1. From Garden Fields, turn right onto The Street for 220 yards until you reach the Sun & Anchor pub. Just before the pub’s car park, look out for a footpath sign on the right. Take this path, which is initially fenced on both sides and then enters a more wooded area. Walk through the woodland for 250 yards, passing the village playing fields on the right, until you reach a kissing gate opening onto a large field.

2. Follow the path across the field (in the direction of the footpath sign arrow) for 350 yards.

3. At the end of the field go through another kissing gate, cross the footbridge and continue ahead on a grassy track for 350 yards.

4. Cross over a gravel track and over the stile to the left of the five-barred gate ahead. Continue in the same direction, walking along the left side of a large field with a hedge to your left.

5. After 350 yards, you will reach a stile leading into a dense thicket in the far left hand corner of the field. Go over the stile and continue ahead on the path which enters into a thicket; after rain, this section of the path can be quite muddy. In 30 yards, as you emerge from the thicket, cross over a footbridge and climb up the embankment ahead.

6. Turn left and take the stile over the Shoat Farm sluice outfall. You are now on the estuary bund, which protects the inlands from flooding. The route for the next 1 1/4 miles is simple; stay on the coastal path along the sea wall and enjoy the views, crossing one stile along the way. Further to the east along the coast from Steeple Creek, the imposing riverside house at Stansgate Abbey Farm can be seen. Osea Island can be seen across the Blackwater.

7. As you round the north-west tip of the peninsula, you will pass the Steeple Bay Holiday Park. Keep to the coastal path, with Mayland Creek to your right. About 1/3 of a mile after you have passed the end of the Holiday Park on your left, the sea wall eventually bends to the left then right, following an inlet off Mayland Creek.

8. 175 yards after the right hand bend on the sea wall, you will reach a fairly dilapidated wooden stile, where our walk route intersects St Peter’s Way. Turn left over the stile, descending the sea wall. Then turn right along the grassy track (following the St Peter’s Way sign), which heads west towards Steeple. This track is on the left hand edge of a large meadow. After 1/4 of a mile, you will pass through Hall Farm, with the barns and outbuildings to your right and the elegant farmhouse on the left.

9. Go through Hall Farm’s main gates and go ahead along Canney Road until you reach the junction with The Street in 320 yards. Turn left to head along The Street for just over 1/3 of a mile, passing the Church of St Lawrence and All Saints and the Sun and Anchor pub to reach Garden Fields, where we started the walk.
This walk has been downloaded and printed for your convenience by Maldon District Tourist Information Centre. Chris Harvey has kindly adapted the walk description and developed the map for this leaflet. This walk is available free of charge to the public from www.essexwalks.com.

50p
to cover printing costs
For further information please contact:
MALDON DISTRICT
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
Wenlock Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 5AD
Tel: 01621 856503
Website: www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk
Email: tic@maldon.gov.uk

Refreshments on (or close to) the walk
Star, The Street, Steeple, CM0 7LF - Tel: 01621 772646
Sun and Anchor, The Street, Steeple, CM0 7RH - Tel: 01621 773756

Useful web links
Saltmarsh 75
www.saltmarsh75.co.uk
Essex Birdwatching Society
www.ebws.org.uk
Blackwater Wildfowlers Association
www.blackwaterwildfowlers.org.uk

This attractive, easy walk branches off St Peter’s Way, the long distance footpath, at the village of Steeple. It heads north to the Blackwater Estuary and follows the seawall anti-clockwise until it returns to the village. The views across the creek towards Osea Island are magnificent, and the intertidal salt marsh and mudflats provide the perfect habitat for brent geese, grey plovers, dunlins and black-tailed godwits.

Distance: 4.4 miles (7.1 km) circular walk
Time taken: 2 1/4 hours
Location for start of walk: Steeple (6 miles east of Maldon, using B1018, then 4 miles on road towards Bradwell)
OS Explorer Map No.176 (Blackwater Estuary)
OS Grid Reference: TL 937 031
Parking: Garden Fields (off The Street, almost opposite the Star pub), Steeple, CM0 7JY
Public Transport: Buses D1 and D2 from Maldon. Mon-Sat (not Sundays)

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CIRCULAR COASTAL WALK - PART OF SALTMARSH

Steeple Creek

Cover photo by Steve Boutwell

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