

# Welcome

Landguard Peninsula and Felixstowe town offer a wonderfully diverse day out. Discover one of Europe's best shingle beaches, see where the last foreign invasion of our shores took place, and view Britain's busiest port.



The walk starts at Landguard Peninsula, home to an historic Fort, fascinating museum and Landguard Nature Reserve. This walk also follows parts of the Martello Coast Path, which runs from Landguard Point to Felixstowe Ferry. Look out for the circular way markers along the route. An artist's map of the route is available from the Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre.

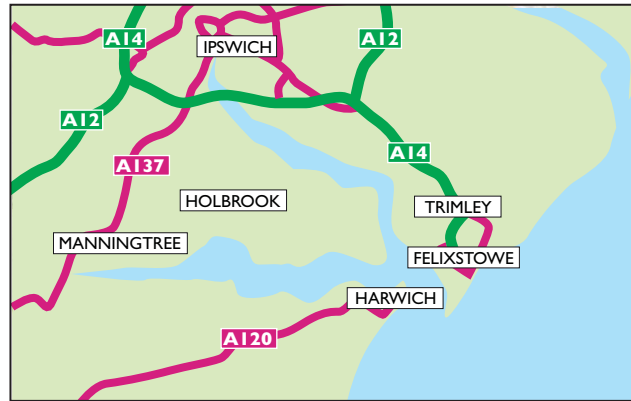
You can discover more about Landguard, with a series of guided walk leaflets to download, from [www.discoverlandguard.co.uk](http://www.discoverlandguard.co.uk)

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Landguard Partnership ([www.landguardpartnership.org.uk](http://www.landguardpartnership.org.uk)) and to Cllr John Goodwin for their support in developing this guide and many thanks to Andrew and Barbara at the Felixstowe Museum ([www.felixstowemuseum.org](http://www.felixstowemuseum.org)) for all their help and assistance.



## Location



Felixstowe lies at the end of the A14. Landguard Peninsula is clearly signed – follow the signs to Docks and then signs for the viewpoint and Fort (IP11 3TW).

## Public Transport

Felixstowe is served by regular rail and bus services from Ipswich. Contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50 or visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for more details. Visit [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) for bus timetables or [www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.org.uk) (0871 200 22 33) to plan your journey.

Use O.S. Explorer Map 197 Ipswich, Felixstowe & Harwich to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

## Discover Suffolk

Discover many more walks and great days out in the countryside at [www.discoversuffolk.org.uk](http://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk)

Produced by Suffolk County Council and Landguard Partnership with support from Cllr John Goodwin.



Circular Walk

# Landguard Peninsula & Felixstowe

History, Heritage and Nature



# Circular Walk

## Landguard & Felixstowe

**Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5 km)**

**Time: 3-4 hours**

**Terrain: Mostly firm tracks and surfaced paths with optional sections along shingle and grassland. Mostly level with a very gradual climb to cliff top areas.**

**Parking: Park at Landguard Fort car park, off View Point Road. Postcode: IP11 3TW**

### Landguard Peninsula ①

Located at the southerly point of Felixstowe, Landguard Peninsula is a wonderful and unique mixture of history, nature and commerce.

Landguard Fort is one of England's best-preserved coastal defences with a history spanning almost 450 years and the site of the last

opposed seaborne invasion of England in 1667. At Felixstowe Museum, 14 exhibition rooms are packed with treasures and artefacts, from the story of military life in Henry VIII's time to tales of the 'Belle' paddle steamers that brought holidaymakers to Felixstowe.

Surrounding the Fort and Museum are the wildflower rich grassland and coastal vegetated shingle habitats of Landguard Nature Reserve. Walk amongst Sea Rocket and Sea Kale and in summer the delicate red Scarlet Pimpernel. The Landguard Bird Observatory, housed in a former military building, studies and records the wildlife here, including moths which fly here all the way from Germany!

Beyond the Fort is the John Bradfield Viewing Area, looking out over Harwich Harbour and the Port of Felixstowe – the UK's busiest container port.

**Walk along the shingle beach and at the 'Point', bear left along a boardwalk and beyond to follow the beach. To your left are gun butts, grassy mounds built by the military in the 1860's as a back drop to a firing range. Continue along the beach, or if high tide, walk along Manor Terrace to join the promenade.**

### Landguard Lodge and the Manor House ②

This castellated three storey property built about 1890, provided accommodation and messing facilities for Landguard Fort.

