

## Points of interest

### St Peter's Church

A site of worship since Saxon times, the building dates back to the 11th century, and Roman bricks can be seen in the stonework. The 16th century Old Rectory is next to the churchyard, but by the mid-19th century the vicar, Rev Leigh, lived in Goldhanger House in Church Street. His friend Lewis Carroll stayed there in 1865 while writing Alice in Wonderland.

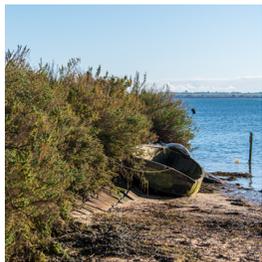


### Joyce's Marsh

In 2004 the Blackwater Wildfowlers' Association purchased the 80-acre Joyce's Marsh site, with the aid of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Wildlife Habitat Trust and Maldon District Council's Blackwater Project. Joyce's Marsh is a no-shooting zone and is intended to provide a haven for wintering wildfowl (including Brent geese).

### Oyster fishing

Oyster fishing has taken place in the Blackwater Estuary for centuries. Oyster shells still litter the foreshore and oyster shells are found in the gardens in Fish Street, Goldhanger. Commercial oyster beds have now been re-established in the Estuary close to Lauriston Farm (Joyce's Marsh) and Maldon Oysters are now sold all around the world.



### Smugglers haunt

Goldhanger was once a well-used smugglers' haunt. The village was sufficiently distant from Maldon to escape the attentions of all but the most diligent customs officers stationed there. A favourite trick was to float rafts of tubs containing gin, brandy and tobacco down the Blackwater and land them at Mill Beach (opposite Northey Island).

## Refreshments

The Chequers Inn	01621 788203	<a href="http://thechequersgoldhanger.co.uk/">thechequersgoldhanger.co.uk/</a>
The Cricketers	01621 788468	@cricketersgoldhanger
Osea View Cafe Bar	01621 855122	tiptree.com

More locations available at [visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink](http://visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink)

## GOLDHANGER & BLACKWATER ESTUARY

### Coastal Walk

This lovely walk combines farmland and seawall around the charming and historic village of Goldhanger, with its cottages, pubs and 11th century church



Long but level, circular walk.  
Some muddy sections after rain



3.5 hours



8.3 miles



Coastal path at Goldhanger

### How to get here



St Peter's Church, Goldhanger CM9 8AS



Buses 95, 95A (Tollesbury to Maldon)



OS Explorer 176 | TL 904 088



[seats.assemble.shuttered](http://seats.assemble.shuttered)



