

**Suggested Unaccompanied Inspection Route
for Planning Inspectorate Examining Body**

The Sailors’ Path
Hazelwood car park on A1094 to Snape Warren
on foot (one way approx 3¾ km - 1½ hours)

The Sailors’ Path is an ancient path named because sailors used to walk this path from the coast at Aldeburgh to Snape. It also forms part of the Suffolk Coast Path. The section covered by our suggested route starting at the carpark on the A1094 offers scenic views of the River Alde and its marshes, winds its way through mixed woodland and ends on sandy heathland. The precious and diverse landscape is a nature wonderland, popular with walkers, fitness fans and birdwatchers.

The footpath passes through a wide variety of landscapes which have changed over the years, shaped by nature and the weather. Consequently the flora and fauna is diverse and abundant. Oak, Chestnut, Alder, Silver birch and Scots pine trees line the route providing varied habitats for different animals and birds.

It is an area for nature and recreation as well as for peace and quiet and mindful reflection and must be allowed to evolve naturally. Interference with this process would destroy the sense of history around this well known path.

We also invite you to extend your walk to Snape Maltings, home of the world famous Aldeburgh Music Festival.



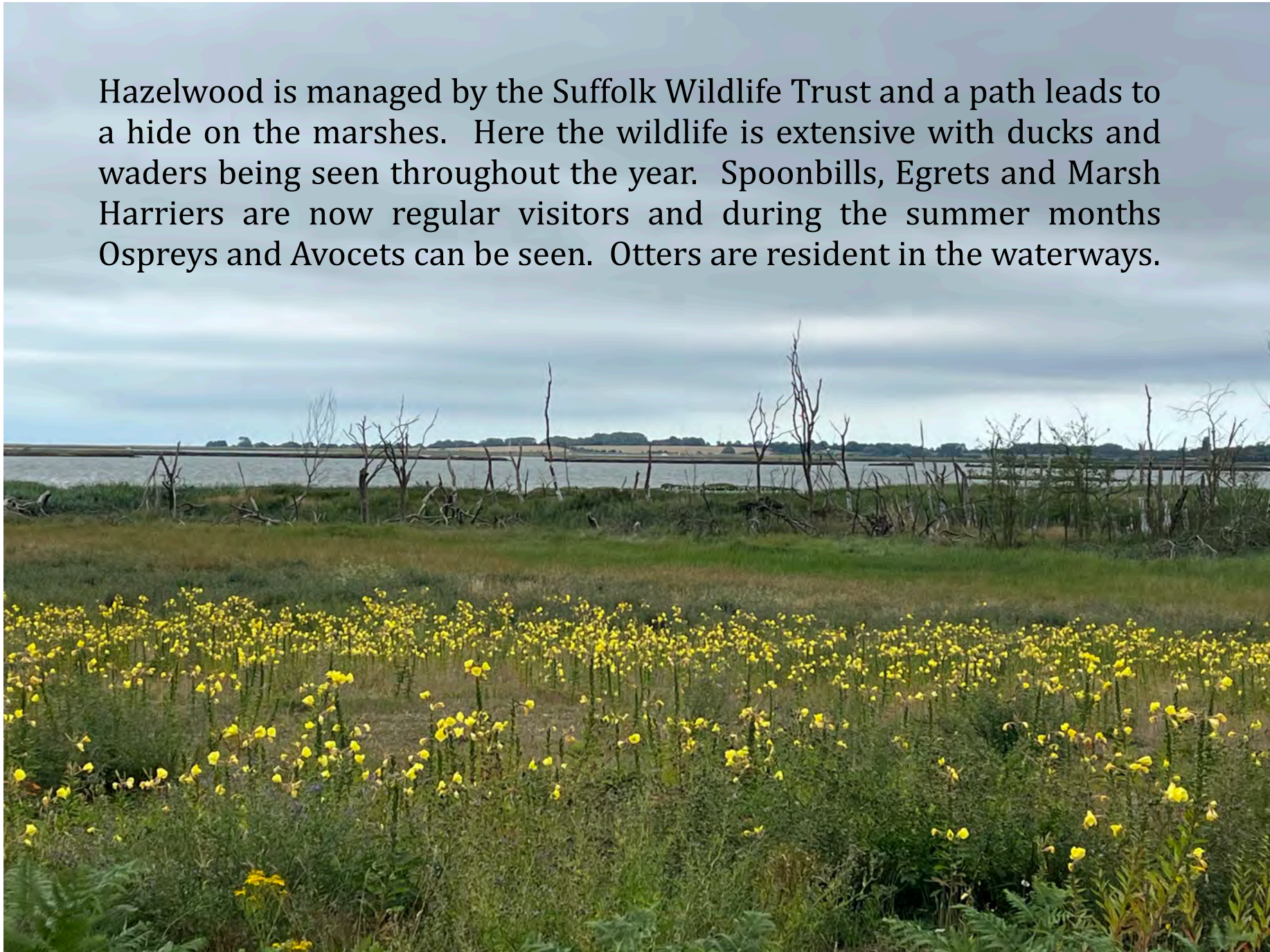
The walk starts at the Hazelwood carpark on the A1094, two miles north west of Aldeburgh. From the carpark follow the sandy path west past the cottages.



Take in the views across to the River Alde and depending on the tide, over the water or marsh which was formed when the river breached its banks during the tidal surge in 2013.



