

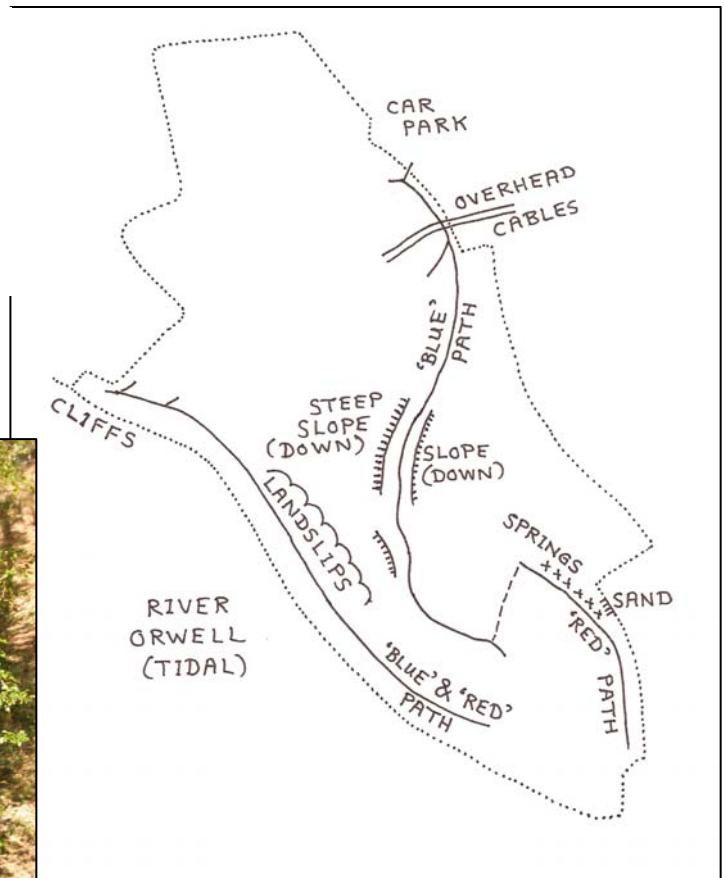
BRIDGE WOOD, NACTON

The wooded slopes of Bridge Wood lead down to the shores of the Orwell estuary in a series of spectacular **landslides**. It is part of Ipswich Borough Council's Orwell Country Park and has a car park, accessed from the Nacton Road in Ipswich via a bridge over the A14. There is an excellent network of footpaths, giving access to the landslides, springs and to the low cliffs along the Orwell shore.

Sands and gravels from the Kesgrave Gravel and Red Crag Formations form the higher ground, giving way to London Clay on the lower slopes. There are some good exposures of this along the shores of the estuary, with bands of mudstone (septaria) visible, sometimes tilted in landslide masses.

The slopes on the eastern side have been formed by a series of springs issuing from boundary of the sand with the London Clay. In the west the ground descends from 35m to sea level in a distance of about 250m in a succession of rotational slips created by undercutting by the river and also lubrication by ground water at the sand - London Clay boundary.

There are ancient oak trees in this woodland and some, back-tilted on the slopes, give evidence of the rotational movement of the landslides and clues to dating the slope failure events.



These steep wooded slopes are a common landscape feature of the sand - London Clay boundary on the south Suffolk estuaries. The valley side areas owned by the National Trust at Pin Mill on the Orwell and Sutton Hoo on the Deben are also excellent examples.