## Discover the Maldon District

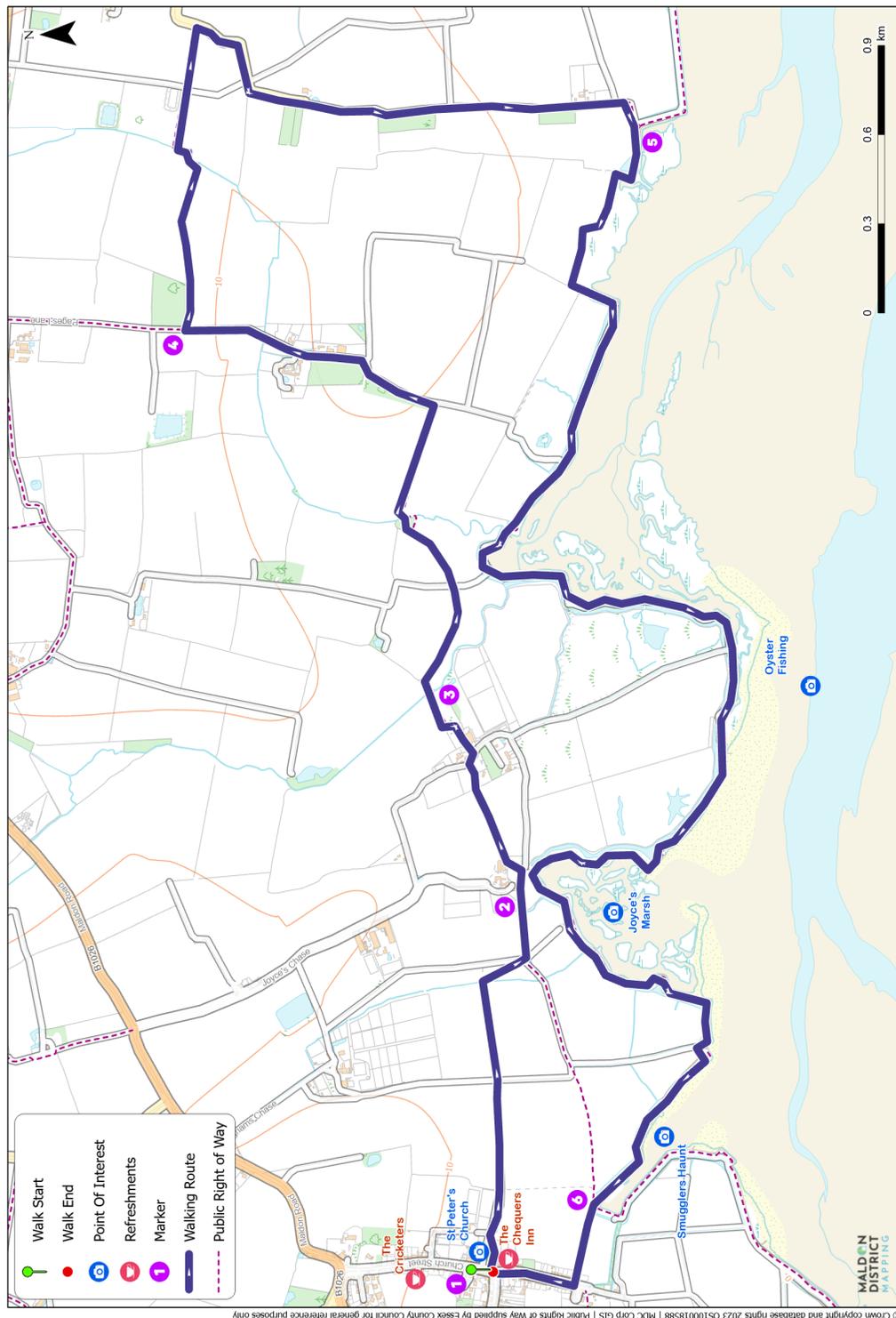


[visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/walks](http://visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/walks)



@visitmaldondistrict

## Route



**1.** From **St Peter's churchyard** take the footpath past the church, through the gap in the stone wall on the eastern edge of the churchyard. Go straight ahead on the path, with a hedge to the left, crossing the farm track, onto a grassy field path. At the end of the field, cross the footbridge in the gap in the hedge, continuing east. Cross the field, then turn right at the edge in the direction of the river (south). At the end of the field, with the small pond (surrounded by trees) to your right, turn left onto a field-edge path, with a large field to your right. Head towards **Joyce's Farm**, skirting round a gate and passing in front of the Georgian farmhouse.

**2.** At the top of a small rise (just past the farmhouse), turn right by the footpath sign to take the enclosed path, which soon turns left towards old farm outbuildings. Skirt around these. On reaching the footpath sign pointing across the centre of a field, walk across this field to the point where the overhead powerline meets the trees bordering **Lauriston Farm**; 10 yards to the left there is a footbridge. Cross this, passing through the gate on the other side. Follow the footpath signs through the Lauriston Farm estate, passing to the left of a bungalow. At the end of the track which leads up to the bungalow, turn right at the T-junction. Go past the front of the farmhouse, following the track between barns, then follow the path around the field.

**3.** Go through the gate at the eastern end of the field. Turn right after 20 yards by a footpath sign, using a grassy "bridge" across a ditch. Turn immediately left onto the grassy track which soon curves right, with a ditch and hedge to your left. After 400 yards, cross over a farm track, keeping to the grassy path with the ditch to your left. Then, 40 yards after the field edge path takes a right turn to follow the field perimeter, cross the footbridge (in a hedge gap) to your left. Turn left for 40 yards, until you reach a footpath sign. Turn right here to take the grassy track which goes across the middle of a field. On reaching the far side of the field at a T-junction, take a left turn onto the track, signposted as a footpath. The track soon bends right, then left and goes past the imposing house at **Wycke Farm** and a couple of farm cottages.

**4.** Pass the entrance to the farmhouse, then after  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, turn right to take the signed footpath, along the left-hand edge of a field. After  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile, cross the footbridge in the far right hand corner. After 125 yards, cross another footbridge and enter another field, keeping to the left-hand edge. Go over a crossing track, eventually reaching a lane. Turn right onto the lane, which zigzags right and then left; this is a public bridleway. Eventually, you will reach **Rolls Farm**; continue past the farmhouse on your left. The path bends right towards the seawall; ascend the slope ahead of you and turn right to follow the path along the top of the seawall.

**5.** Here you can see the Blackwater Estuary, Dengie Peninsula and **Osea Island**. Continue ahead on the seawall for the next 3.4 miles. On the way, you will pass **Joyce's Marsh**, which has been restored to wet grazing for birds by the Blackwater Wildfowlers' Association.

**6.** On reaching the head of **Goldhanger Creek**, descend the steps away from the seawall, taking the second path left, on gravel between high hedges. Pass the football pitch and playground on the left, arriving at Fish Street. Turn right to pass some historic properties; on reaching The Street, go past the Chequers on your right. Look out for the early 20th-century **water pump** in the village square, restored to full working order to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. In a few yards you will reach the starting point of the walk.