

MUNDON & MUNDON CREEK CIRCULAR

COASTAL WALK



CIRCULAR WALK

Long walk with uneven or muddy ground. Walking boots recommended.



START
MUNDON
VILLAGE HALL



2 HOURS
20 MINS



7
MILES



OVERVIEW

This walk takes you through some lesser-known, but nonetheless attractive, parts of the Dengie Peninsula, and has a few surprises up its sleeve! You will enjoy pleasant riverside views along Mundon Creek, marvel at the ancient and mysterious 'petrified' oak forest, and admire the sympathetically restored medieval church of St Mary's at Mundon. Although the walk is quite long, the terrain covered is almost completely flat.

HOW TO GET HERE

Location for the start of the walk:

Mundon Village Hall

OS Explorer Map No:

176 (Blackwater Estuary)

OS Grid Reference:

TL 869 025

Parking:

In front of Mundon Village Hall, Main Road (CM9 6PB) – but please park in a layby on Main Road if the village hall is in use

Public Transport:

Bus No. 31X - Maldon to Burnham-on-Crouch



THE 'PETRIFIED' OAKS

The 'petrified' oaks are apparently mentioned in the Domesday Book (actually, they are not fossilised but have been dead for a very long time). There is also a local legend that the trees were due to be chopped down in 1588 to build ships to fight against the Spanish Armada, but the wood was found to be too warped, so they were left to stand.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's church was superbly restored by the Friends of Friendless Churches in 2010-2011, and has some very interesting architectural features. The church is mainly known for its weather boarded timber-framed tower and its outstanding 16th century north porch with carved wooden spandrels. It also retains a complete set of 18th century box pews. On the east wall is a nave mural showing tassels and bunched curtains being drawn aside from the window in a rare rural attempt at trompe l'oeil.



MALDON FURZE

Mundon Furze (6.9 hectares) is one of the last areas of surviving ancient woodland in the Dengie peninsula. The dominant tree species are oak and ash. Although there is something of interest to see all year round, the best time to visit is early morning in the spring when the wood is alive with bird call.

REFRESHMENTS

WHITE HORSE

Main Road, Mundon, CM9 6PB - Tel: 01621 740276

M A L D O N D I S T R I C T



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This walk was developed by Maldon District Council & Chris Harvey.

1. If you have parked by Mundon village hall, cross over the road and turn left along the pavement, soon passing the White Horse pub. About 130 yards after the pub, just past 'Sparrow Wick Cottage', take the signed footpath off to the right. This soon crosses a stile and follows the left hand edge of a field. At the far end of the field, cross another stile and walk past a small riding paddock (used for dressage) and exit onto a lane through a metal gate. Turn left along the lane, soon going past Whitegate Farm and some other cottages, reaching a T-junction in 400 yards.

2. Turn right onto the lane (New Hall Lane) and follow it for almost a mile. Ignore the crossing footpath close to a house called 'Orchards' and continue along the lane. Make sure you take a peek at the superb half-timbered White House Manor on the left hand side, which is the most historically interesting house in Mundon. On reaching the narrow lane leading to Brookmead Farm, turn right to follow this (which is signposted as a footpath). Where the lane bends left towards the main farmhouse (just past a house on the right), turn right for 50 yards to follow the path between a field and a garden border. Turn left to follow the path across the middle of a large field. At the end of the first field, turn right for 30 yards, then left to continue along right hand edge of large field. After 1/3 mile, you will reach a T-junction of paths.

3. Turn left onto the track, ignoring the footpath on the right after 250 yards. Continue ahead for just over 1/2 mile, until you reach another T-junction (with Brick House Farm to your right). Turn left, soon coming to some large farm outbuildings on your right; turn right past these, taking the unsigned footpath ahead, with the house to your left. The path is now heading along the right hand edge of a field, and soon reaches the sea wall. Ascend the slope to the top of the sea wall (footpath is signposted) and turn right. There are fine views of Mundon Creek and Maylandsea Marina as you head south-westwards.

