

Coastal wildlife walk... 3 miles

Blakeney Freshes, Norfolk

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 reedbeds. There are also excellent views to enjoy along the way as you stroll around Blakeney Point and the harbour.

Start

Bus stop, Blakeney Church (TG032436). **Maps:** Landranger 133/Explorer 251

Getting here

By foot: Norfolk Coast Path runs 45 miles from Hunstanton to Cromer, passing Blakeney

By bike: Norfolk Coast Cycleway (National Cycle Route 30) runs along quiet lanes from King's Lynn to Cromer, it is an easy 1 mile detour to Blakeney

By bus: Norfolk Coasthopper, Sheringham-Hunstanton. Go to

www.norfolkgreen.co.uk for details of bus times

By road: A149 Sheringham to King's Lynn coast road

Local facilities

WCs at Blakeney & Morston Quay (not NT), refreshments, pubs & car parks at Blakeney, Morston & Stiffkey. Dogs welcome on Coasthopper bus and ferries to Blakeney Point

Things to look out for...

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.

New River Glaven route

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.



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

© Richard Porter



Savour the stunning views across Blakeney harbour and to the shingle spit of Blakeney Point.

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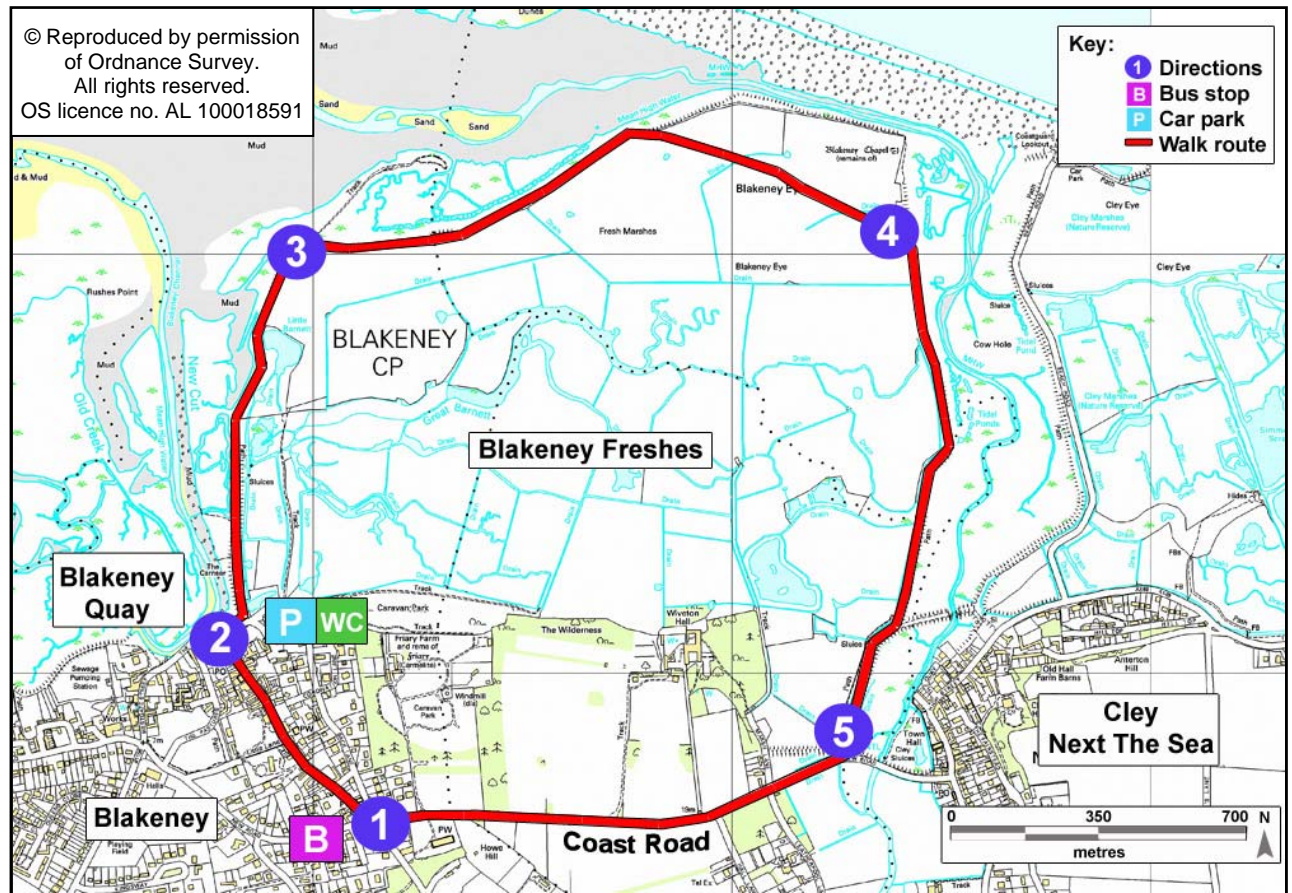


In summer, see breeding waders on the grazed fields, such as Lapwing (pictured), Avocet and Redshank. Look out for Marsh Harriers hunting over the reedbeds and Sedge and Reed Warblers, Bearded Reedlings and Reed Buntings in the reedbeds and ditches.

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Directions

1. From the bus stop head away from the church into Blakeney Village and turn right down the High St. At the end of the High St. you will come out onto Blakeney Quay.
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.
3. Follow the same footpath round to the right.
4. Continue along the footpath beside the new river, turning right to head back inland.
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 Blakeney Church.



Contact us on...

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National Trust places to visit nearby...

Felbrigg Hall, Sheringham Park, Brancaster, Blickling Hall

Terrain and accessibility

3ml (5km) circular walk along mostly flat ground. Points 2 to 5 follows the Norfolk Coast Path along a good surface on top of a grassy bank. Part of the walk is along a pavement alongside the coast road.

Dogs welcome. Please keep under close control along the Norfolk Coast Path on points 2 to 5. Leads recommended along roadside sections of the walk. For more information visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blakeney

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