

Welcome to the River Stour Navigation

The River Stour forms the boundary between the counties of Suffolk and Essex, eventually flowing into the Stour estuary near Manningtree. In 1705, an act of parliament established its lower reaches as a commercial waterway, or 'navigation', between the town of Sudbury (half way along its length) and Cattawade, near Manningtree. Since the decline of commercial activity early in the last century, most of the lock structures have disappeared, and the majority of the navigation has largely reverted to a more natural river. It now has greater physical and ecological diversity, and generally shallower water. Therefore, the river is now best appreciated by vessels which have a shallow draft, and which are small or light enough to be hauled out of the water and carried ('portaged') around occasional structures such as weirs and sluices.

Useful Contacts

Environment Agency Navigation Contacts

For any enquiries on the River Stour Navigation within office hours please call the river inspector on 03708 506 506 or at any other time please speak to the Duty Waterways Officer. Tel: 0800 80 70 60

River Stour Trust

A registered charity established in 1968 to promote the interests of users of the Stour Navigation. The Trust has undertaken many restoration projects and organises river-based activities every year. It has its headquarters at The Granary, Sudbury and also runs a Visitor & Education Centre in Great Cornard. The Trust owns a number of electric-powered boats, which provide trips for the public from The Quay at Sudbury, Bridge Cottage at Flatford, and The Boathouse Restaurant at Dedham. The restored Stour Lighter, John Constable, is based at Great Cornard, and is also available for river trips between Great Henny and Sudbury.

HQ - The Granary, Quay Lane, Sudbury CO10 2AN
 Visitor & Education Centre, and Administration Office, Dove House Meadow, Great Cornard. CO10 0GF
 Tel 01787 313 199 / 313 100
 Email: administrator@riverstourtrust.org
 Web: www.riverstourtrust.org

Tourist Information Centre

The Library, Market Hill, Sudbury. CO10 2EN
 Tel 01787 881 320
 Email: sudburytic@sudburytowncouncil.co.uk

British Canoeing (BC)

To seek BC membership and for further information on the benefits mentioned in this guide please see the Canoe England section of the BC web site below. All BC/Canoe England and British Rowing members are registered to use the Stour. www.bcu.org.uk or write to: British Canoeing, National Watersports Centre, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. NG12 2LU
 Tel 0845 370 9500
 The British Canoeing regional waterways advisor David Savage may be contacted by emailing canoeingeast@gmail.com or by calling 01223 424 935

Tending Canoe Club

50 Ellis Road, Clacton on Sea. CO15 1EX
 www.essexinfo.net/tcc/

Sudbury Canoe Club

c/o Quay Theatre, Quay Lane, Sudbury. CO10 2AN
 www.sudburycanoeclub.org.uk

Sudbury Rowing Club

c/o Quay Theatre, Quay Lane, Sudbury. CO10 2AN
 Email: enquiries@sudburyrowing.org.uk

The Boathouse, Dedham (rowing boat hire)

Tel 01206 323 153
 www.dedhamboathouse.com
 Email: dedhamboathouse@aol.com

Flatford Boats (rowing boat hire)

Tel 01206 298 111 / 07776 492 911
 www.flatfordboats.com
 flatfordboats@domin5678.plus.com

Visitor Information Centre, Flatford

Bridge Cottage, Flatford, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6UL
 Tel 01206 298 260
 Email: flatfordbridgecottage@nationaltrust.org.uk

River Stour Boating Community Interest Company

www.riverstourboating.co.uk

Dedham Vale AONB

Tel 01394 384 948
 Email: dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk
 www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org

Please note: The Environment Agency does not endorse or recommend any of the organisations referred to within this guide, or with which you may come into contact. You are advised to check the competence of any organisation to ensure they make proper provision for your health and safety, and that of those within your care. You may find it helpful to refer to the advice given elsewhere in this guide.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this leaflet. However, the Environment Agency does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Your views matter. If you spot something that should be changed, or think of something that might improve this guide, please do let us know, using the contact details overleaf. Please address your correspondence to the Anglian Waterways Development Team.

Other guides available upon request from the Environment Agency in this series include: 'Enjoying safer boating, staying safe on Anglian Waterways, Safety Guide', 'Boating the right way, Recreational Byelaws, Anglian Waterways', 'The River Nene, a guide for river users', 'The River Ancholme, a guide for river users', 'The Rivers Welland and Glen, a guide for river users' and 'The River Great Ouse, a guide for river users'. We recommend that river users make use of Ordnance Survey maps covering the river, the relevant Landranger maps are nos. 155 and 168. The relevant Explorer maps are nos. 184 and 186.

