

# PUB WALKS with Darcy

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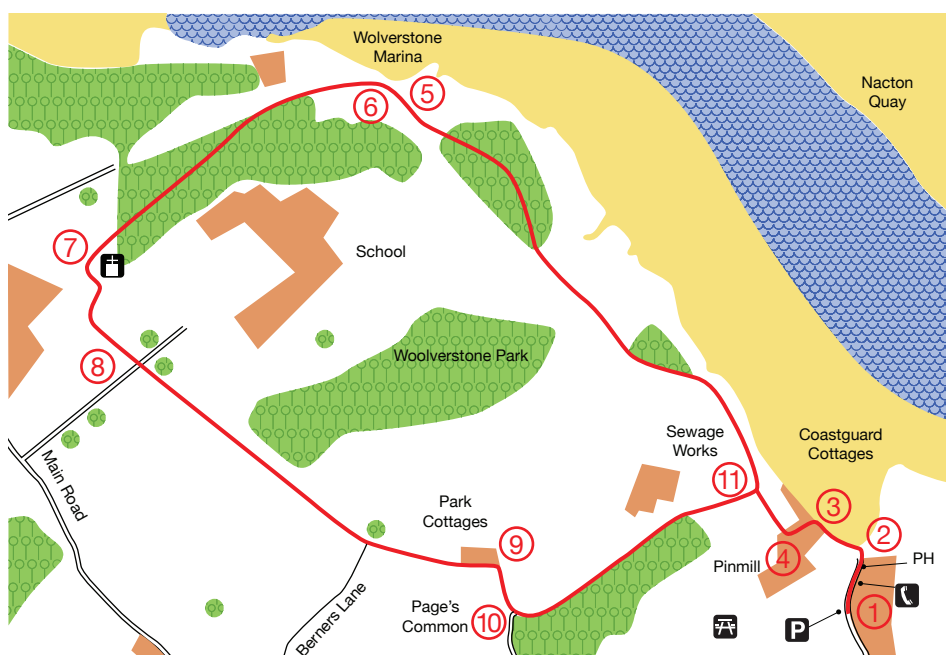
There can be few more iconic Suffolk locations than that of the Butt and Oyster at Pin Mill. Situated on the banks of the Orwell this public house was made famous as the setting for the opening chapters of two of Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* series of children's books and is a perfect place to stop and watch the world drift by after one of the prettiest dog walks we have had the pleasure to explore.

If by any small chance you haven't visited before, Pin Mill is a small riverside hamlet at the end of a lane half a mile from the village of Chelmondiston on the B1456 Ipswich to Shotley road. It is often said that beauty has a price and at times parking spaces can be at a premium however we have found the small pay and display very accommodating, reasonably priced and the perfect place to begin our walk.

Despite its popularity, and perhaps the reason for it, Pin Mill has retained the air of a bygone age. The river and river life dominate the setting. The ebb and flow of the tide brings with it an ever changing vista with an abundance of birdlife and an equal abundance of sailing folk toiling with tenders to and from the water's edge.

During the walk the river is never far from view but when it does slip out of sight it is replaced by stretches of beautiful woodland, open fields, the delightful Church of St Michael and the impressive grounds of Woolverstone Hall, the home of Ipswich High School for Girls.

The route is a gentle one with only the obstacle of a few very well designed and maintained styles to negotiate. Whatever the weather or whatever the season this is a walk to be savoured. ■



## THE WALK

**Distance:** Approx. 3 miles

**Time:** 1 to 1 ½ hours depending on your pace

**Terrain:** Mainly flat. 4 well designed and maintained styles to be crossed at point 8

**Stops:** Butt & Oyster (PH)

**Ordinance Survey Map:** Explorer 197

**Start point OS reference:** 206 379

As always please keep your dog under close control and follow any advisory signs.

For a printable version of this and previous walks go to [placesandfaces.co.uk/dog-walks](http://placesandfaces.co.uk/dog-walks)

1. From the car park turn left and walk toward the river.
2. With the Butt & Oyster on your right turn left and walk past Harry King's boatyard
3. Turn left at the Pin Mill Sailing Club then right at the footpath sign in front of a double garage.
4. Follow the path between the houses and the boat storage area and continue straight ahead. You will emerge into fields with the river appearing through the trees on your right and Woolverstone Hall coming into view on your left. Follow this path through a small area of woodland eventually emerging at Woolverstone Marina.
5. At the Marina pass in front of the small white cabin and keep to the path. At the end of the path are a dog bin and a footpath sign. Follow the sign and turn left onto the concrete road.
6. Passing the car park on your left after approx. 50 yards there is a small "Stour and Orwell Walk" waymark sign. Turn left here passing through a wooded area eventually emerging at the Church of St Michael.
7. Follow the fence around the churchyard keeping to the left. Opposite the porch of the church is a road where you can see two styles.
8. Cross over the second style (signed Chelmondiston) and cross diagonally to a further pair of styles. These styles sit either side of the main drive to Woolverstone Hall the home of Ipswich High School for Girls. Having crossed both styles go straight on to a final style and follow the path alongside an aged iron fence. (It should be noted that all styles are both easy to climb and provide easy passage for dogs by way of a lifting pole).
9. The path will have led you beside fields to your left with the river once again coming into view. You will eventually meet a small section of tarmac leading to a property on your left. Cross over this road and continue on the track ahead.
10. After a short distance the track dips ahead of you. Before this dip take the path signposted to your left. After approx. 5 minutes the track splits to a single path to the right. Follow this path.
11. At the end of the path, with trees to your left and the boat storage area to your right, you will meet a T junction. Turn right here. This path leads you to the double garage (point 4 on the walk instructions) from here retrace your footsteps to the Butt and Oyster and the start of the walk. ■

## Butt & Oyster



Situated in the hamlet of Pin Mill on the River Orwell The Butt & Oyster is one of the best known public houses in Suffolk renowned for its good beer, good food and great views.

The Butt and Oyster is a fantastic pub with a welcoming and traditional atmosphere. With or without a dog it is a great start or finishing point for beautiful walks that take in amazing scenery. Let the sounds of the Orwell seduce you. Watch the changing tides on traditional timeless shores. Understand an artist's inspiration with Thames barges, swans and the river, enjoying the finest Suffolk ales whilst being tempted by the wonderful aromas which welcome you.

Food offers are available throughout the week.  
See our website for details.

**Open: Monday-Saturday 11.00am until 11.00pm**  
**Sunday 12.00 noon till 10.30pm**  
**Food served 7 days a week**

Pin Mill, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1JW

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