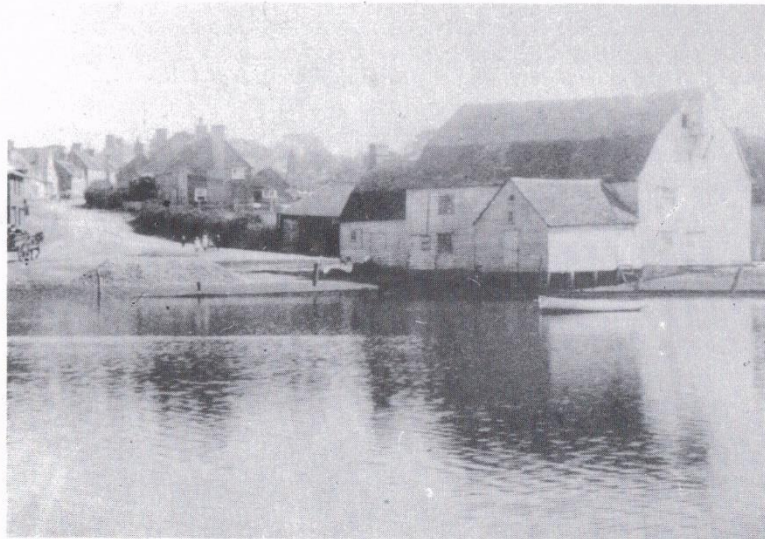


## ST.OSYTH TIDE MILL

The tide mill which stood at the head of St.Osyth Creek was the largest and most impressive of it's kind in Essex. It was built c.1730 on a site which had contained a mill since 1285 and possibly earlier. Having ceased work in 1929, the condition of the mill gradually deteriorated and, after sustaining serious storm damage in January 1962, it was demolished in June 1963.

The mill was worked by impounding water in the adjacent mill pond (now the boating lake) and then releasing it as required to turn two large water wheels. These in turn powered seven pairs of mill-stones used for grinding corn. After a high spring tide there was enough water in the pond to work the mill continuously for eight hours.

A surviving example of a tide mill can still be seen nearby at Thorington. It is owned by the Essex County Council who hope soon to return it to working order.



twentyfour

## WALKS IN AND AROUND ST.OSYTH.

All the walks start and finish outside The Priory, where there is ample car parking, as well as toilets to the left of the butchers shop opposite. Most of the walks are quite short but for the more energetic, parts of Walks 1 & 4; 2 & 3; or even 4 & 5, could easily be fitted together. Even on the shorter ones, please wear sensible footwear, and at all times respect the Country Code and the farmland that you cross. Leave wild flowers for others to enjoy; keep your dog under control; and take your litter home.

The sketch maps are NOT to scale, but the area is covered by O.S. Sheet 150 (Ipswich), or the Pathfinders Series T.M. 11/21 (Clacton-on-Sea).

### Legend to Maps

Roads   
Tracks   
Footpath   
Bridge ] [  
Stream/Ditch WWWW  
Telephone T  
Stile S  
Toilets W.C.  
Church †

Note: Ditches are commonly known as fleets in Essex.

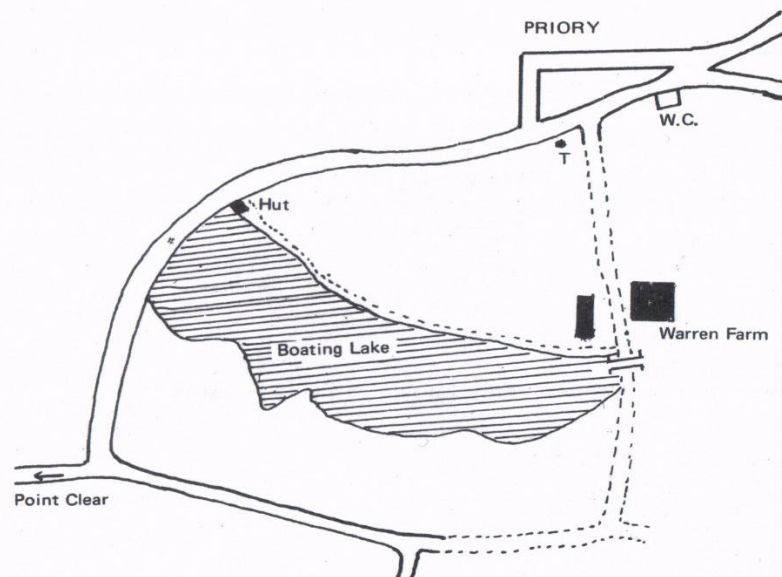
twentyfive

## WALK 1.

(Approximately 2½ miles). For the most part on good tracks or lanes, but it does give a good view of the village.

