and can assist with arrangements where possible.

**Opening times** – Most sites are open daily but there are a few restrictions on some sites.

**Free admission** – Nearly all the sites are free but there is a small fee at Buttrum's Mill and Thorpeness Mill and car park charges at Thorpeness Beach, Clare Castle Country Park and from Easter 2005, Knettishall Heath Country Park.

**Dogs** – Unless there are stated restrictions, we welcome well-controlled dogs so long as you clean up after them.

我們設有電話傳譯服務，如欲使用，請撥電 01473 264000，留下你的姓名、所用語言和電話號碼，便會有翻譯員回覆你的。

01473 264000

If you'd like any more information please contact us. We'd also welcome your feedback on any of the sites and the service we provide. **Countryside Service**, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

**Telephone:** 0844 800 0101

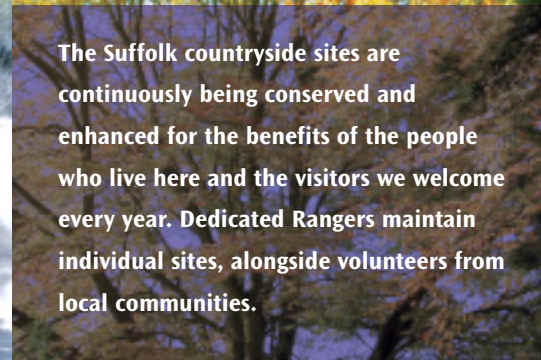
**Website:** [www.suffolk.gov.uk/e-and-t/countryside](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/e-and-t/countryside)

We work in partnership with District Councils and local organisations. Brandon Country Park is managed in partnership with Forest Heath District Council. Landguard Local Nature Reserve is managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust.



## Enhancing our countryside

The Suffolk countryside sites are continuously being conserved and enhanced for the benefits of the people who live here and the visitors we welcome every year. Dedicated Rangers maintain individual sites, alongside volunteers from local communities.



*This leaflet only scratches the surface of the rich variety of sites we manage for you. No wonder so many people like you come back to Suffolk County Council's countryside sites again and again*



*Enjoy nature*



*Where will you go?*