

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.



Red Hills

There are the remnants of Red Hills in the fields around Goldhanger. Formed as a result of generations of salt-making, their colour comes from the rubble of clay structures that were scorched red by fires used to evaporate sea water to make salt cakes. They date from the Bronze Age to the Roman period and are often visible after ploughing.

Osea Island

Frederick Charrington (of the brewing family) established a retreat for wealthy alcoholics on the island in the early 20th century, with avant-garde artist Walter Sickert once a patient. From 2005 to 2010, it was a rehabilitation centre for addiction and mental health and Amy Winehouse was treated there. Now it's exclusive holiday homes.



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
The Cricketers
Osea View Cafe Bar

01621 788203
01621 788468
01621 855122

thechequersgoldhanger.co.uk/
@cricketersgoldhanger
tiptree.com

More locations available at visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink

GOLDHANGER THROUGH THE AGES

Short Walk

Charming Goldhanger village has an 11th century church, remains from Iron Age, Saxon and Roman times, a host of wading birds and great pubs



Village roads, field paths and the seawall which can be muddy. There is one stile



60 to 75 minutes



2.8 miles



How to get here



Church Street, Goldhanger CM9 8AS



Buses 95, 95A (Tollesbury to Maldon)



Explorer 176



birdcage.agenda.couches



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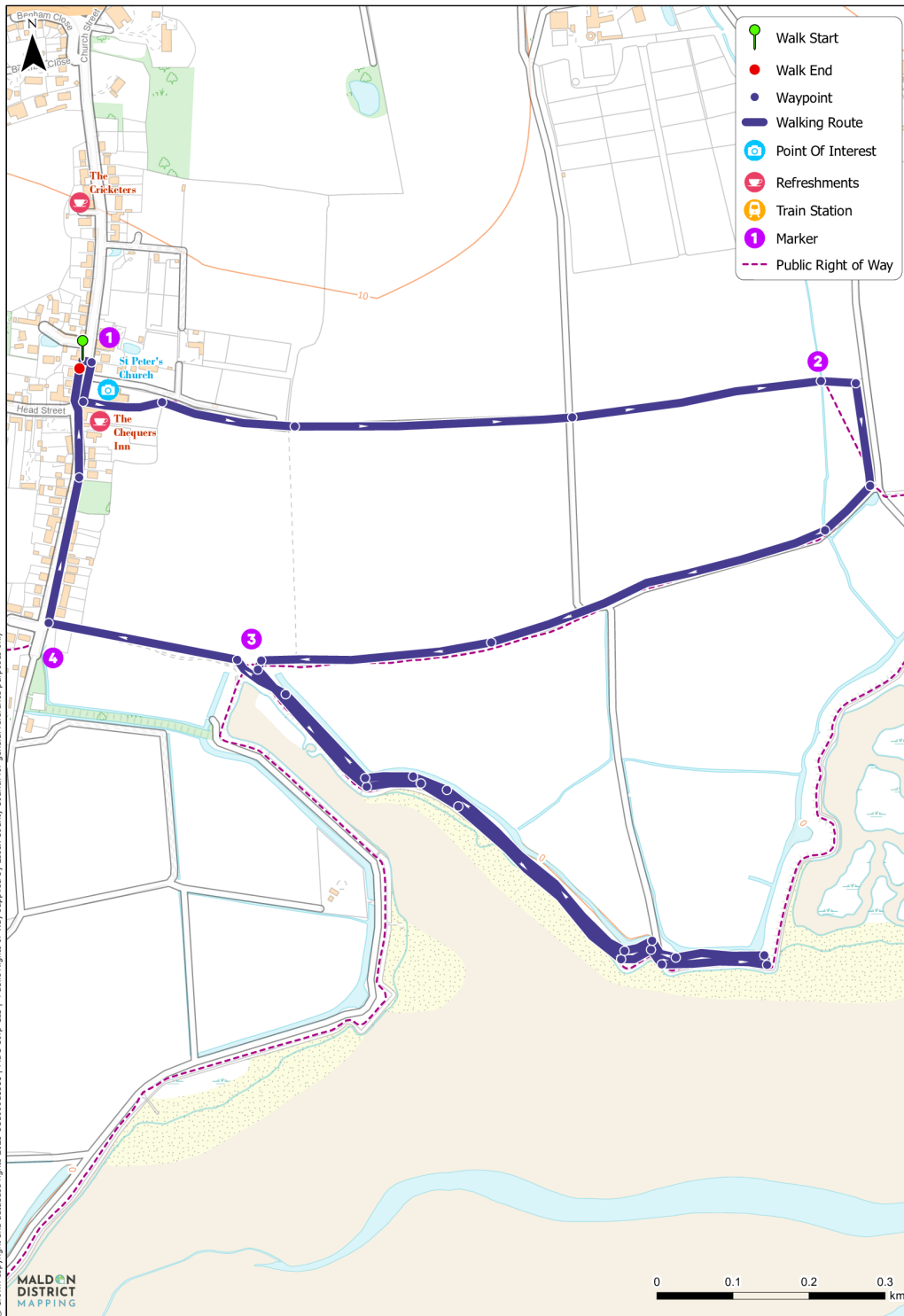


visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/walks



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Route



1. The walk starts from the churchyard of **St Peter's Church**. Take the footpath which passes the main entrance of the church, going over the low **stile** in the stone wall on the eastern edge of the churchyard. Go straight ahead on the path, which has a hedge to the left. Keep going in the same direction, crossing the farm track, onto a cross-field path.

2. At the end of the field, go ahead over the **footbridge** in the gap in the hedge, cross this smaller field and turn right onto the field-edge path. In 150 yards turn right in the corner of this field. After 100 yards go ahead in the same general direction, taking the field-edge path to the left of the hedgerow and trees. In 300 yards, continue ahead on reaching the end of this field, crossing a farm track, then maintain the same direction on the footpath on the right-hand edge of the next field.

3. In 500 yards, you will reach a junction of paths on the edge of **Goldhanger Creek**. Turn left here to follow the **seawall** path along the left-hand bank of the creek - in the cooler months you are likely to see a variety of wading birds on the mudflats. Follow the seawall path as it exits the creek and follows the bank of the Blackwater estuary, with views to the south of **Osea Island**. The island, a favourite with film directors, is privately owned and now an up-market holiday resort, accessed by a tidal causeway. Cross over the outlet for **Highams Farm Sluice** and walk to the point where the seawall takes a sharp left-hand turn; there are good river views here. Retrace your steps from this point back to the junction of paths at the end of the creek. Take the steps down from the seawall (or use the slope around to the right) and take the all-weather track between the trees for 300 yards to exit onto Fish Street in the village.

4. Turn right onto Fish Street; there are some attractive old cottages and a mill house along this lane. After 300 yards, on reaching the junction with Rectory Corner, turn left to look at the recently restored village pump. Continue along Church Street to return to the start point of the walk.