With your back to the Priory, cross the road and take the lane to the left of the Telephone kiosk marked 'Warren Farm', following right hand footpath post down main lane. Follow track through farmyard. Pass end of boating lake and up hill to T-junction. Turn right. Here you look down on the village and see how it is dominated by the Priory. When the track meets a tarmac lane, bear right and follow lane until it meets main road. Turn right and follow road down hill.

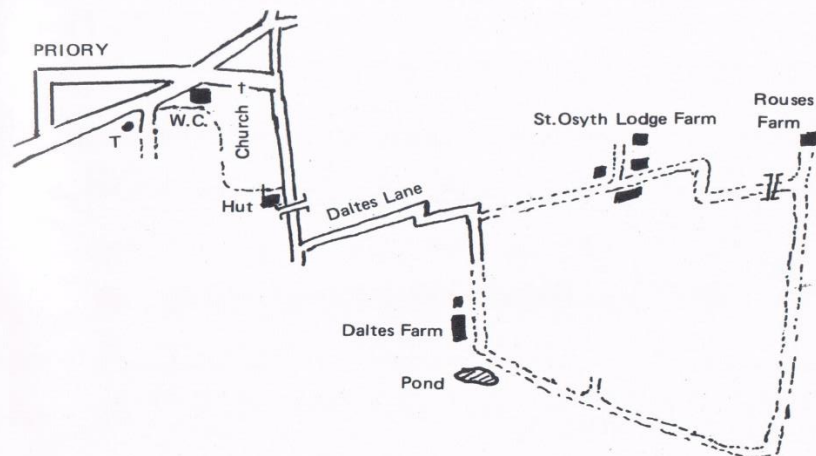
Pass the boating lake and stop by a white hut and a footpath signpost pointing along side of lake. (You can here continue up the road for ¼ mile back to the Priory. The footpath along the lake side is uneven and can be wet). Follow edge of lake, eventually having to walk along edge of field until you meet a track. Turn left, retracing steps through farmyard and so back to the Priory.



## WALK 2.

(Approximately 4 miles). Mainly along farm tracks, but it does include a delightful little green lane.

Starting at the Priory, take the track opposite you to the left of the Telephone kiosk, and bear left immediately by the side of garage. Follow edge of field on well worn path. At the end of field turn left to join Spring Road. Turn right and start to climb the hill; on the corner turn left into Daltes Lane. At 2nd. sharpe right-hand bend take track straight on (footpath signpost) to St.Osyth Lodge Farm. Go straight across farmyard and continue on track. When eventually you reach a large ditch, turn left keeping on track, cross over bridge by large oak tree and follow track with hedge on your left towards farm. Turn right at lane, very soon turn sharpe right, then an about 1 mile, opposite a pond, follow track round to the right keeping farm buildings and house on your left, and so reach tarmac lane. Keep straight on into Daltes Lane to complete your circle, and retrace back to the Priory. At end of Daltes Lane turn right down the hill and cross over brook. Turn left onto footpath (footpath signpost) between hut and first house, follow footpath back to the Priory.

