

Rendlesham Forest is a designated site because of the presence of rare birds, Woodlark and Nightjar. **Staverton** is home to some of the oldest trees in England. Together they are a wonderful combination.



Highlights

1 Rendlesham Forest was established during the First World War when Britain had increasing demand for timber. The first trees were planted in 1919. The forest covers an area over 1400 hectares, most of which was planted on the Sandlings Heathland. It is now managed by Forestry England.

In 1980, the Forest was the site of one of the UK's most infamous UFO sightings when US military personnel spotted strange lights hovering above the trees. The event is marked today by a 3-mile UFO trail that you can follow and learn more.

Timber is still harvested from the forest but is managed as a special place for nature and recreation. Miles of walking and cycling trails make it one of the most popular places to visit on the Suffolk coast.

2 Butley Priory is an Augustinian Priory, founded in 1171, originally covering an area of twenty acres, enclosed by a stone wall. All that remains today is a beautifully restored 14th century gatehouse and an arch, which once led out of the south transept of the church.

In 1538, Butley Priory, with all its lands and properties, was surrendered to Henry VIII but even before this it was a regular hunting ground for the nobility and became a royal hunting lodge before being granted, in 1540, to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.



3 Staverton Thicks is one of three wooded areas that forms what remains of medieval Staverton Park. This was once an area of 150ha, mostly occupied by woodland and some heathland.

These woodlands are designated sites due to their uniqueness and the rarity of the trees, lichens and birds found here. Some of the oak trees are well over 400 years old. Most of them are old pollards from the 18th century.

The Thicks is densely populated with holly trees, some are said to be the tallest in Britain and are over 150 years old. Some of these have seeded and grown in the hollow trunks of the now declining oaks.

4 Staverton Park and the lakes.

The majestic ancient pollard oaks of the Park, which have no public access, can be viewed from the footpath. The lakes are part of the farm irrigation system and provide a valuable habitat for many plants, insects, birds and mammals. They are a great place to see dragonflies in the summer.



The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape

The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape stretches from Kessingland near Lowestoft, down to Parkeston near Harwich on the Stour Estuary in North Essex. It is one of Britain's finest landscapes, nationally important for wildlife and beloved by residents and visitors alike.

The National Landscape conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the area through nature enhancement, landscape restoration, creating habitats for wildlife, volunteering activities such as beach cleans and hedge planting, and providing funding for community projects.



Scan the QR code to find out more about the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape or you can visit coastandheaths-NL.org.uk. Get in touch on **01394 445225**.

Key to map

- National Landscape area
Estuaries are also included
- Additional project area
- Town and villages
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Main roads
- Railways/stations
- Suffolk Coast Path
- Stour and Orwell Walk
- Sandlings Walk



Visiting Rendlesham Forest & Staverton

- Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.212 (Woodbridge and Saxmundham)
- Car:** Rendlesham Forest is off the B1084 Woodbridge/Orford Road. Paid parking available in Forest car parks
- Bus information:** Visit traveline.info or suffolkonboard.com
- Train information:** The nearest train station is Melton (5 miles away). Train timetable at nationalrail.co.uk



