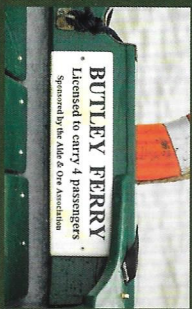


History of Butley Ferry

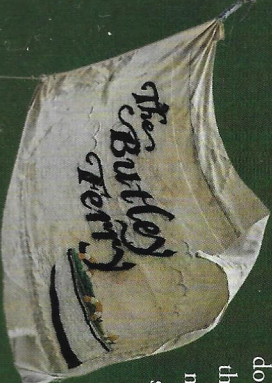


The ferry as we know it dates from the 16th century making it one of the oldest ferries in Britain and one of only two still working under the power of oars alone. Prior to dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the land on both sides of the Butley River was owned and farmed by the monks of the Augustinian Abbey, the remains of the Abbey can be found nearby. They would almost certainly have operated a ferry to get their crops and stock to the market in Orford so it is probably a couple of hundred years older than records suggest.

The hill overlooking the ferry is Burrow hill, site of a fortified Saxon settlement which, before the construction of the river walls, would have been an island. They would also have had to have operated craft to get the fighting men onto the mainland, probably near where Pinney's smokehouse can be found now. When Burrow Hill was excavated in the 1970s, around 200 burials were found, mainly men and many with battle wounds. The ferry became less important to the local economy and it went out of service before the 2nd World War. It was revived in the 1980s to serve the walkers and cyclists who have now discovered this beautiful part of Suffolk.

Visitors often ask why we row the ferry rather than use an engine, especially when they see how fast the river can flow. The river has large expanses of mudflats which, even at high tide, are just below the surface. A propeller would continually foul on the bottom while the oars need very little depth to work efficiently. This

does mean, however, that the ferrymen must call on all their skill, and knowledge of the river to cross safely in the strong current.



Photos by Martin Yip & Ian Barthorpe

Butley Ferry Timetable

Easter Saturday to the
second Sunday in October

Weekends and bank holidays only, 11am to 4pm
May not operate in strong winds,
please check by phoning

Adults:	£2.00
Children under 12:	£1.50
Bicycles:	£1.50
Dogs:	Free

Midweek groups – May be accommodated where enough notice is given, and a ferrymen is available. A minimum charge for the group may apply. Enquire via email.



Telephone: 07913 672499
(manned during ferry opening hours)

We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic people to help row and maintain the ferry. Please contact us via the addresses below

E: ferrymen@butleyferry.org  [@thebutleyferry](https://www.facebook.com/thebutleyferry)

www.butleyferry.org



THE ALDE & ORE
ASSOCIATION



Suffolk
Coast &
Heaths
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



The Butley
Ferry

This leaflet has been funded by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths
AONB Community & Conservation Fund"

The Butley Ferry

Circular Routes for Walkers and Cyclists



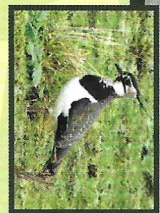
Cross the Butley River on the smallest licensed ferry in Europe. The ferry is situated in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths. The ferry can carry four passengers or two passengers and two cycles. Operated by volunteers, this historic ferry is the vital link making the circular routes possible. It also adds the village of Orford, with its 12th century castle, for those walking the Suffolk Coast Path.

Includes FREE cycle
and walking
map

Natural History

Look out for the seals who are resident in the river all year round and can often be seen hauled out on the mudflats. Marsh Harriers and Avocets nest locally and the mudflats and saltings attract many species of wading birds. Close by is the RSPB reserve at Boyton Marshes.