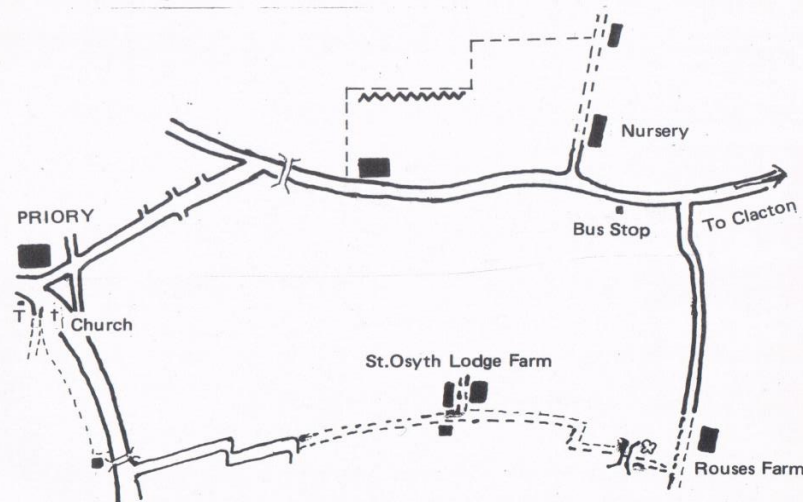




### WALK 3.

(Approximately 5 miles). This includes a stretch over cultivated fields, so could be muddy but this part can be missed out by catching a bus back to the village.

Starting at the Priory, take the track opposite you to the left of the Telephone kiosk. Bear left immediately by the side of the garage. Follow the edge of field on well worn path. At end of field turn left to join Spring Road. Turn right and as you start to climb hill, turn left into Daltes Lane. (Tan Cottage on your left used to be the old Workhouse). At 2nd. sharp right hand bend take track straight on (footpath signpost) to St.Osyth Lodge Farm. Cross straight across farmyard and continue on track. When eventually you reach a large ditch, turn left follow ditch to oak tree, cross over bridge and follow hedge towards farm. Turn left at lane onto Rouses Lane and so join main road, turn left. (There is a bus stop on your left if you have had enough!). Cross road and turn right at footpath sign post and sign 'The New Ruaton Garden Co.' leave nursery on your right and follow road to Earls Hall Farm. Turn left by side of first farm buildings on the left. Follow hedge around 2 sides of field. At far lefthand corner, turn right through gap in hedge and follow ditch. At end of ditch turn sharp left and follow hedge back to road. Turn right down hill and over bridge, and so bear left back into village.



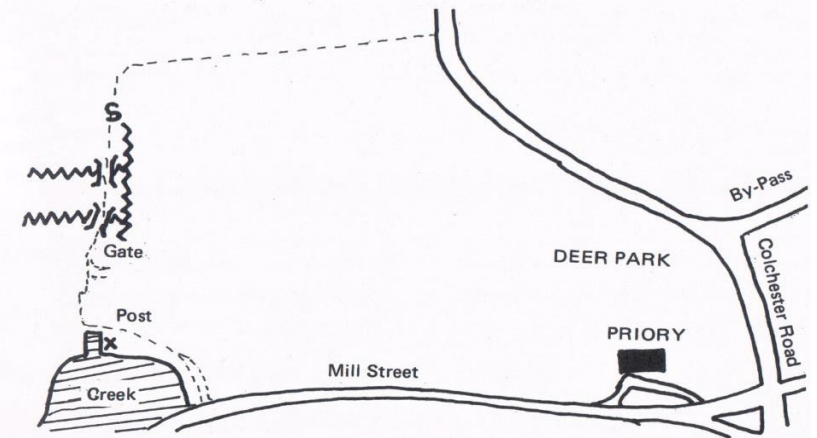
twentyeight

### WALK 4.

(Approximately 3 miles). This walk is known locally as 'round the Howlands', perhaps a corruption of the word 'headland'. You will be walking right around the edge of the Priory estate.

N.B. (1) The path through the boatyard may be under water at high tide. (2) There will be livestock grazing on the marshes, so keep your dog under control.

Leave the Priory on your right, walking down Mill Street, passing the recreation ground on left. At bottom of hill you come to Th Quay. (Sewage pump station in front of you is on site of old Tide Mill) Turn right into boatyard (footpath signpost). 400 yds. after passing last house there is a large post by a narrow inlet. Turn right here keeping to left of what obviously used to be a hedge. In 250 yds. you come to a large hedge. Follow it, keeping hedge on your right. At end of hedge join track, but carry on in same direction going down hill to gate. Through gate (SHUT IT) onto marsh, bearing slightly right to follow hedge on your right. (Keep close to this hedge or you may miss the bridges across the dykes). Keep following track, passing bramble patch and follow edge of wood to cross stile, continue to metal steps over conveyor belt, path bears right into wood (take no notice of old broken stile to your right, this is not the path). Follow path to main road and turn right. At road junction turn right into Colchester Rd., (signpost St. Osyth Point Clear). The Deer Park is now on your right. Notice plaque of 'The Cage' on house to left of Kings Arms. At cross roads turn right and so back to Priory.



