



Title: Steeple

Distance: 4½ miles

Time taken: 2 hours

Location: Steeple, about 5 miles south east of Maldon

OS Explorer Map: Blackwater Estuary 176

Grid Ref.: TL 937 031

Parking: [Limited] Garden Fields, off The Street, Steeple, CM0 7JY

Bus:  D1/D2 from Maldon, D2 from Southminster [[link](#)]

Train: No train service

Refreshment: The Sun & Anchor, The Star, Steeple

PEAR Rating: 

Walk Description

This walk branches off the long distance footpath St Peter's Way at the village of Steeple. It heads north to the Blackwater Estuary and follows the sea wall anti-clockwise until it returns to the village. The views across the creek towards Osea Island are magnificent, and the intertidal salt marsh and mud flats provide habitat for Brent geese, Grey Plover, Dunlin and Black-tailed Godwit.

Directions

- A.** Park in Garden Fields (a residential road 150 yards east of the Sun & Anchor) near the junction with The Street. Parking spaces here are quite limited but a single car should be able to squeeze in. Walk west along The Street to the pub. Just to the right of the pub car park, the footpath starts (1).
- B.** Walk through a wooded area until you reach a kissing gate opening onto a large meadow (2). Walk straight ahead.
- C.** Look for a footbridge at end of the hedge (3) and carry on in a roughly north westerly direction, until you see a pond on your right.
- D.** At the pond (4), carry straight on over another stile and walk along the field edge with hedge to your left.
- E.** Following the field edge, you will come to a stile leading into a dense thicket (5). Being so close to the estuary, it is very muddy here.
- F.** As you emerge from the thicket, you cross over a footbridge and need to climb up the embankment in front of you. Turn left and take the stile over the Shoat Farm sluice outfall (6). You are now on the estuary bund protecting the inlands from flooding.

- G.** The route for the next 2 miles is simple - stay on the coastal path and enjoy the views. Osea Island can be seen across the Blackwater.
- H.** As you round the north west tip of the peninsula, you will pass the Steeple Bay Holiday Park. Keep to the coastal path (7).
- I.** As you begin to approach Steeple (on your left) you will come across another delapidated wooden stile. This is where the footpath intersects St Peter's Way. Turn left here, then right towards the west and Steeple (8).
- J.** After a third of a mile, you will pass through Hall Farm and exit via the farm's main gates onto Canney Road (9). Carry straight on towards Steeple.
- K.** Turn left at the junction onto The Street (10).
- L.** St Lawrence and All Saints Church is on your left (11), before you reach the Sun & Anchor and the Star pub-restaurant opposite the Garden Fields parking.

[ROUTE DIRECTIONS at www.essexwalks.com](http://www.essexwalks.com)

The ROUTE MAP and ROUTE PHOTOS **also** need to be downloaded and saved on your computer for printing.



The Route Map PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Description & Map](#)



The Route Photos PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Photos](#)

This route description is not meant to be used in isolation, it is one piece of a three part guide to the walk. The other two pieces are the route map, and the numbered photographs. The walks work best when the description, map and the photos PDF are printed off and used in conjunction with each other.

The numbers in brackets in the description refer to specific points along the route, marked with numbered symbols and these in turn are matched to illustrative photographs which show you the lie of the land.



These symbols are shown at strategic points along the route, overlaid on a 1:50K Ordnance Survey map: [Online OS Map at www.essexwalks.com](#).

Unless otherwise stated, the parking facilities available on this walk are not suitable for large walking groups or those arriving in more than one car. Parking cannot be guaranteed. If you are using a car, be considerate with your parking: parking areas in rural communities are primarily for local use: please don't abuse this and spoil it for others. It could result in parking controls being tightened, requiring the withdrawal of the walk route. For more see: [Advice: Courtesy](#)