

- A** The **River Sheppey** has been vital for industry; it has been used to power mills and sections navigated for transportation of goods such as peat.
- B** The **Prayway** used to be known as Godney Lighthouse due to the fact a light was kept in the window to guide travellers to the river ford.
- C** The **12th Century chapel of the Holy Trinity** was sold with Godney Farm during the dissolution of monasteries, the current church stands on or near the original site.
- D** **Glastonbury Iron Age Lake Village** was discovered by Arthur Bulleid who recognised features in the landscape as being the same as those at a European lake village site.
- E** This Type 24 **Pillbox** is one of several WWII defences around Godney, additional defences were thought to be necessary here including anti-tank ditches and anti-tank cubes.
- F** **Yarley Fields nature reserve** is managed by Somerset Wildlife Trust and still retains features of a medieval strip field system.
- G** After much dispute over rights, **Westhay Moor** was enclosed in 1783 enabling extensive drainage and watercourse improvement for agriculture and inhabitants. It is now in advanced restoration as a National Nature Reserve managed by Somerset Wildlife Trust.
- H** **Meare Pool** was a natural feature that was utilised by Glastonbury Abbey; it stretched at least 2 miles from Meare. The pool served several fisheries including one at Godney noted in 1275.



More information about this walk and others can be found at [www.avalonmarshes.org](http://www.avalonmarshes.org)

**Acknowledgements:**

Parking permission kindly granted by the Godney Village Hall Committee. Adapted from a walk published in 2008 as part of 'The Godney Village Map'. Special thanks to the many local volunteers who have been involved in the surveying of walking routes across the Avalon Marshes.

**Feedback:**

If you would like to comment on this walk route, please write to:  
 Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Somerset, BA6 9TT  
 T: 01458 860556 E: [info@avalonmarshes.org](mailto:info@avalonmarshes.org)

Specific footpath faults should be reported to Somerset County Council.

# Avalon Marshes Heritage Walks: The Godney Gander



One of a series of circular heritage walking routes in the Avalon Marshes of Somerset

This easy 3 mile (5 km) walk is centred on the village of Godney located in the heart of the Avalon Marshes.



**The Walk:** Parking is available at Godney Village Hall (BA5 1RZ) or responsibly on the street through the village, where you will also find the Sheppey Inn.

Most of the walk is on very quiet rural lanes (but do look out for the occasional vehicle or bicycle), and thus could also be adapted as a family bike ride. The more adventurous could use the route as a springboard to explore nearby nature reserves or the Glastonbury Lake Village.

- 1 Turn left out of the village hall car park, past the Sheppey Inn towards Upper Godney.
- 2 Cross the footbridge on the right and follow the flagstone footpath to the church (if cycling: continue along the road to the crossroads and re-join the directions at (4)).
- 3 The footpath passes the front of the church and emerges on a lane; turn left here back towards Upper Godney.
- 4 At the crossroads go straight on (left if cycling) along Godney Drive.
- 5 Turn left at the next crossroads along Tripps Drive, keeping an eye out for Reed Buntings and other wetland birds and wildlife.
- 6 When you reach another crossroads, turn left again into Tilleys Drive which takes you towards Lower Godney, but do be aware of occasional traffic along this road.
- 7 When you reach the end of the lane bear left and you are back in the village.



#### THE AVALON MARSHES WALKERS' CODE

1. Keep to the right of way to avoid trespass (drones are not rights of way unless shown as such on the map). If the path is obstructed you should seek a reasonable route around the obstruction.
2. Leave gates and property as you find them.
3. Keep dogs under close control at all times, and on a lead around farm animals and wildlife. However, if cattle chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead.
4. Where the route takes you onto a road, make sure you can be seen by traffic and be especially careful when approaching blind bends, using the verge wherever possible. The marshes can be very muddy at times, so always make sure you wear appropriate footwear and clothing.
5. Respect the local community and other people enjoying the countryside, and take your litter home.

