



PUB WALKS with Darcy

Sponsored by

Christchurch
·Veterinary Surgery·

www.christchurchvets.co.uk

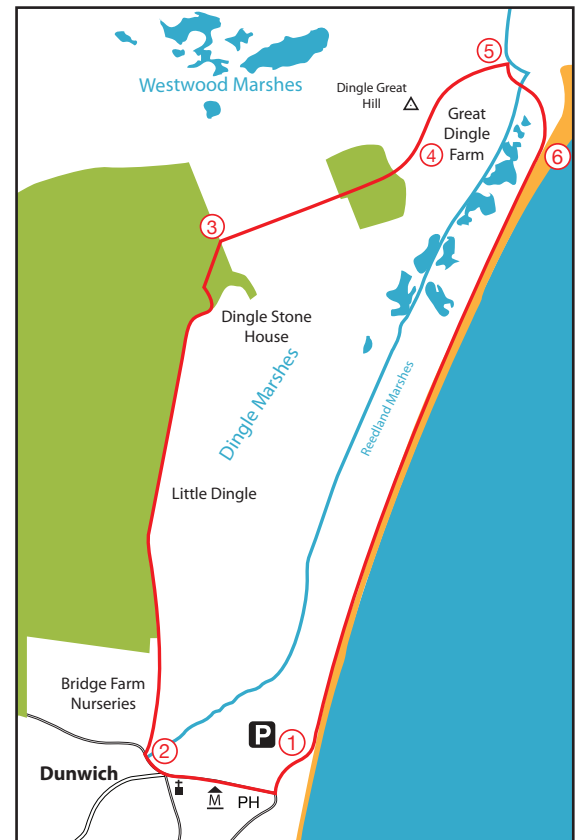


This month Darcy's pub walk returns to Dunwich. It is one of our favourite places and as winter draws in the prospect of end of walk refreshment by the fire at The Ship makes it an even more enticing one



I never cease to be amazed by the beauty of our county and this month's walk proved an absolute revelation as I encountered the Dingle Marshes above Dunwich for the first time. The walk, starting in the heart of the village, skirts the edge of Dunwich Forest before opening up into magnificent views across the largest freshwater reedbed in Britain. To the north Walberswick and Southwold can clearly be seen on the horizon however even with civilisation in view there is a sense of wilderness, splendid isolation and breath taking beauty. Although we walked on a day with crystal clear blue skies it is a landscape that challenges you to return on the bleakest most blustery day and promises that you will be richer for doing so. As well as stunning beauty the marshes offer a valuable wildlife habitat for otters and water voles plus the iconic bittern and impressive marsh harrier.

For those of you familiar with your way around an OS map you will see that midway through our route there is a feature marked somewhat boastfully as 'Dingle Great Hill'. Its peak stands a magnificent 12 metres above sea level and it occurred to me that as it is said 'in the land of the blind the one eyed man is king' then it seems that in Suffolk Dingle Great Hill is a veritable Everest. It is however in its position very impressive and certainly worth a look back over your shoulder. ■



THE WALK

Distance: Approx. 4 miles

Time: 1½ to 2 hours depending on your pace

Terrain: Flat with well-maintained paths/track and shingle beach

Stops: The Ship, tea rooms

Ordinance Survey Map: Explorer 231

Start point OS reference: 478 706

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

1. Park at the beach car park in Dunwich and walk back towards the village centre. Keeping The Ship and museum on your left walk through the village until you reach St James Church. At this point follow the road round to the right.
2. At Bridge House Nurseries & Tearoom turn right following the Bridleway/Suffolk Coastal Path sign. Keep to the right of all buildings following the well maintained track. You will see a sign 'Resident Vehicle Access Only' continue on this track
3. After approx. 20 minutes the track passes Dingle Stone House on your right and then Foxburrow on you left. Here the track turns to the right and through a wooded area.
4. Having followed the track for a short while you will come to a wooden gate. Pass through the gate and you will soon see ahead of you and red brick building (Great Dingle Farm). Before reaching the farm the path turns to the right marked by a yellow and blue Suffolk Coastal Path sign. Follow the path through the reed beds and toward the sea passing through a single wooden gate and behind a mound. (Looking back to your left here you will see 'Dingle Great Hill')
5. Having passed the mound the path splits. The Suffolk Coastal Path heads left here toward Walberswick. Our route turns right toward the sea and over Dingle Sluice.
6. The walk returns to the starting point by following the beach or the path behind the shingle bank. ■



Words and Photographs: Adrian Rawlinson

the SHIP

AT DUNWICH



Once a haunt of smugglers The Ship at Dunwich is now one of the most popular inns on the Suffolk coast.

You will find: real ales, real food and real fires, comfortable, traditionally furnished bedrooms, some with views over the marshes to the sea, an enormous garden, and a beach that really is just a short stroll away.

A perfect base from which to explore this wild and wonderful coastline, partake of some of the best fish and chips on the Suffolk coast or simply enjoy a pint or two of Adnams.

- Traditional home cooking
- Selection of real ales
- Crackling log fires
- Large garden
- 15 inviting and comfortable bedrooms
- Children and dogs very welcome
- Winter accommodation offers now online

Ideally situated on the Suffolk Heritage Coast in between Aldeburgh and Southwold, just a few minutes off the A12.

The Ship, Dunwich
Suffolk IP17 3DT
01728 648219
info@shipatdunwich.co.uk



www.shipatdunwich.co.uk