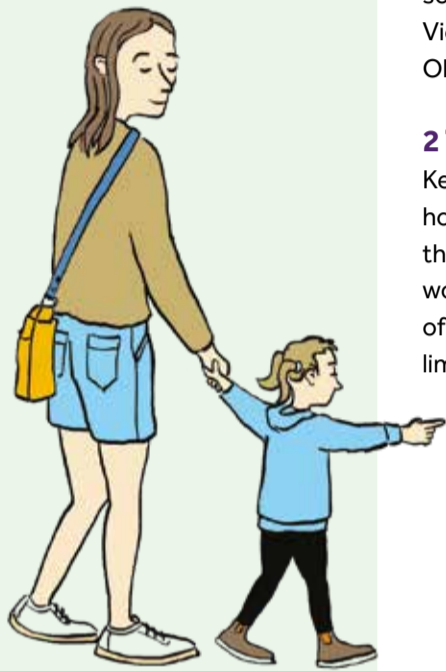


Nestled in the Stour Valley, historic **Long Melford** boasts an array of interesting features and footpaths to explore.



Highlights



1 Long Melford is home to many historic buildings with interesting architecture. The grand red brick building in front of the church is Holy Trinity Hospital, built in 1558 by Sir William Cordell, Lord of the Manor of Melford. On the green in front of the old hospital you can see the stump of the old 13th century village market cross where a market was held from 1235.

The Crown pub, built 1610 as a coaching inn, was where the notorious Riot Act was read to assembled villagers in 1885. At the southern end of Hall Street, look out for a Victorian post box set into the wall of The Old Cottage.

2 The Two Manors of Melford

Kentwell Hall, one of England's finest Tudor houses, was built between 1520 and 1550 by the Clopton family who were local wealthy wool merchants. The house stands at the end of a ¾ mile long driveway flanked by ancient lime trees and has 30 acres of gardens and grounds.



© Anthony Burch



© Gregg Brown



© Gregg Brown



© Gregg Brown

A classic example of an Elizabethan e-Plan manor house, with the most extensive moat in the county.

Melford Hall is a large red brick Elizabethan house. It was mostly constructed in the 16th Century, and sold to the Hyde Parker family in 1786, who still own the hall to this day. Beatrix Potter was a cousin of the family and a frequent visitor to the Hall from the 1890s onwards. The house is now managed by the National Trust.

3 Holy Trinity Church is an impressive church that stands on a hill at the north end of Long Melford. There has been a church on this site for at least 1,000 years, although the church was almost entirely rebuilt in the 15th century at a time of growing prosperity among the local cloth merchants.

4 Melford Country Park is an 8.13 hectare site, designated as a Local Nature Reserve, made up of grassland, deciduous woodland and flooded former gravel workings located at the southern end of the village. It has a beautiful walk through the woodland, lakes, grassland and along the river frontage. With a car park, toilets, and a number of picnic tables, it is widely used by local people and those from further afield.



The Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley

Picturesque villages, rolling farmland, rivers, meadows, ancient woodlands and a wide variety of local wildlife combine to create what many describe as the traditional English lowland landscape on the Suffolk-Essex border.

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



Scan the QR code to find out more about the Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley or you can visit dedhamvale-NL.org.uk. Get in touch on **01394 445225**.

Key to map

- National Landscape
- Stour Valley Project Area
- ⋯ Stour Valley Path
- 🌳 Country Parks and Picnic sites
- 🚣 Public canoe launching locations. Craft must have an appropriate licence www.riverstourtrust.org

Visiting Long Melford

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 196: Sudbury, Hadleigh and the Dedham Vale

Car: Long Melford is bypassed by A134. The A134 is accessible from the A14, A12 and A604

Parking: Available at Long Melford Country Park or on the high street

Bus: traveline.info or suffolkonboard.com

Train: The nearest train station is Sudbury Station, approx. 3 miles away. Train timetable at nationalrail.co.uk

