



07 ESSEX NORTHEY ISLAND

▶ Distance: 6 miles/10km ▶ Time: 3 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate

SEE
FEATURE
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Low tide on Northey Island.

PHOTO: PHOEBE TAPLIN



CHOSEN BY... PHOEBE TAPLIN

England's oldest recorded battlefield

is now peaceful green fields and wild saltmarshes. But in 991AD marauding Vikings (probably) landed on Northey Island and challenged the waiting Saxon armies on the far side of the Blackwater River. The ensuing carnage is commemorated nearby by a statue of the defeated Saxon leader Byrhtnoth waving his sword at the estuary. Today's visitors to Northey Island must wait for the tide to recede before crossing the causeway, just as the Vikings did more than a millennium ago. Phone the National Trust's warden in advance on 01621 853142.

The second half of this figure-of-eight walk passes some more recent historical features on a stroll around the maritime town of Maldon.

1 Start

Walking into Promenade Park from Mill Road, with museum on L and car park R, follow path towards River Blackwater. Keep L towards cafés near Marine Lake and turn R along riverside to reach Statue of Byrhtnoth.

2 2/3 mile/1 km

Walk back a few steps, turn L before pond and L again into dirt track along fence of Sailing Club. Continue along path and fork L again to join gravel path beside estuary, passing ancient

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Maldon museum/car park opposite and more in town if needed. CM9 5JQ, grid ref TL857065

Is it for me? A mixture of wild countryside and urban roads. Causeway to Northey Island is slippery with seaweed and underwater at high tide. Seawall path around island is uneven. Phone warden in advance on 01621 853142 to visit Northey Island (non-NT members pay £2 at Northey House, point 4) **Stiles** None

PLANNING

Nearest town Maldon

Refreshments Choice in town. None on island

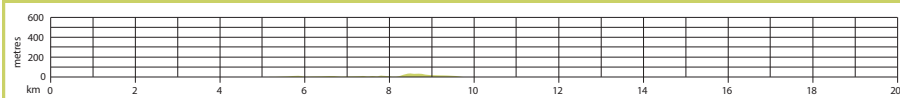
Public toilets Promenade Park (nr museum/river), Northey House, High St

Public transport

Bus 31 from Chelmsford

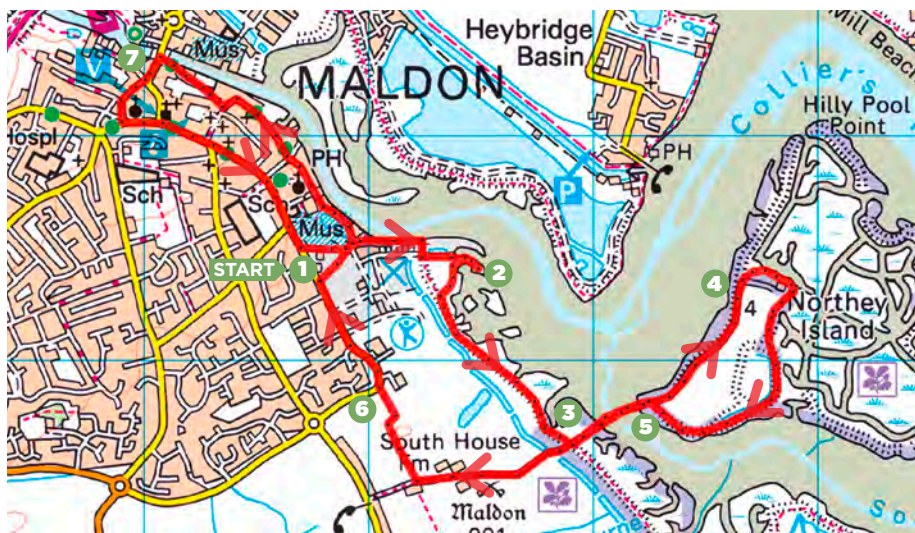
Maps OS Explorer 176; Landranger 168

GRADIENT PROFILE



07 ESSEX
NORTHEY ISLAND▶ OS Explorer map 176 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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barges. Turn L again at sign for Northey Island and follow sea wall to find causeway on L.

3 1½ miles/2.5km

Cross causeway onto Northey Island and keep straight along lane ahead with views over marshes. Turn L, following sign, through picnic area near turreted wall, built by Nobel Peace prizewinner Norman Angell, who bought the island in 1923. (Northey House is a bit further on – door beyond toilet on L for warden).

4 2 miles/3.25km

Follow path behind trees and along edge of estuary. Turn L up onto sea wall and follow it R. Keep following path along sea wall, with numbered posts. Marshes on L and hay fields R

are full of wildlife, including numerous wading birds and butterflies. Reaching causeway again, turn R along fence and L onto lane to leave Island.

5 3 miles/5km

Go back over causeway and keep straight on tarmac lane ahead. The Battle of Maldon was fought somewhere here. Continue through South House farm along lane. By house No.4, turn R on unmarked path. Turn R just before houses and follow path L beside football ground.

6 4½ miles/7.25km

At end, turn R along pavement, past leisure centre. Walk through Promenade Park back to cafés at end of Marine Lake. Keep ahead on tarmac

path, signed The Hythe past Queens Head pub and barges. Follow Hythe and turn R into Downs Road. Keep straight and turn R down path. Continue along Chandlers Quay and riverside to Fullbright Bridge.

7 7½ miles/9km

Turn L, away from river, up Market Hill. Fork R onto Cromwell Hill. Turn L onto Silver Street to reach All Saints church. Turn L again down High Street to finish. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



**Ordnance
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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

