



# Blakeney Freshes Coastal Wildlife walk, Blakeney, Norfolk

Walking trail

Start: Bus stop, Blakeney Church, grid ref: TG032436

- 1 From the bus stop head away from the church into Blakeney Village and turn right down the High Street. At the end of the High Street, you will come out onto Blakeney Quay.

## Blakeney Quay

For several centuries, Blakeney was a busy commercial port exporting corn and wool and importing a variety of goods, including coal and timber. Today, the quay is mainly used for recreational activities, such as sailing, bird-watching and walking. Savour the stunning views across Blakeney harbour and to the shingle spit of Blakeney Point (point 1).

- 2 Cross the main car-parking area of the quay and walk up onto the bank on the right hand side. From here you can see Blakeney Freshes on your right. Take the footpath on top of the bank out towards the harbour.

This walk through Blakeney Village and around Blakeney Freshes is fantastic for spotting wildlife, especially birds. Keep an eye out for them on the grazing marshes and reed beds. Take a leisurely walk along sections of the Norfolk Coast path. There are also excellent views to enjoy as you stroll around Blakeney and Cley harbours. Make time to visit 15c St. Nicholas' church near the bus stop. An ideal walk for families.

In partnership with



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Easy

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1 hour 45 mins

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3 miles (4.8 km)

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Landranger 133; Explorer 251

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Dog friendly

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3 Follow the same footpath round to the right.

### Blakeney Freshes

Blakeney Freshes is a popular spot for bird watching. In winter, large swirling flocks of Golden Plover (pictured) move between the harbour and the marshes, while ducks and geese, such as Wigeon, and the black and white Brent Geese graze in the fields

4 Continue along the footpath beside the river, turning right to head back inland.

### River Glaven

The footpath now runs alongside the new route of the River Glaven, which was moved inland in 2006 to prevent flooding. The areas that were fresh water marsh and the old footpath route are now exposed to saltwater and tides and are quickly turning into saltmarsh. New rare habitats have been created as a result and are excellent for breeding birds. In summer, see breeding waders on the grazed fields, such as lapwing (pictured), avocet and redshank. Look out for marsh harriers hunting over the reed-beds and sedge and reed warblers, bearded reedlings and reed buntings in the reed-beds and ditches (point 4).

5 Keep to the footpath on the bank until you reach the A149 between Blakeney and Cley-next-the-sea. Cross the road and turn right, walk up the hill and cross the road again and stay on the pavement until you are back at the bus stop near St. Nicholas' Church.

### St. Nicholas' Church

Well worth a visit while waiting for your bus, St. Nicholas' Church, was built between the 13th/15th centuries; is large for a small village, and dominates the surrounding area with its twin towers. The hammer beam roof and wealth of stained glass enhance the majesty of the building and its dimensions are comparable to a major city church. It featured in Simon Jenkins' 1000 Best Churches and in the Daily Telegraph 100 favourite churches. The church provides a warm 'Welcome Team' and freely available refreshments. WC's are also available.

End: Bus stop, Blakeney Church, grid ref:  
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