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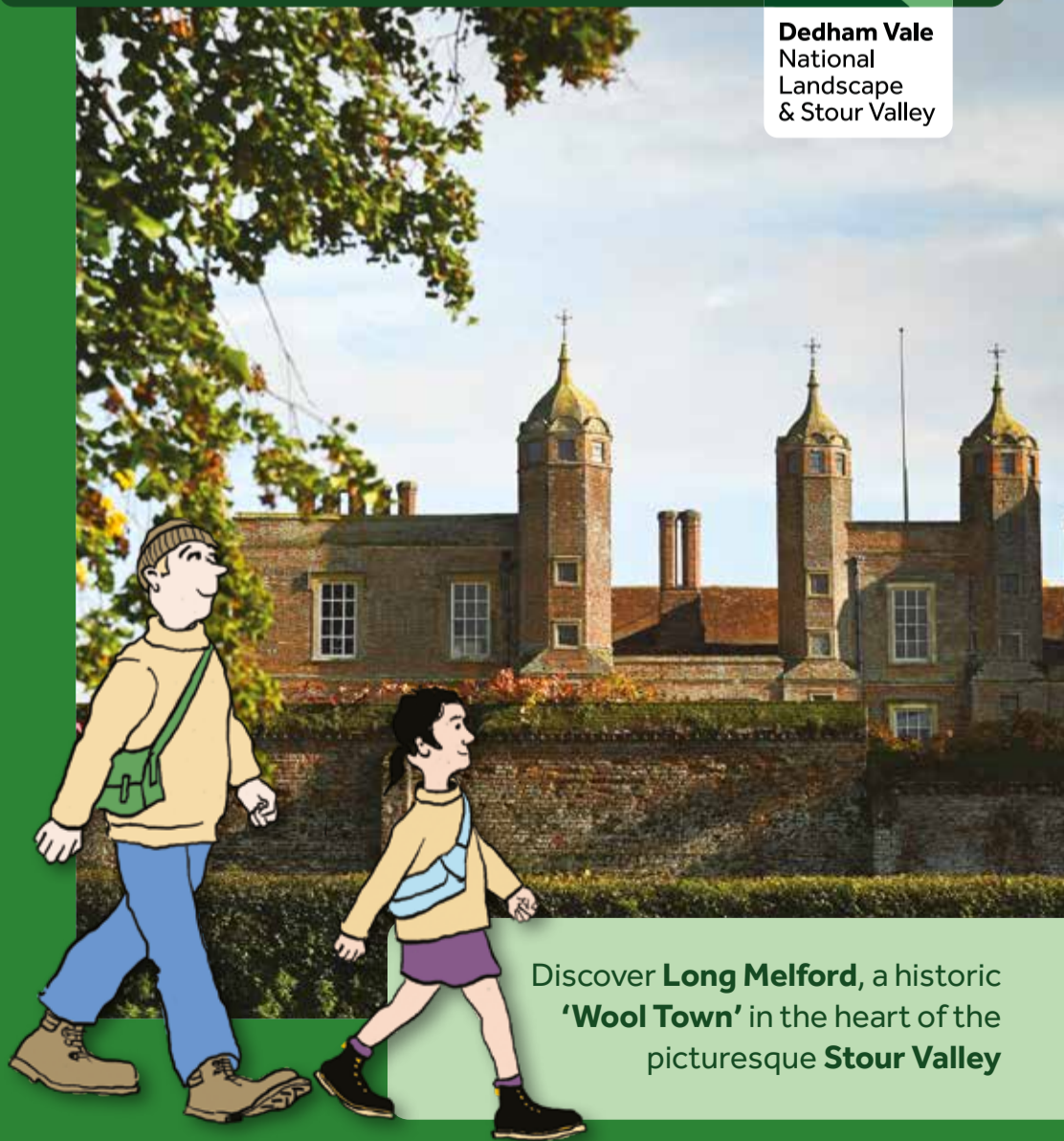


Long Melford Explorer Guide



Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley

Design and illustration: wearedrab.co.uk Cover image: © Gregg Brown.



Discover **Long Melford**, a historic 'Wool Town' in the heart of the picturesque **Stour Valley**

Long Melford Explorer Guide



- The Southern Loop
- The Melford Manors and Church
- A Road
- B Road
- C Road
- Settlements

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

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

Countryside Code

The Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley 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

dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/visiting

The Southern Loop

Terrain:

Footpaths, tracks and village roads. Route can be muddy in places. Dog friendly walk.

Start/Finish: Long Melford Country Park, Borley Road, CO10. Free parking at Country Park. Public toilets and café. This circular walk will lead you past old Maltings buildings, along disused railway lines, down Long Melford's eclectic main street and through the beautiful country park. Keep an eye out for the remnants of the town's Victorian industry.

Distance:
4.9 miles (7.9 km)

Time:
2 hours



straight ahead and follow a slight right onto an old car track between the fields. There is a good view of Holy Trinity church on your right and the Old Maltings straight ahead. Follow the track round to the right and continue left keeping hedgerow on your right for approximately 10 metres. Look for a right turn through the hedge. Cross over a foot bridge and follow the footpath crossing the field. Cross over another foot bridge through the hedgerow into next field and follow path across field to hedge end. Walk on right side of hedge. After about 50 metres head right across the field (waymarked unrestricted byway). Cross over the old railway bridge (this was one of the two bridges you walked under when on the old railway track). Go straight ahead between houses and down onto Bull Lane. Turn left. Just before the Bull Hotel there is a public toilet on your left, next to the Parish Council office. Pass along to the right of the Bull Hotel with care. Turn left in front of the hotel onto Hall Street. Carry on down Long Melford's main road – Hall Street. Once past the George & Dragon pub use the traffic island opposite Long Melford library to cross the road. Continue down the street that becomes Little St Mary's. Carry on walking and you will soon reach the point of retracing your steps back to the Country Park.



