

Smuggling and the Wrong Side of the Law

Chapter 20

SAMPLE

The Suffolk coast faces the Low Countries. Lacking access roads, the deserted little creeks especially lend themselves to smuggling. Today it is drugs and illegal immigrants, but in the past, wine and brandy, tobacco, silks and lace – luxuries desired by both men and women. The Excise stationed soldiers here to intercept smugglers, but so many people benefited from contraband that smugglers could rely on being tipped off when they were about. No doubt, as on the Sussex coast at Rye, fishing boats were constructed with secret spaces where small items could be stowed. Liquor was not so easy to conceal or carry. The tracks of carts taking it to inland destinations could be obliterated by flocks of sheep driven by complicit shepherds.



*The upper reaches of Butley Creek and the Froize were reputed to be the haunt of smugglers.
Watercolour painted by Anne Paterson Wallace who lived at Ferry Farm.*

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