The Manor House was built as a hotel by Colonel George Tomline in 1877. Tomline (1812-1889) brought the railway to Felixstowe in 1877 and was responsible for digging out the dock basin (1881-1886) which became Felixstowe Port. The hotel proved unsuccessful and it later became his summer residence. There was once a popular open air sea-water swimming pool next door.

**Continue along the promenade with its multi-coloured beach huts. Note the tall Victorian and Edwardian buildings on Sea Road, which in the 20's and 30's were full of holiday makers.**

### Mannings Amusement Park ③

Opened by W.E. Butlin (later Sir Billy Butlin of holiday camp fame) in 1932, and run by the Manning family since 1946, this once contained a wooden roller coaster that was a prominent landmark (1933-1976), a haunted house, dodgems, a roller skating rink and a menagerie with an island for monkeys!

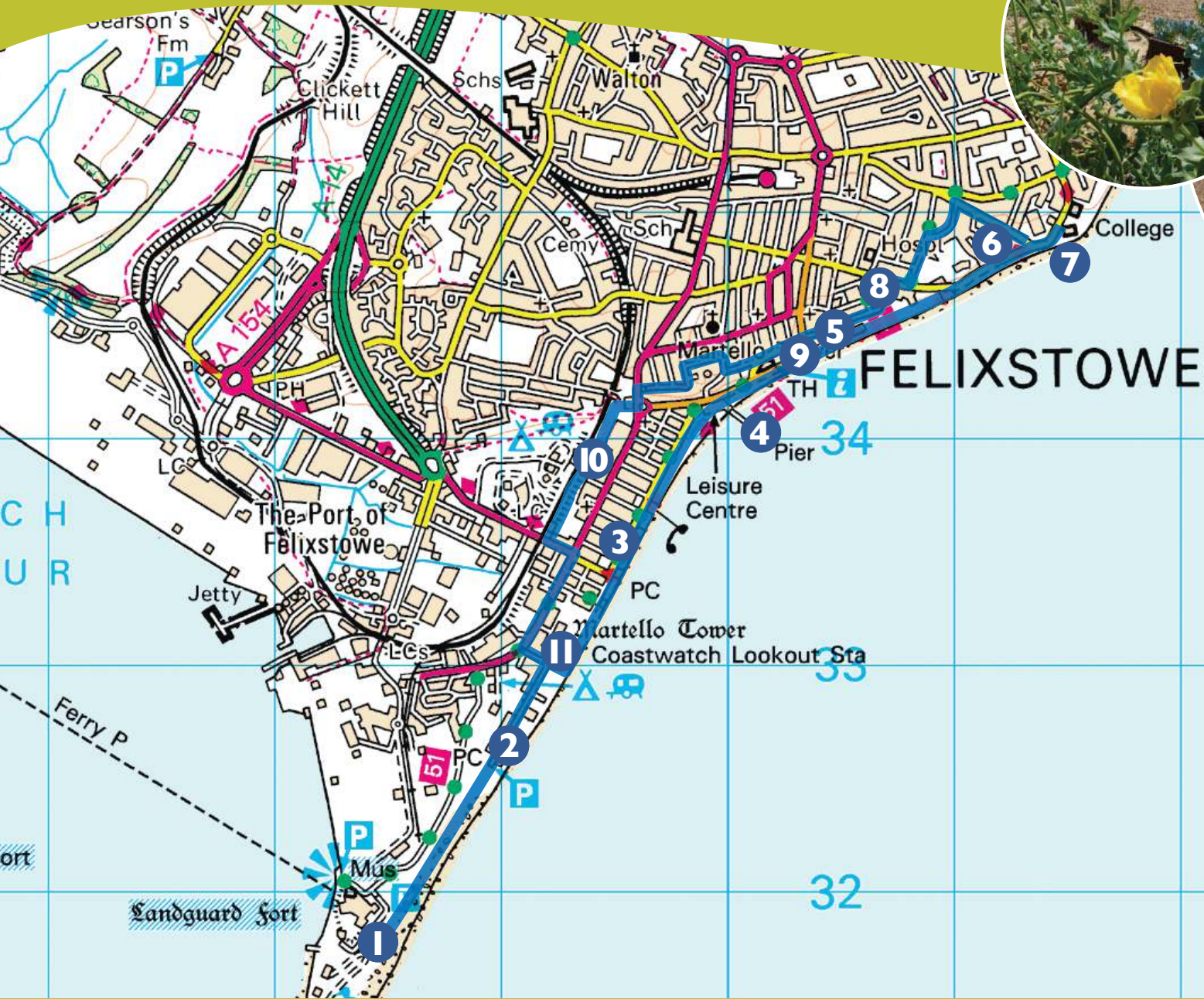
### Felixstowe Pier ④

Completed in 1905, the pier was a stopping point for the 'Belle' paddle steamers which operated between London and Great Yarmouth. It was reduced to its current length in 1949.



# Landguard Peninsula & Felixstowe Town Circular Walk

History, Heritage and Nature



## KEY TO MAP

- Circular Walk
- Public Footpath
- Bridleway
- Car Park

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**Continue past the Spa Pavilion and stroll through the Seafront Gardens before continuing along the promenade.**

### Seafront Gardens 5

The cliffs here were landscaped a hundred years ago with trees, flowerbeds, ponds and other garden features. A successful Heritage Lottery Bid due for completion in 2014 will see improved access, restoration and the recreation of historic planting designs.

### Beach House 6

During the abdication crisis of 1936, and whilst her divorce was being heard in Ipswich, Mrs Wallis Simpson stayed here to establish a residential qualification to allow her to marry King Edward VIII.

Wallis Simpson hated Felixstowe! "The only sounds were the melancholy boom of the sea breaking on the deserted beach and the rustling of the wind around the shuttered cottages. On fair days, we used to walk alone on the beach and for all the attention ever paid to us we could have been in Tasmania."

Beach House is no more as it was demolished in 1994.

### Cobbold's Point 7

It was close to here in July 1667 that a Dutch fleet landed 1,600 men, 400 of whom attacked Landguard Fort. They were beaten off by Captain Nathaniel Darell and his 200 strong garrison. This was the last time a body of enemy troops landed on English soil.