Sponsored by the Alde and Ore Association



Woodbridge

Rendlesham Forest Main Car Park **P**

KEY

CYCLE ROUTES:

FOOTPATHS:

SUFFOLK COAST PATH:

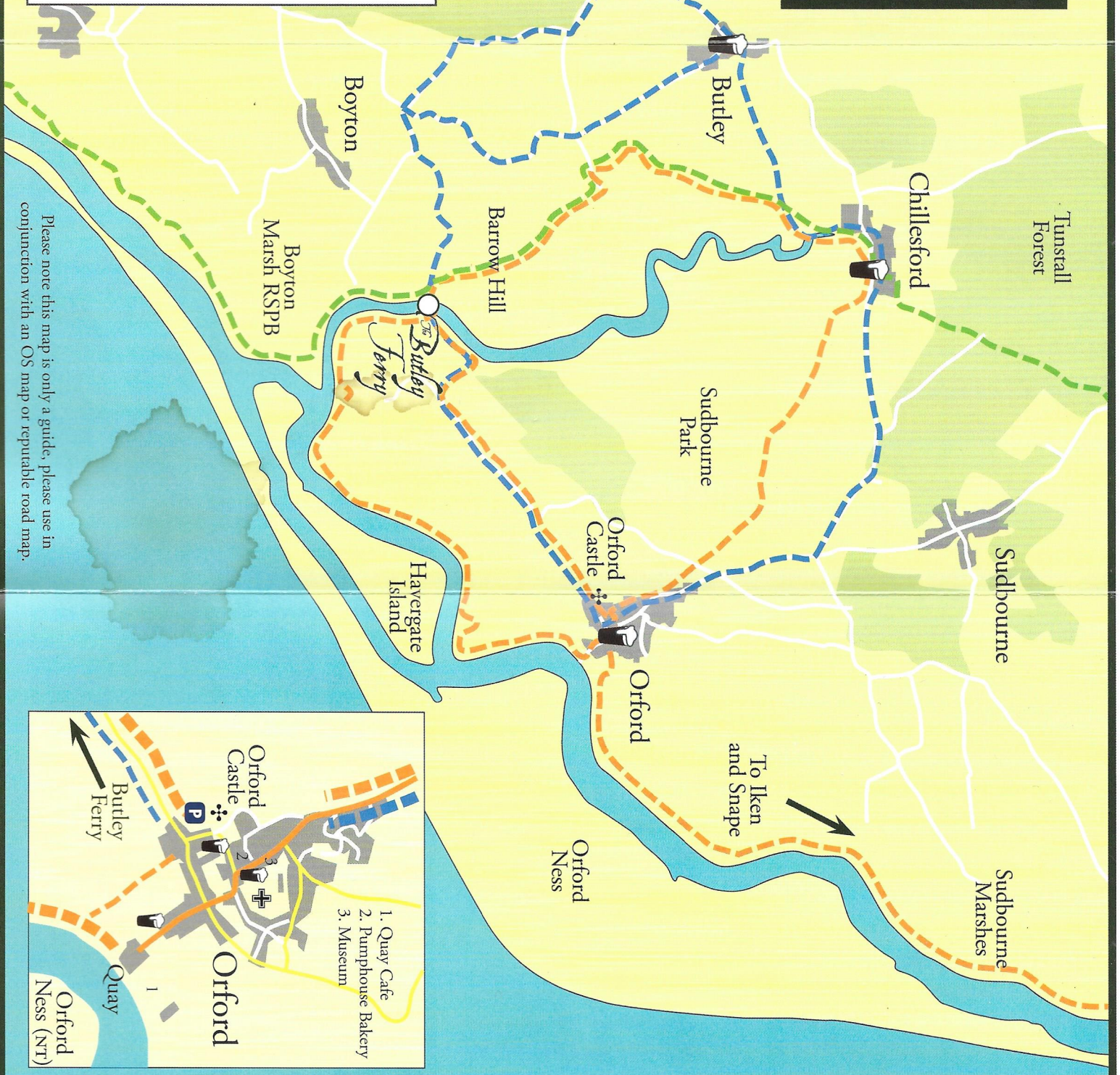
Approximate distances:

ORFORD CIRCULAR WALK 10 Miles
(Via Butley Ferry and Chillesford)

ORFORD CIRCULAR CYCLE ROUTE 11 Miles
(starting and finishing in Orford, via Butley Ferry and Chillesford)

ORFORD CIRCULAR CYCLE ROUTE 14 Miles
(Starting and finishing at Rendlesham car park, via Butley Ferry and Chillesford)

Access to the ferry for cyclists by kind permission of the landowners.



Please note this map is only a guide, please use in conjunction with an OS map or reputable road map.

1. Quay Cafe
2. Pumpthouse Bakery
3. Museum