



Market Place, Lavenham,
Sudbury CO10 9QZ

TRAIL
Walking

GRADE
Easy

DISTANCE
4.5 miles (7.2km)

TIME
2 hours

OS MAP
Landranger 155 or
Explorer 196

Contact

01787 247646

lavenhamguildhall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Facilities

Parking : Free in Lavenham

Food and Drink : Tea Rooms
at Lavenham Guildhall and
Melford Hall. Many other outlets
in both locations.

WC's : At Lavenham Guildhall
and Melford Hall (when open)

National
Trust

nationaltrust.org.uk/walks

Lavenham to Long Melford railway walk

A self-guided walk from Lavenham to Long Melford - through woods and open fields - largely following the route of the old GER Lavenham to Long Melford railway line. The walk provides the opportunity to see wild flowers alongside birds and animal wildlife in their natural habitat. You start and finish in these two well-preserved medieval 'wool' villages.



Terrain

Woodland, tree roots, field paths, public footpaths and permissive paths. Can be quite muddy and waterlogged through SSSI area. Adequate and waterproof footwear may be necessary. Dogs welcome under close control - on leads where signed. Take care crossing busy main A134 Sudbury-Bury St Edmund's road.

Things to see



Lavenham Guildhall

No visit to Lavenham is complete without going to the Guildhall of Corpus Christi. Before starting your walk, step inside and learn about the changing fortunes of Lavenham - from the boom times of the cloth industry to the poverty of the 19th century. Make sure to explore the Railway History Room before you go and don't forget our tea-room.



Lavenham station

Lavenham was on the Long Melford Bury St Edmunds branch line running between Long Melford on the Stour Valley Railway and Bury St Edmunds on the Ipswich to Ely Line. The line opened on 9 August 1865 and closed to passengers on 10 April 1961; goods trains continued for a little longer. The station buildings at Lavenham are gone but this picture gives a feel of the time.



Wildlife and plants

Many species have been recorded along this disused railway line, including common and lesser whitethroat, blackcap, goldcrest, treecreeper, bullfinch, garden warbler and marsh tit - along with records of the unusual, such as pied flycatcher, redstart, whinchat, firecrest, red warbler, waxwing, little egret and red kite. During May and June, this Common Spotted Orchid may be seen in the SSSI section.



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Start/end

Start: Lavenham Guildhall, grid
ref TL916493

End: Melford Hall car park
TL867462

How to get there

By car: Take B1115/
B1071 from Sudbury via
Gt Waldingfield. Lavenham
Guildhall CO10 9QZ (the start)
is in Market Place off the main
High Street.

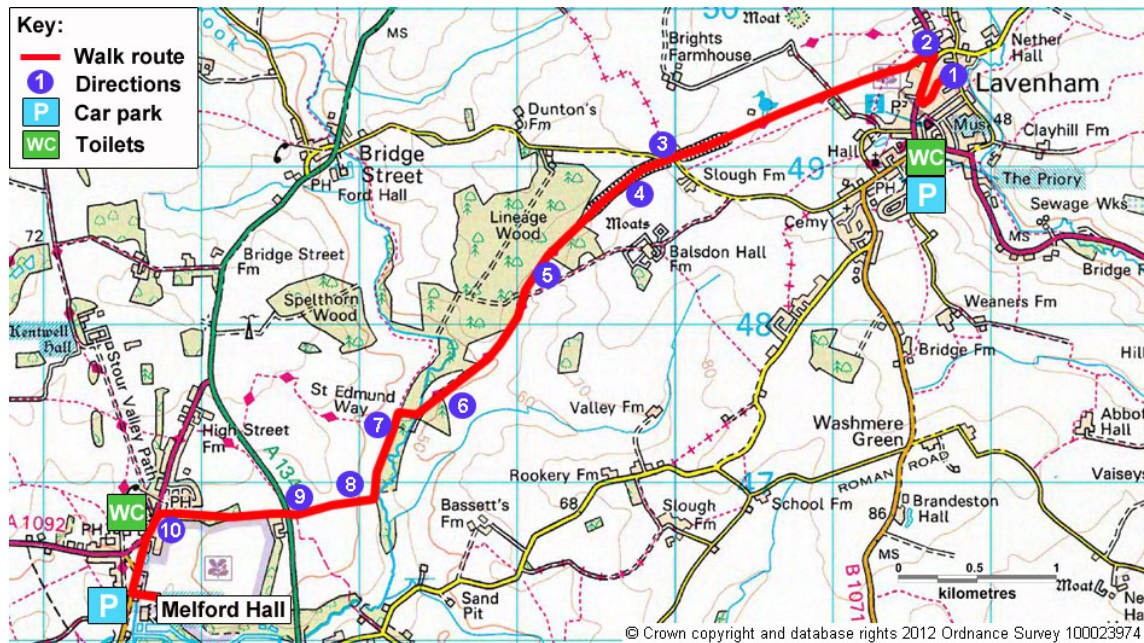
By cycle: South Suffolk Cycle
Route A1, Sustrans

By bus: Chambers route 753
from Sudbury bus station, 7
miles, Chambers Coaches. Bus
return from Long Melford to
Lavenham Chambers route 753
hourly (no service Sundays).

By rail: Sudbury, 7 miles

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1. Starting from the Guildhall, walk to your left across Market Square, head down Market Lane to the High Street. Turn right at the bottom and cross the road. Continue along High Street for about 300 yards (274m) until reaching a sign for the 'Lavenham Walk' to your left.

2. Enter the Lavenham Walk, which is the start of the old railway line.

3. You will shortly reach a pair of metal gates, which is the road crossing at Park Road. Continue on until reaching Bridge Street railway bridge.

4. Shortly after going under the railway bridge at Bridge Street Road, you'll reach a fence, signifying the end of the 'Lavenham Walk' section, leading to an old railway cutting which has now been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

5. At the end of the cutting the path enters an area of woodland (for 400m or so), passing through Lineage Wood to the right and Paradise Wood to the left. When exiting the woodland, you have reached the site of an 1891 railway accident.

6. Keeping the treeline to the right, continue for approximately 0.7 miles (1.2km) until eventually reaching another small area of woodland to the left. After a further 200m, the path turns right and crosses through the wood for about 100m.

7. Exit the wood and turn immediately left, keeping the treeline to the left and ignoring the marker post to the right (St Edmund Way). Continue on for about 500m until reaching the end of the field.

8. When reaching the end of the field, the path heads immediately right - climbing uphill - and eventually reaches the main A134 Sudbury to Bury St Edmunds road.

9. This road is very busy, so carefully cross the road and go through the gate on the opposite side.

10. Now turn left along the A1092 and follow the footpath for about 600m. The entrance to magnificent Melford Hall will be found on the left.