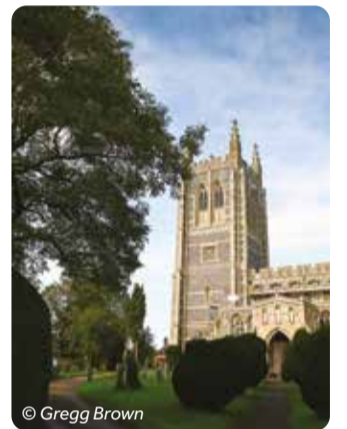
The Melford Manors and Church

Terrain:

Footpaths, tracks and village roads. One stile. Route can be muddy in places. Dog friendly walk.

Distance:
1.8 miles (2.9 km)

Time:
1 hour



Start/Finish: Long Melford Heritage Centre, at Long Melford Village Memorial Hall, CO10 9JQ. Follow this route to explore the picture postcard village of Long Melford, taking in views of historic Manor Houses and Churches.

Cross over the bridge opposite the Heritage Centre and take the footpath forking to the right and walk up a sunken lane. There is a good view of Melford Hall on your right. Walk straight ahead at the intersection of paths, where there is a great view of Holy Trinity Church and the Alms Houses on your right.

At the next intersection of paths, follow the footpath on the right across the field, following line of telegraph poles. At the edge of field turn left up to the road. Cross over the road in front of Westgate House. Head right and take the marked footpath on your left, down the side of Westgate House. Follow path as signposted.

On reaching a paddock, head right towards Holy Trinity Church through a steel gate and walk across the paddock. Go through the next steel gate. To your right, you can go and visit Holy Trinity Church. Then continue down the marked footpath opposite the church driveway, accessed through a wooden gate. Head down towards a steel gate approximately 30 yards on right. Walk across a paddock to the far-right corner and go through woodland to another steel gate. Turn right keeping the fence and church on your right. Cross over a stile to the bottom of Kentwell Hall drive.

The Hall is at the end of the drive to your left if you wish to visit. Turn right down the drive to the main gates. At the gates head right along pavement with Lodge Cottage on your right. At end of the stone wall turn right and walk across the green in front of the Holy Trinity Church. Cross over the green to Church Walk.

Turn right if you wish to visit Holy Trinity Church. Turn left. Walk past the Black Lion Hotel and cross the road. Continue walking down passing Melford Hall on your left, the Old Village School on your right and cross over the bridge. Take next right back to start point.



From Melford Country Park, exit car park in corner at pedestrian gate signposted "Welcome to the Valley Trail". Cross over an iron bridge, turn right following the footpath sign crossing old railway bridge. Follow the track around to the right up to main road (Station Road). Turn left. At Cameron Close, cross the road to join the old railway footpath signposted "Welcome to The Melford Walk". Walk straight ahead along the disused railway line for approximately one and a half miles, following the footpath signs. You will go under two railway bridges. At the end of the railway walk you will reach a disused tarmac road, turn right and go around a 6-bar metal gate. Walk up the tarmac road. At the end of the road, head right up a concrete path. On reaching a hard standing, go

straight ahead and follow a slight right onto an old car track between the fields. There is a good view of Holy Trinity church on your right and the Old Maltings straight ahead. Follow the track round to the right and continue left keeping hedgerow on your right for approximately 10 metres. Look for a right turn through the hedge. Cross over a foot bridge and follow the footpath crossing the field. Cross over another foot bridge through the hedgerow into next field and follow path across field to hedge end. Walk on right side of hedge. After about 50 metres head right across the field (waymarked unrestricted byway). Cross over the old railway bridge (this was one of the two bridges you walked under when on the old railway track). Go straight ahead between houses and down onto Bull Lane. Turn left. Just before the Bull Hotel there is a public toilet on your left, next to the Parish Council office. Pass along to the right of the Bull Hotel with care. Turn left in front of the hotel onto Hall Street. Carry on down Long Melford's main road – Hall Street. Once past the George & Dragon pub use the traffic island opposite Long Melford library to cross the road. Continue down the street that becomes Little St Mary's. Carry on walking and you will soon reach the point of retracing your steps back to the Country Park.