Hazelwood is managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and a path leads to a hide on the marshes. Here the wildlife is extensive with ducks and waders being seen throughout the year. Spoonbills, Egrets and Marsh Harriers are now regular visitors and during the summer months Ospreys and Avocets can be seen. Otters are resident in the waterways.



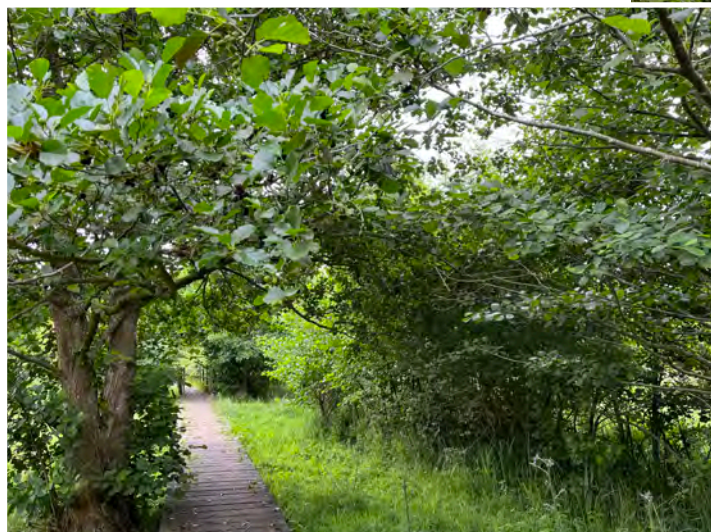
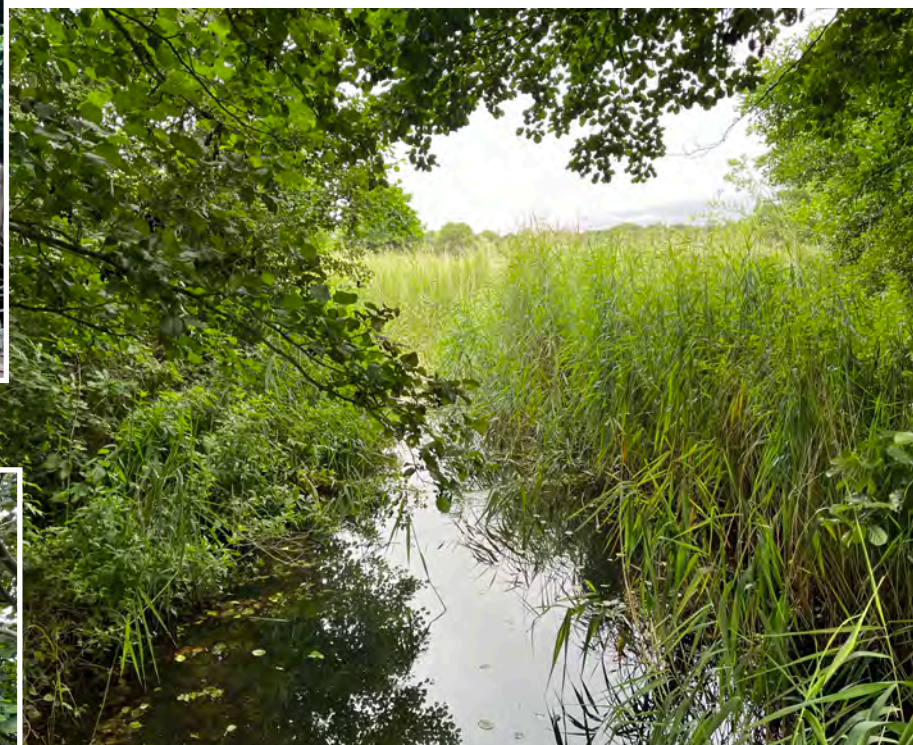
The path is used by walkers, cyclists and runners throughout the year.



The path soon starts to pass through soft woodland on its way to Snape Warren. This is an area rich in bird, butterfly and animal life and adders may well be seen. Take a moment to listen and watch out for life in the roof top canopy.



Then path dips down onto the marsh and reed bed area where the boardwalk takes you across the marshland, lined in places by Alder and yellow iris. Look out for Siskin feeding on the cones and Kingfisher flashing along the dykes.



Follow the path alongside the metal fence. On the left are wild rhododendron and on the right is pasture for cattle and sheep grazing. Listen for the Green Woodpeckers and there may even be sight of deer or hares on the grassland.



The route then passes through the majestic pine wood. Great and Blue Tit are often flitting about the trees and we invite you to stop for a while and take in the silence. This is what people come to hear on this ancient pathway.





On reaching Snape Warren, the characteristics of the landscape change again. With agricultural fields (asparagus is grown here) to the north and heathland to the south, this area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and forms part of the Sandlings Special Protection Area.

The sandy soil is an example of the lowland heath of eastern England, which has greatly declined since the 1940s. The heath is covered with Heather and Ling, interspersed with area of acid grassland, where the most common grasses are common bent and sheep's fescue. The heathland is home to increasingly rare wildlife such as Dartford Warblers, Yellow Hammers and Woodlarks; Lizards and Adders can be found too. Nightjar, Owls and Noctule bats can be seen across the heath and in the nearby woodland as nighttime falls.



Whether your walk is in the sunshine or rain, the Sailors' Path is always a delight and should be kept to develop naturally for future generations to come and enjoy.



A short distance after the Open Access sign, there is a road which can provide a pick up point or a little further along the farm access road is a small carpark.

We hope you enjoyed your walk.

