

DISCOVER DEBEN & ALDE BY TRAIN AND BUS

This beautiful and interesting part of eastern Suffolk has been on the rail network since 1859 when the line from Ipswich to Lowestoft was opened. It is now served by modern bimode trains every hour, 7 days a week.

As the train from Ipswich approaches Woodbridge you enjoy grandstand views of Martlesham Creek and then the estuary of the River Deben with yachts and other vessels.

Woodbridge station is right alongside the river, which is tidal at this point. There are attractive walks along its banks with a range of places to eat and drink, the volunteer-run town museum and the unique **Tide Mill** – which still works and is open to the public. Nearby is the Long Shed where you can view a replica Anglo Saxon ship being built. (www.woodbridgeriversidetrust.org)

The station house contains the **Whistlestop Café**, a florist and a taxi office plus a B&B. Walk up Quay Street to the Market Hill and Shire Hall or turn right half way up this street into the part pedestrianised Thoroughfare which is full of places to shop, eat and drink. The **Turban Centre** bus station is just off the Thoroughfare and the bus service **64** to **Leiston** and **Aldeburgh** also calls by the sports centre close to the railway station.

Service **71** operates 6 times a day (4-5 on Saturdays) to **Sutton Heath** past the approach road to **Sutton Hoo**. Demand-responsive transport is also available, if pre-booked under the Connecting Communities scheme, in the area between Woodbridge and the coast (Tel: 01728 635938).

You can catch the train or the **64** bus or enjoy the pleasant riverbank walk to **Melton**, a village which has grown considerably in recent decades and whose station was reopened in 1984 after being closed since the mid 50s. It is unusual in having a butcher's shop (as well as a taxi office) in the station house.

From **Melton station** it is a 30-minute scenic walk to **Sutton Hoo** where in the 7th century an Anglo Saxon King (probably Raedwald) was buried with all his treasure. The site overlooks the **Deben Valley** and is nowadays looked after by the National Trust who have a visitor centre and café.

Further up the valley are good views of the church towers of Melton, Ufford and Bromeswell before the railway parts company with the River Deben at Ash Abbey (on the left) and round the curve to **Wickham Market station**, in the village of Campsea Ashe. The station house, which stood empty for several years, has been restored to its former glory and contains a café, heated waiting room, baby changing and DDA compliant facilities plus meeting rooms for hire.

A minibus provides the “**Katch**” demand responsive service to **Wickham Market** village and up the valley of the Ore (a tributary of the Alde) to the market town of **Framlingham**. It will take you to the great mediaeval castle and you may also like to take a walk around the Mere from which you also see Framlingham College on the hill. For more information go to <https://www.katchalift.com> or phone 01728 635939 to book a journey.

Katch also provides a link in the other direction to the villages of **Tunstall**, **Blaxhall** and **Snape**. The world-famous **Maltings** complex here, by the River Alde hosts the **Aldeburgh Festival** and other music and arts events and contains interesting shops and places to eat and drink all year round. Summer boat trips on the river are also possible – www.suffolkrivertrips.com Tel: 07808 904727

If you continue on the train northwards, you cross the River Alde and over the marshes to the east, in clear weather, can you spot the white caps of **Snape Maltings Concert Hall**?

The train and the service **64** bus continue towards another interesting area covered in detail by our leaflet “Saxmundham to the Coast” including other local buses.



© Katch minibuses - CATS

For information about all trains operated by Greater Anglia log on to www.greateranglia.co.uk or phone 0345 600 7245. For First Eastern Counties buses log on to www.firstgroup.com/easterncounties or phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

The EAST SUFFOLK TRAVEL ASSOCIATION is the local independent voluntary body for train and bus users, formed when the East Suffolk Line was proposed for closure in 1965. You can join us via our website www.eastsuffolktravel.org.uk

Text by Trevor Garrod with input from several local members; map by Amy Louth; photos by John Thompson, Mike Farahar and Mike Cowling.

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Discover the Deben & Alde Valleys



Zak Nelson for First Bus image

By Train and Bus

Useful map &
information
inside



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WHAT IS ESTA?

The East Suffolk Travel Association, which has published this leaflet as part of a series of five, was formed as an independent voluntary body in 1965 when the Ipswich - Lowestoft rail line was proposed for closure.

Over the years it has campaigned successfully for the modernisation of the railway and for local bus services, which reach towns such as Southwold, Leiston, Aldeburgh, Framlingham and Bungay that are no longer on the rail network.

ESTA collects evidence of passenger experiences, good and bad, as part of its campaigning and wants to see integrated transport with trains and buses playing a greater role for local people and the many visitors to our area.

eastsuffolktravel.org.uk



- █ KATCH ROUTE
- █ BUS ROUTES
- █ TRAIN LINE
- █ ROADS
- █ RIVERS



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Text by Trevor Garrod
Map by Amy Louth



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