**Leave the promenade and walk up Brook Lane, left into Rosebery Road, and left into Bath Road. Turn right into Cobbold Road.**

### Harvest House 8

With its decorative brick and stone work, this was once the Felix Hotel opened in 1903 as the 'place to stay' with facilities for squash, tennis and croquet and steps leading from the terrace to the beach. It was built by architect Thomas Cotman (1847-1925) who lived in Felixstowe and designed many of its key buildings.



**Turn left into Cambridge Road which leads into Hamilton Gardens, the site in the last war of an anti-aircraft gun position – the Spa Pavilion below was hit by enemy bombs. There are views to Landguard Peninsula in the distance.**

### South Beach Mansion (beside Bent Hill) 9

In 1891 Empress Augusta of Germany and two of her children stayed at this Italianate style building which dates from about 1865. The children were brought here in the belief that they would benefit from the clean, fresh sea air. This visit is credited with turning Felixstowe into a fashionable seaside town.

**Continue along the clifftop to the lookout and note the artwork set in the ground depicting shells, starfish and ships' wheels.**

**When you reach Convalescent Hill cross the road to continue along Wolsey Gardens. After a short distance, turn right into Princes Road.**

**Take the next left into Victoria Road, then left again into Garfield Road. The road bears right into Lincoln Terrace. Walk straight ahead down the unmade road to reach Garrison Lane. Cross to walk past Lidl supermarket. This is built on the site of the former Ordnance Bus Station where many visitors had their first sight of Felixstowe. Just past Lidl, turn right down the little lane to reach the entrance to Langer Park.**

### Langer Park 10

Set between the road and railway, this green space with its shallow stream, is all that remains of Walton Creek which ran from Felixstowe Dock Basin to the Ordnance Hotel. It was largely filled in when the railway line was built in 1875-77.

**At the end of Langer Park you reach Walton Avenue. Turn left and at the lights, right into Langer Road and then left into Manor Road.**

### Martello Tower 'P' 11

This is one of a series of 29 defensive towers built along the east coast between 1804 and 1812 to guard against a potential invasion by Napoleon. There were once 8 towers in Felixstowe of which 4 remain and this is now one of the stations of the National Coastwatch Institution.

**Follow the road to reach Manor Terrace and then follow the path back through the Nature Reserve to reach Landguard Fort car park.**