



Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk,  
CO10 9AA

**TRAIL**  
**Walking**

**GRADE**  
**Easy**

**DISTANCE**  
**4.5 miles (7.24 kms)**

**TIME**  
**2 hours**

**OS MAP**  
**Landranger 155**  
**TL867462**

## Contact

01787 379228  
melford@nationaltrust.org.uk

## Facilities

Food and drink : Melford Hall tea room (during opening times). Lavenham Guildhall tea room (during opening times). Other outlets available in both villages.

WC's : Melford Hall gatehouse (during opening times), Lavenham Guildhall and various other outlets.

Parking : Melford Hall car park (during opening times). Street parking (free) where available.

Gift Shops : Melford Hall and Lavenham Guildhall (during opening times)

**National  
Trust**

<http://nationaltrust.org.uk/walks>

# Long Melford to Lavenham railway walk

This walk from Long Melford to Lavenham, through woods and open fields, largely follows the route of the old Great Eastern Long Melford to Lavenham railway line, providing the opportunity to see wild flowers, birds and animal wildlife in their natural habitat. Starting and finishing in these two well-preserved mediaeval 'wool' towns you can return to Long Melford by bus.

## Terrain

Woodland, tree roots, field paths, public footpaths, 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



## Deer

Point No. 4 is the most likely spot to see deer. None were to be seen when researching this walk, so the deer in this shot are fallow deer at Hatfield Forest (<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest/>). Well worth a visit.



## Special Scientific Interest

This cutting is an area of heavy undergrowth and will invariably be found to be muddy and/or waterlogged. Selected areas of the banks of this cutting are being returned to grass, and others left as semi-natural woodland. The grassland is mown annually in late autumn and provides a valuable habitat for insects and wildlife



## Wildlife

Many species have been recorded along this dis-used 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. Here is a goldcrest



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## Start/end

Start: Melford Hall car park, grid  
ref: TL867462

End: Lavenham Guildhall, grid  
ref: TL916493

## How to get there

By bike : National Route 13  
passes through Long Melford,  
see the Sustrans website for  
more information

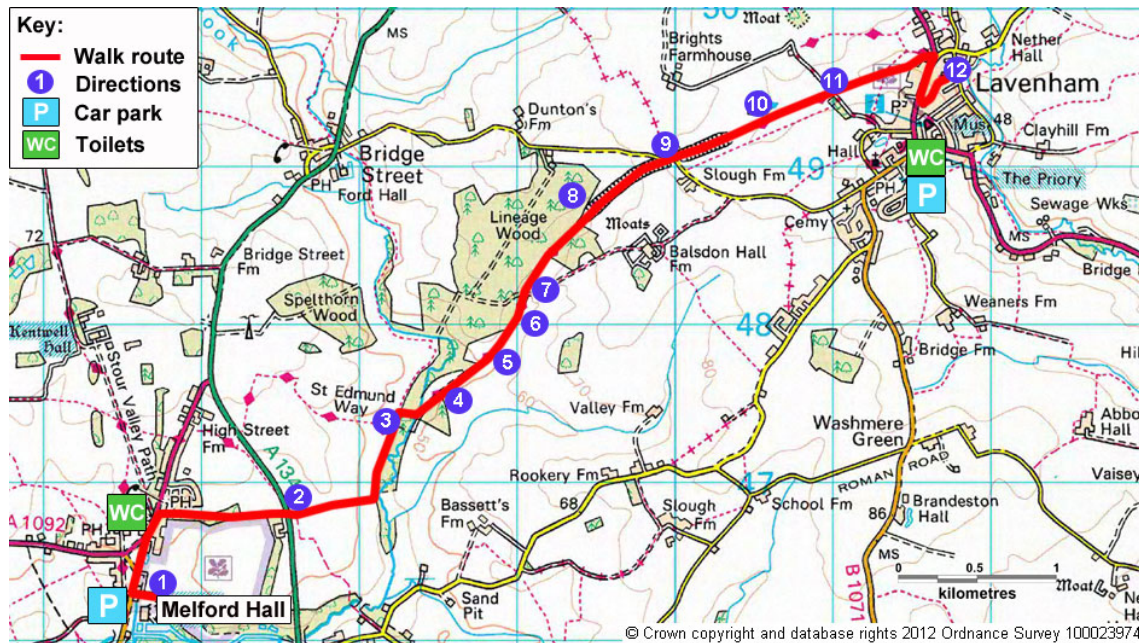
By bus : Chambers Coaches  
route 753 Bury. St Edmunds/  
Sudbury - Sudbury/Bury St  
Edmunds. See Chambers  
Coaches

By train: Station Road,  
Sudbury, CO10 6SU, 4 miles

By road : Entrance to car park  
and grounds opposite village  
green, A1092 off the A134 - 14  
miles from Bury St Edmunds, 4  
miles from Sudbury

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1. Visit magnificent Melford Hall if you have the time - home of the Hyde Parker family for many years, or have a coffee in the tea-room before you start. Then starting from the Melford Hall car park, turn right out of the gate, and keeping to the same side of the road, walk 200-300 yds passing the 'Hare' Pub until reaching the Cherry Lane Garden Centre. Entering the garden centre bear right just past the building entrance and look for the public footpath sign. This is known as Hare Drift.

2. Hare Drift continues along a concrete path until joining the main A134 Sudbury to Bury St Edmunds road. The traffic on this road can be very fast, so crossing the road with great care go through the gate on the opposite side of the road, and walking straight ahead, follow the footpath, which after a 100 yards or so, continues downhill.

3. At the bottom of the hill turn left and follow the tree line ignoring a footpath sign to the left (St Edmund's Way). You will find an exit through the trees on the right hand side after about another 100-200 yards or so.

4. Going through the trees continue across a small bridge over the River Chad, heading slightly uphill until exiting into a plain with scrub to the right. You can see 'signs' now covered with scrub, showing where the path was/should be.

5. Head up the plain for about 200 yards keeping the scrub to your right, until the path runs along-side some woodland to the left.

6. Follow the path for about 400 yards until reaching a path 'crossroad'. The section after this is a 'permissive' footpath and dogs should be kept on leads.

7. Keep on for about another 200 yards or so until the path enters 'Lineage Wood' to your left and 'Paradise Wood' to your right. This is the site of an 1891 railway derailment.

8. When exiting the woodland you are now entering a section of railway cutting designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

9. You will have reached the end of the 'SSSI' section when reaching the Bridge Street railway bridge. The next section is now known as the 'Lavenham Walk'.

10. Continue on the 'Lavenham Walk' which is now owned and maintained by Lavenham Parish Council after divestment from Suffolk County Council in 2012, until reaching some metal gates.

11. When reaching the metal gates you have reached the Park Road crossing. Crossing the road, go through the gates, and continue on for approximately 400 yards, until reaching Lavenham High Street to the right of the Bury road railway bridge.

12. Now cross the road, and continue right up High Street, for approximately 300 yds, and turning left into Market Lane walk up to the Market Square. Lavenham Guildhall is across the Market Square, and you have now reached the end of your walk.

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