Rendlesham Forest & Staverton Explorer Guide

Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape

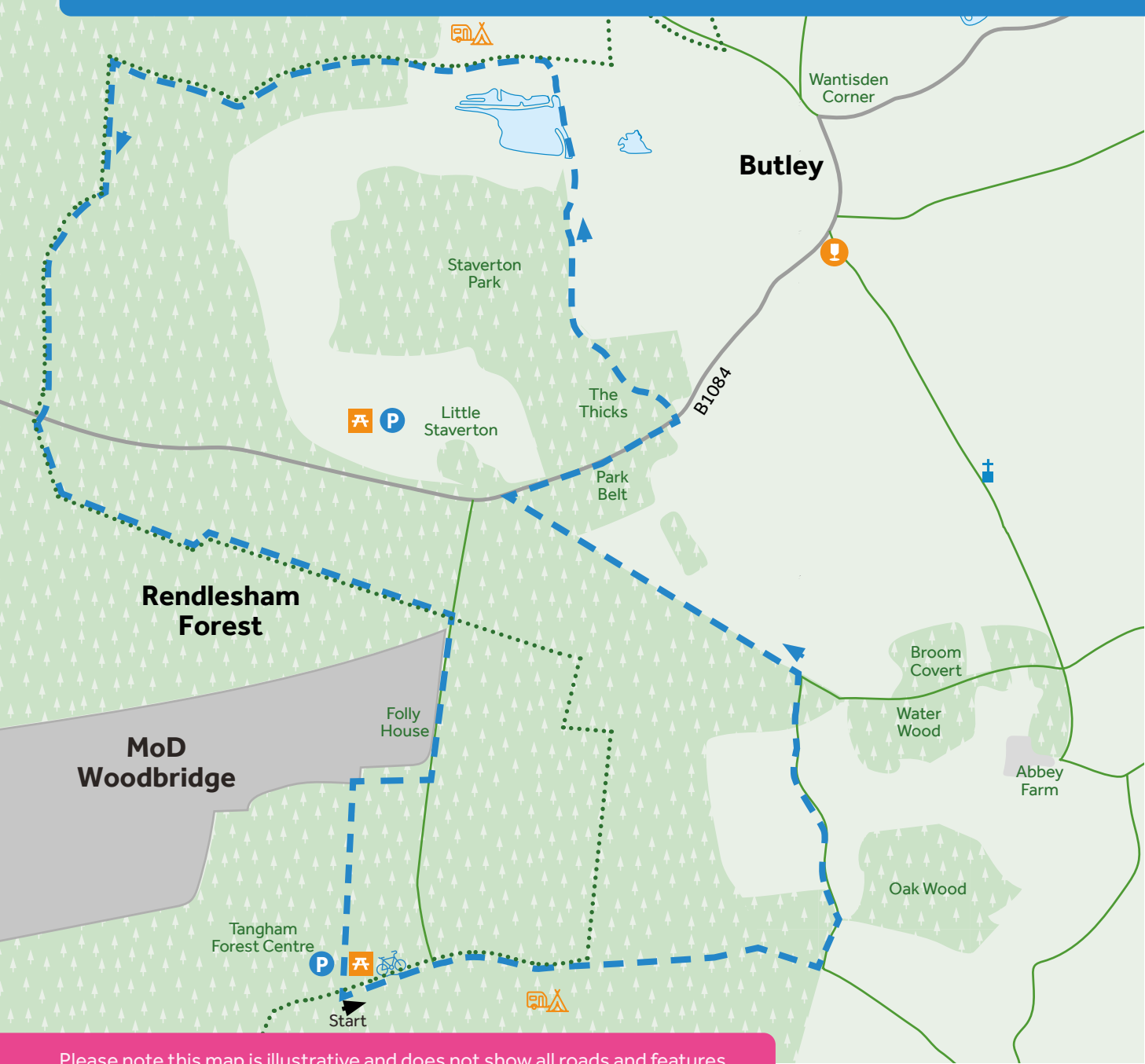


Explore the diversity of forest plantation and one of Suffolk's rare ancient woodlands

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Rendlesham Forest & Staverton Explorer Guide

Explore the woodlands in one long stroll or enjoy various shorter and easy access walks well sign-posted within Rendlesham Forest.



Please note this map is illustrative and does not show all roads and features

	Rendlesham Forest and Staverton Woodland walk		Picnic Site
	B Road		Cycle Hire
	C Road		Caravan Park
	Sandlings Walk		Settlements
	Church		Wooded Area
	Public House		Ministry of Defence
	Parking		

Some walks take you onto or across public highways.
Please be aware of traffic



Take a track on the left which is signed for the Sandlings Walk and head south into the Forest. The path will cross a small stream.

Cross the busy Woodbridge Road and continue south. At a T-junction of tracks turn left, at the next T-junction turn left and then bear right. The grass track joins a wide gravel track which leads to the main Rendlesham Forest entrance road, on reaching the road leave the Sandlings Walk and turn right to walk past the end of Woodbridge Airfield and Folly House.

Just past the car park area turn right onto a concrete forest track. Take the first left and continue straight ahead until you reach a T-junction. Turn left and head back towards the main forest car park and toilets.



Rendlesham Forest and Staverton Woodland walk

Terrain:

Mostly flat. Mainly paths but includes a 0.5 mile (800m) stretch along a busy road with no verge and approx. 1.5miles (2.4km) along a Quiet Lane and a road with wide grass verge. Routes can be muddy in places. Please adhere to any Forestry Commission notices about felling operations.



Distance:

7.7 miles (12.5 km)



Time:

3 hours



Between the woods, buildings of Abbey Farm can be seen where Butley Priory once stood. At the end of the lane turn left at the T-junction towards Melton. Walk on the wide grass verge. At the next T-junction turn right onto the busy Woodbridge Road towards Orford. After passing a small cottage set back in the trees on your left enter the woodland, known as The Thicks, at the Footpath sign.

Cross over the track that leads to the cottage and continue through the woodland remaining on the defined path. On leaving the woodland follow the footpath, which heads north, and joins a sandy farm track to continue past Staverton Park on your left. After approx. 600m you will pass a track on your left which leads to the Shepherds Cottage hidden in the trees.

The lakes then become visible on your left. As the farm track bears right turn left onto a bridleway to re-join the Sandlings Walk. **You remain on the Sandlings Walk until you reach the main entrance road into Rendlesham Forest.**

On your right you will pass the fence line of former RAF Bentwaters. Continue straight along the gravel access track and bridleway which borders the northern boundary of Rendlesham Forest.



Countryside Code

The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape has a network of footpaths and bridleways.

To protect you, other people, wildlife, and the landscape, please make sure you:

- Stick to marked footpaths
- Leave things as you find them
- Do not light fires or BBQs
- Take all litter home with you
- Please keep dogs under close control at all times and on lead as advised

Scan the QR code to find more advice and visitor guides, or visit

coastandheaths-nl.org.uk/exploring.