4. After 1 1/2 miles along the sea wall, you reach a gate. Go through this, then head right down the slope and go through a kissing gate, taking the path ahead (which is part of St Peter's Way, a long distance footpath). After 120 yards, look out for a stile and footbridge on the right. Go over the stile and cross the footbridge, after which there is a T-junction of paths. Go left here. After 120 yards, you reach a junction of paths; ignore the path to the left which heads back across the stream. Take the path which heads off half-right, following the direction of the signpost arrow across the field, aiming for a post across the field. On reaching this post, turn right. The path is now running along the left hand edge of the field. After nearly 1/4 mile, turn left and cross the footbridge (by a signpost) and head across the middle of a large field, aiming for the post on the other side of the field. Cross another footbridge and then head across another field, aiming for the post on the far side. Turn right on reaching this point, which is a T-junction of paths, and head for the 'petrified' oaks.

USEFUL WEBSITES

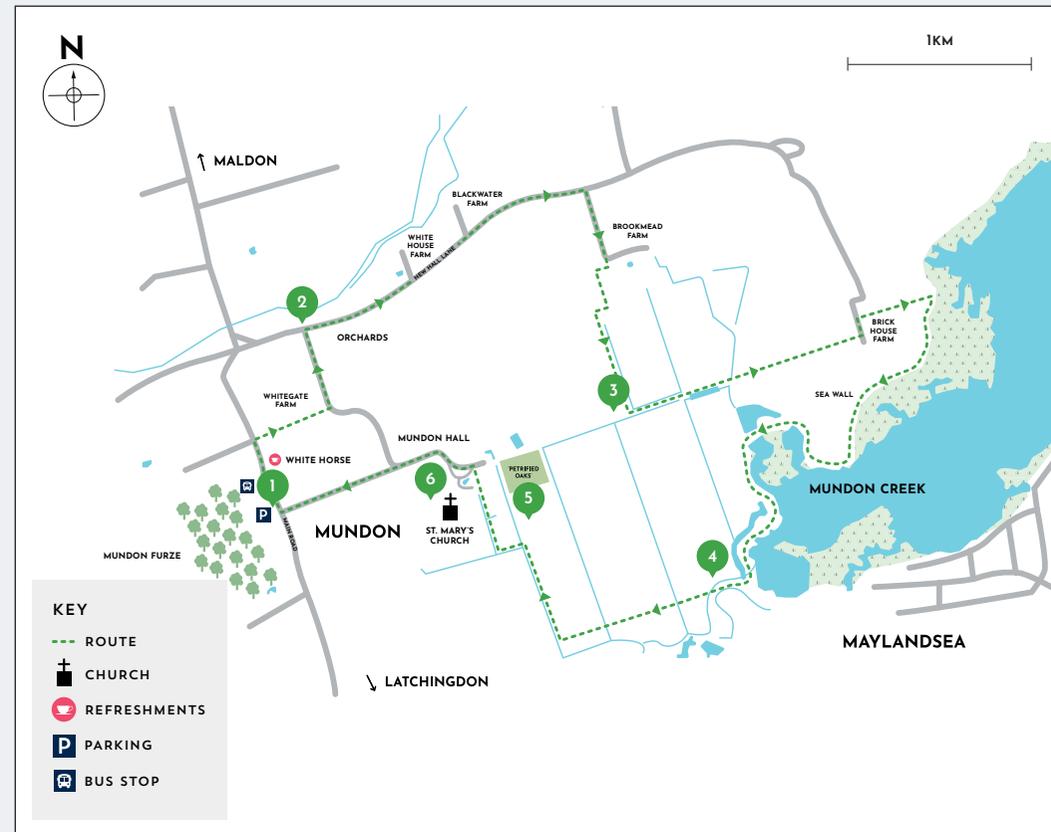
ESSEX BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY
www.ebws.org.uk

SALTMARSH 75
www.saltmarsh75.co.uk

FRIENDLESS CHURCHES
www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

5. You will soon have a great view of the 'petrified' oaks. On reaching some trees, the path goes left, then right. With a large pond to your right and fenced field to your left, go ahead for 80 yards, to a gate on the left hand side. Go through the gate and cross the field to the churchyard ahead. St Mary's church is well worth a visit.

6. Go through the churchyard and exit into the unmade lane, heading right then left to go around Mundon Hall. At the next left hand bend in the lane, ignore the footpath heading off to the right to stay on the lane. Where the tarmacked lane bends right around a very attractive thatched house, keep ahead on the wide track across the middle of a field. The track eventually leads into a close with houses either side; go to the end of this close, and turn right onto the main road. In less than 100 yards, you will reach the starting point of the walk. If you still have some energy after the walk, why not explore the pretty little wood of Mundon Furze, accessible through the back of the village hall car park?



Tell us what you think of the walk & send us your photos:



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