

RAILWAY RAMBLINGS

Distance 4.6 miles/7.45km

Start: Searsons Farm, Cordys Lane.

Trains: Greater Anglia Railways run a regular service from Felixstowe and Ipswich stations every hour and all stop at Trimley Station. This is about a 0.5 km from the start. Turn left out of the station and make your way to the end of the houses in Cordys Lane.

Buses and bus stop: Felixstowe Flyer buses numbers 75 and 77 from Felixstowe and Ipswich stop at the top of Station Road. It is about 1 km from the bus stop walking along Station Road which becomes Cordys Lane after the level crossing. Searsons farm is at the end of the properties in Cordys lane on the left.

Car Park: There is a small free car park opposite Searsons Farm, Cordys Lane.

Eateries: The Mariners pub, High Road. Gulliver's Fish and Chips, High Road. Roseberry Cottage – Stennetts Community Cafe. Weds 10-1.30 open all year. Mrs I Crafts is a cafe with drinks and homemade cakes, Wednesday- Saturday. 10am – 3pm. Cordy's Lane, beside the railway crossing.

This is a long, circular route with some moderate slopes. You will walk on field tracks, bridleways and woodland paths. There is hardly any walking alongside roads on this route. Some of the paths may be waterlogged or very muddy after heavy rain. This is a very interesting route for railway enthusiasts as you will have a very clear view of activities on the Port of Felixstowe railway terminal, visit Trimley station and go over a new equestrian railway bridge. A lot of the route also runs alongside a railway line which includes the Felixstowe/ Ipswich line which Greater Anglia trains run on and the branch freight line to the Port of Felixstowe. You will have wonderful views over the river Orwell too. There are suggestions to use steps but it is not essential.

① From the car park, turn right (south west) along the popular bridleway past **Searsons Farm**, Cartlodge and barn and Bidwells' buildings on the left. The wide track slopes gently down towards the **Port of Felixstowe** so you will see the cranes in the distance. There are lovely views over the countryside to the river Orwell on your right. About half way down the bridleway is a bench on your left to enjoy the views. Carry on through a row of trees called **Christmasyard Wood**.

② About half a mile from the start there is a track going to the right to the **Nature Reserve, Trimley Marshes**. Just before the path look over to your left and you will see a **Pill Box**. Ignore the path to the right and carry on down the bridleway. Eventually this bears round to the left and up a moderate slope. At the top of the hill is a bench which has excellent views over the Port of Felixstowe, the river Orwell and the Essex coast beyond. This is called **Fagbury Viewpoint**. Carry on with trees on your left.

③ The bridleway turns left running alongside the Port of Felixstowe. When you come out through the woods, you will have an excellent view of the Port's railway terminal. Continue along the bridleway up a gentle slope out of the woodland area. The track now runs beside a field with a hedgerow to your right. The bridleway then goes through an avenue of shrubs and trees, still with Port of Felixstowe and the railway line running alongside on your right. You will then come to an unmanned railway level crossing on your right. Continue on the bridleway through an avenue of trees and shrubs. At the end of the track there are a lot of pebbles. The track then joins **Blofield Track**.

④ Turn left here and continue along the bridleway. The track bears round to the left. Go through the bollards and continue along Blofield Track with Blofield meadow on your right. The bridleway eventually joins Cordys Lane.

⑤ Turn right here. Continue along Cordys Lane until you reach **Trimley Station**.

⑥ When you get to the level crossing, go up the steps to the right to cross the railway bridge. At the top of the bridge you will have very good views along the line which goes from Felixstowe to Ipswich. Go down the steps into the station. If you wanted a sit down you could go into Trimley Station which has benches and well cared for borders and pots. Walk out of the station into the carpark and turn left into the access road. (Note if you cannot manage the steps, go over the level crossing and turn right into the station.) When you reach Station Road, turn right and then take the second road on your left.

⑦ This is called The Avenue. Continue along the road which will change to become St Mary's Close. Cross over the road at the first crossroads, confusingly called St Marys Close.

⑧ You will now be in Stennets Close. Continue on the pavement towards some bungalows and the tarmac path runs to the right of some bungalows alongside the playing fields, **Stennetts Memorial Field** on your right. At the end of the footpath you will come to some wooden offset barriers which you go through which will take you on to Gaymers Lane.

⑨ At this point you could turn left and take a look at the railway line. There used to be a level crossing here and the crossing house still stands. After you have looked turn around and walk back along Gaymers Lane. If you are not interested in the railway history turn right. A short distance along, there is a bridleway on your left.

⑩ Turn left here and walk past paddocks and allotments on your right. Continue heading towards the large green bridge. This track joins another bridleway from the right called Gun Lane. Continue heading for **Bridleway Bridge**. * You may wish to extend your walk at this point.

⑪ Go up the ramp and over the bridge and down the ramp the other side.

⑫ At the end of the ramp turn sharp right and follow the Restricted Byway sign.

⑬ When this joins the RUPP /bridleway turn left and walk towards **Grimston Hall**. You should be able to see the cranes from **The Port of Felixstowe** here.

⑭ At the end of this track is a 4 way junction and a metal gate. Turn left and walk along the bridleway which runs beside a farm track. This eventually leads to the railway line again but just before this you will need to cross over a farm track to the footpath which runs alongside the railway till you reach a corner of the woods.

⑮ At this point, look across the track to see Gaymers Lane where you were earlier. This was the other side of the old level crossing. Continue along the bridleway around the corner to the end of the track.

⑯ This is now joined by 4 more paths. Take the footpath slightly to your left (ignoring the farm track through the metal gates). This is going around **Keepers Cottage**. You can also see the cranes from the docks over a reservoir here. Ignore a footpath to your right. When another farm track joins from the left, continue straight ahead through an avenue of trees. On your left through the trees, you will see some interesting **Anti Aircraft Site** Cold War buildings.

⑰ Eventually the bridleway joins Cordys Lane. Turn right here and make your way back to the car park.

N.B. The words that are emboldened can be referenced in a separate Gazetteer also found in this section of the website.