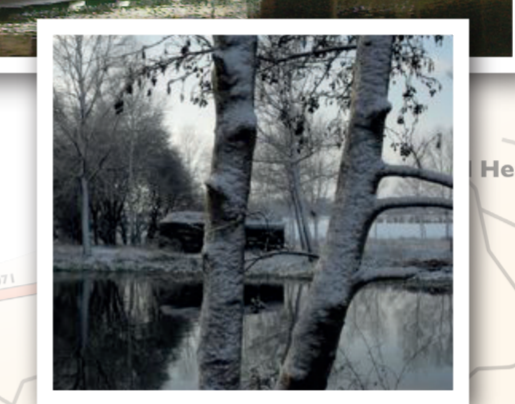
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Byelaws

Un-powered vessels (i.e. those that are paddled, rowed or sailed) are permitted to travel the whole length of the Stour Navigation, from Brunton Mill to Cattawade. With certain, specified exceptions, powered vessel are restricted to the length between Ballingdon Bridge and Henny Street. One exception is the River Stour Trust, which is permitted to run trip boats regularly in the lower reaches around Flatford, as well as from the Granary in Sudbury.

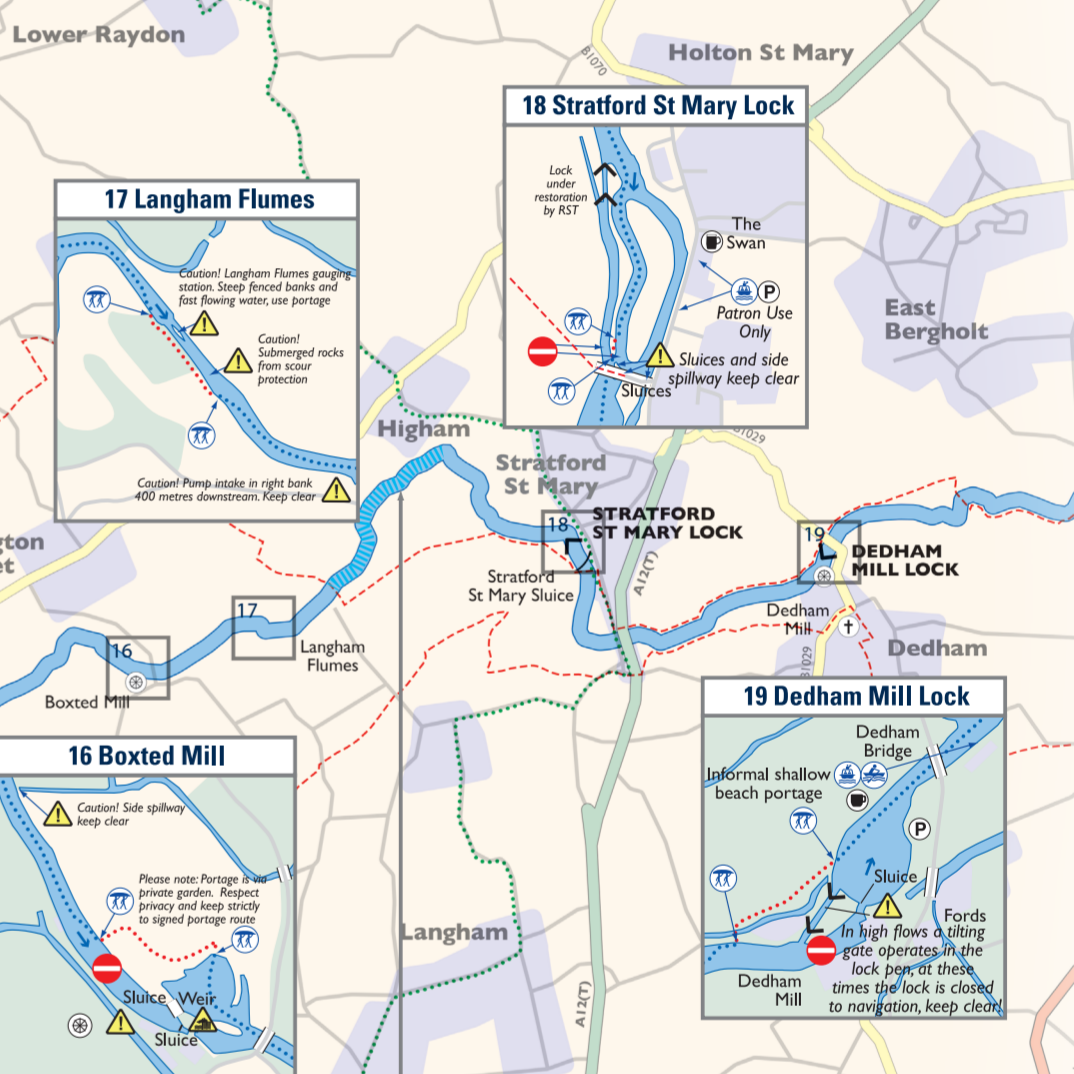
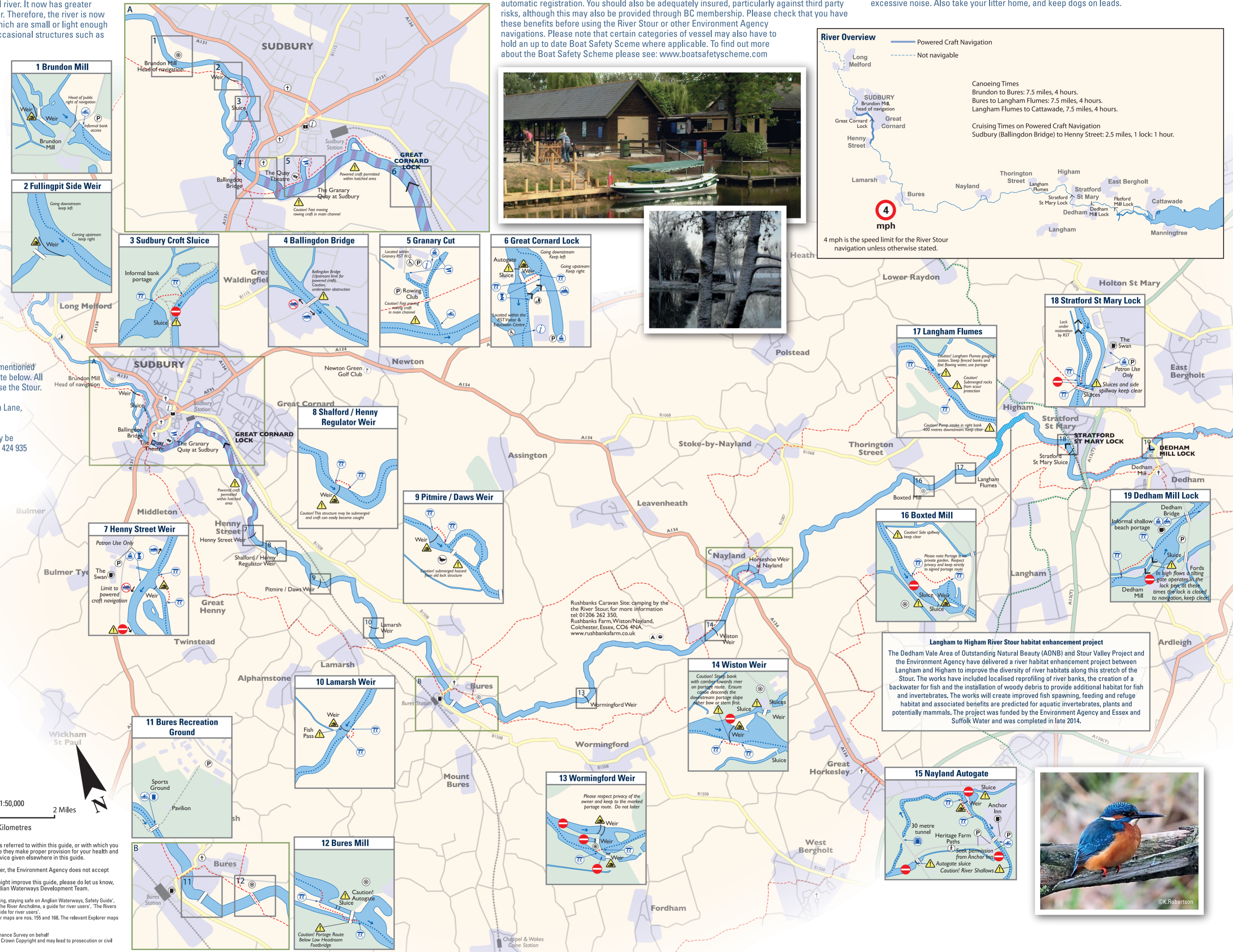
Vessel registration

