



PUB WALKS with Darcy

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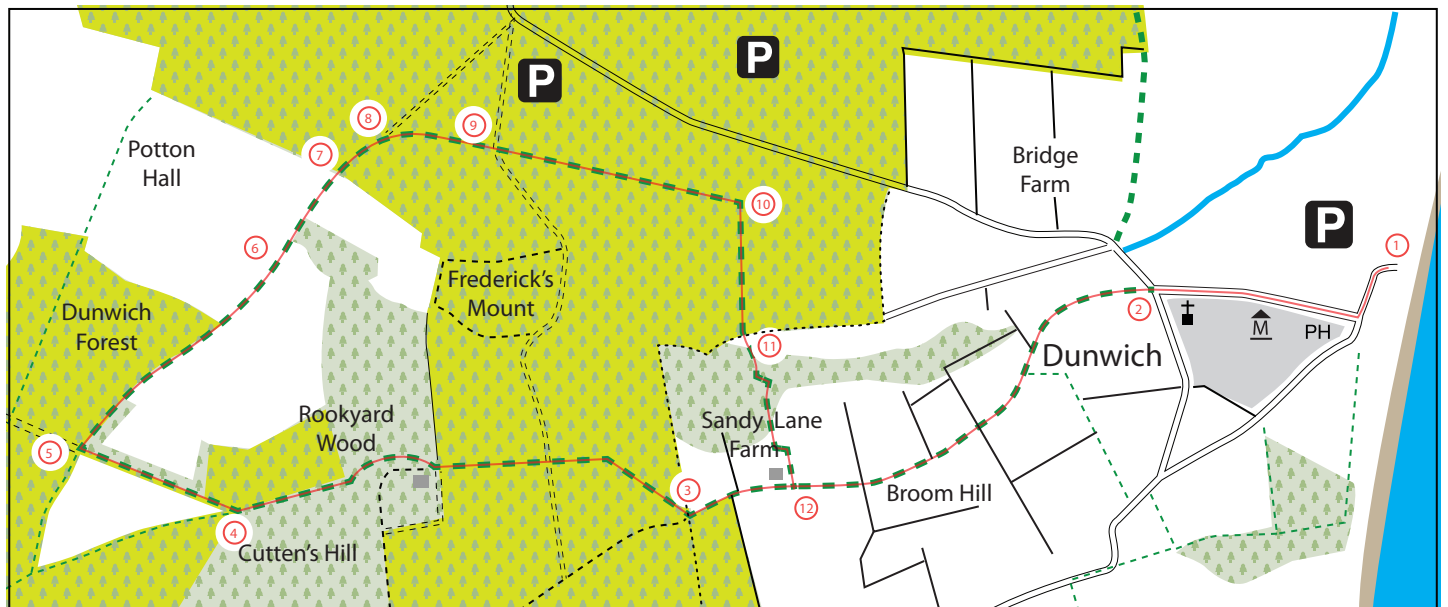
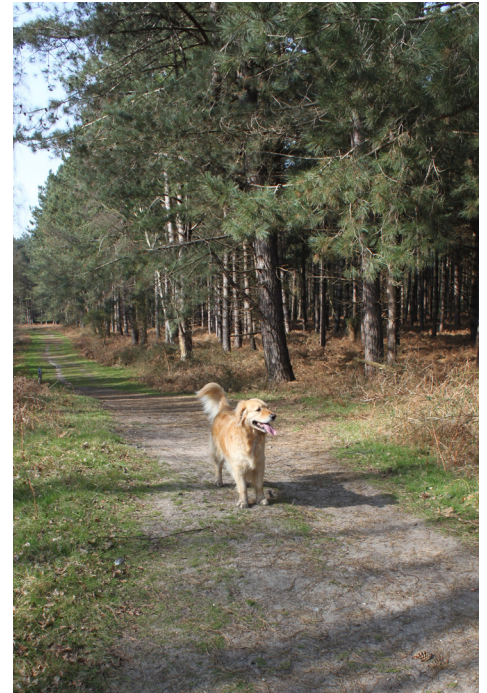


This month we introduce a new route from one of our favourite places The Ship at Dunwich

Welcome to Darcy's 16th pub walk. What started as an idea for a few routes when we first launched the magazine has grown over the last 18 months into one of the most comprehensive selections of dog friendly pub walks in the county and from the feedback we receive, walks that many readers of Places & Faces are following and enjoying.

Starting as always, in Dunwich, from the beach car park this route heads inland along leafy bridleways and through the woods of Dunwich Forest. Although much of the planted stock in this area is coniferous, giving a background of consistent pine, it is a walk with infinite variety as the hedgerows and deciduous glades constantly change with the seasons. During spring and early summer the swathes of gorse add an extra dimension with their vibrant yellow flowers and sweet aroma that always puts me in mind of tropical suntan lotions. On the return section of the route there are a couple of gentle climbs that ultimately lead to great views over Dunwich and toward the sea. There is also an interesting section of boardwalk between points 11 and 12 - straying from

the boardwalk can lead to a rather wet dog so if you are planning to get straight back in the car it is worth making sure your four legged friend is very close at hand. Summer is also a great time to make sure you visit the garden of the Ship as it is home to England's oldest fig tree – believed to be over 600 years old – and it looks magnificent in full leaf. ■



THE WALK

Distance: Approx. 4.5 miles

Time: 1.5 to 2 hours depending on your pace

Terrain: Varied. Mainly flat, woodland paths with short gentle climb

Stops: The Ship Inn

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 then the museum on your left walk through the village until you reach St. James Church. At this point the road bends to the right (ignore the junction immediately after the church) with a bridleway directly in front of you. Take the bridleway.
2. Follow the bridleway passing Walnut Tree and Apple Tree cottages on your left, and then a residence marked as Sandy Lane Farm on the map, on your right. Continue past the farm for a short while until you meet a fork in the path where you turn right.
3. Continue straight ahead along a broad open path with the tall pine trees to your right. After a short walk you will enter an area of mixed woodland and meet a sign 'Welcome to Westleton Heath Nature Reserve' – keep right.
4. After approx. 250 yards you will reach another sign (seeing the back of it) turn right here and follow the path for approx. 350yds to point 5.
5. Turn right at the sign 'Public footpath over Private land' follow this path. After a short stretch you will emerge to an open area. There are wooden horse jumps to your left and beyond the jumps, to your right a patch of gorse. The path passes behind the gorse and follows the left edge of the field.
6. At the bottom of the field the path bears left into a patch of woodland and over a wooden footbridge after which the path rises.
7. At the top of the hill you reach a bench –turn right and then keep to the left as the path forks and follow the path for approx 200yds to point 8
8. After approx. 200 yds (moving up a slight hill) the path forks. Take the right fork and follow for approx. 200yds to the track at point 9
9. Go directly over the track (do not turn right) and follow the path. Keeping straight on after approx. 100yds the path narrows and passes through a long stretch of gorse.
10. Emerging from the gorse turn right and follow the path down the hill.
11. The path passes over an area of boardwalk before emerging by Sandy Lane Farm.
12. At the farm turn left and retrace your steps back to the start of the route.

Words and Photographs by: 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
- Large garden
- Crackling log fires
- 15 inviting and comfortable bedrooms
- Children and dogs very welcome
- Accommodation offers now online

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

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