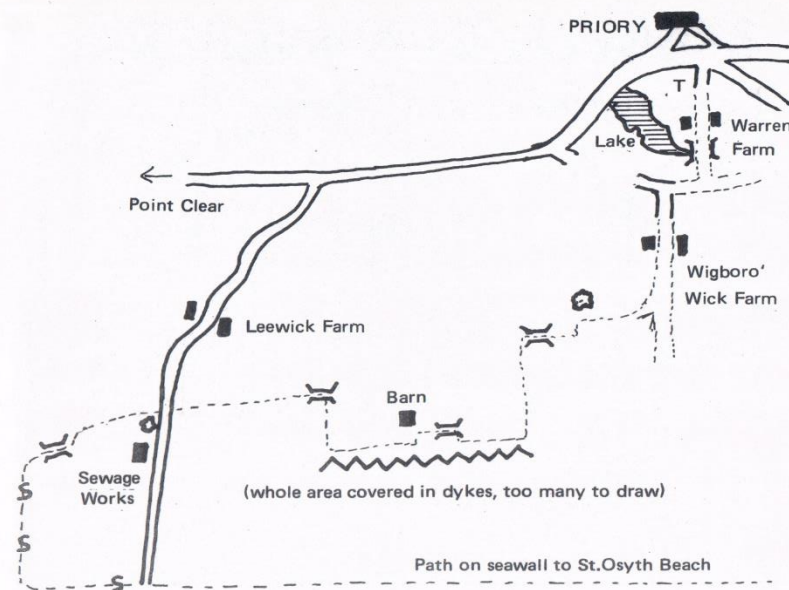
twenty-nine



### WALK 5.

(Approximately 6 miles). This walk is rough in places, but takes in sea views.

Starting at the Priory, cross the road to the lane marked 'Warren Farm' to left of Telephone box. Walk through farm and follow lane up hill to T junction, turn right. (Spare a minute to view the village from here). On meeting tarmac lane, turn left to 'Wigboro Wick Farm'. Follow lane through farm. After passing buildings, and pond on right the lane forks; take righthand lane into field. Go straight across field heading just to left of isolated tree, where ditch turns at right angles. Keep ditch on your right and follow to next corner of field where two ditches meet. Cross fence and go into next field (crossing point very overgrown and awkward). Turn left keeping ditch on your left and follow edge of field, twisting and turning until you arrive near to an old barn. Cross bridge 12 yds. from corner of field and just to left of barn. Again follow edge of field, ditch on left. Turn right at end of field to find bridge mid-way between two telegraph poles. Cross tarmac lane and follow track which goes a few yards into field. Keep in a straight line, bearing slightly left, and you will find a bridge to take you to the bottom of the sea wall. Climb bank and turn left. You are now overlooking Colne Point Nature Reserve so keep dogs under control. Follow wall past chalets until you reach a tarmac road. Here you have a choice: (1) Cross road and continue along sea wall for 1½ miles to St.Osyth Beach, where from Easter to September buses run to the village, or (2) [2¼ miles on tarmac back to village] turn left onto road and follow past sewage farm, through a farm, until it twists its way to a main road. Turn right (signpost St.Osyth) and in 200 yds. bear left to go down hill back into the village.



COLNE POINT NATURE RESERVE.

The Essex Naturalists' Trust purchased Colne Point in 1968 to protect an area of outstanding natural importance. The reserve consists of approximately 2½ miles of foreshore and saltings, where during summer little terns, ringed plovers and oyster catchers nest on the shingle ridges. Winter brings vast flocks of Brent geese, ducks and waders. Coastal plants include colourful sea campion, yellow horned poppy and sea holly. There are also several rare spiders, moths and fungi.

Colne Point is part of the Colne Estuary National Nature Reserve. As it is important to keep the area free from undue disturbance, no recreational activities are allowed. The road to the reserve passes through a private farm, and access is restricted to permit holders only.

For further information, please contact the wardens:-

Tel: St.Osyth 821188/820855.