The navigation authority for the river is the Environment Agency, and all vessels used on the river **must** be registered with us (contact details on back cover). We maintain the river and many of the water control structures, and enforce the byelaws. A reduced rate tariff exists for those who want to register their vessel for use solely on the River Stour. However, if you are a member of British Canoeing or British Rowing, you may find that your membership provides you with automatic registration. You should also be adequately insured, particularly against third party risks, although this may also be provided through BC membership. Please check that you have these benefits before using the River Stour or other Environment Agency navigations. Please note that certain categories of vessel may also have to hold an up to date Boat Safety Scheme where applicable. To find out more about the Boat Safety Scheme please see: www.boatsafetyscheme.com



Portage

Where there are obstructions to passage, platforms are provided to enable you to leave and re-enter the river safely. In places, the portage routes between platforms pass close to, or through private gardens. Here, it is particularly important that you use the platforms provided and stick to the routes identified. You should not attempt to gain access to local roads or footpaths through private gardens. Please also avoid loitering on private land or making excessive noise. Also take your litter home, and keep dogs on leads.



Langham to Higham River Stour habitat enhancement project
 The Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley Project and the Environment Agency have delivered a river habitat enhancement project between Langham and Higham to improve the diversity of river habitats along this stretch of the Stour. The works have included localised reprofiling of river banks, the creation of a backwater for fish and the installation of woody debris to provide additional habitat for fish and invertebrates. The works will create improved fish spawning, feeding and refuge habitat and associated benefits are predicted for aquatic invertebrates, plants and potentially mammals. The project was funded by the Environment Agency and Essex and Suffolk Water and was completed in late 2014.

