

About this walk

This is an easy walk in an award-winning park and recreation area. Apex Park is a gem with 42 acres of land including lakes, wildflowers, trails and play areas formed from former clay pits. The lake supports a good population of water birds and attracts swallows and house martins in the summer. It also supports toads and water voles with many insects and butterflies in the surrounding parkland.

Meanwhile the England Coast Path section of the walk offers great views of Bridgwater Bay and Hinkley Point to the southwest and the River Brue with its sail boats and tidal shores.

Photo credits

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Useful websites

nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw
somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path
visitsomerset.co.uk



To report any problems on the footpaths during your walk visit:
somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/

On your walk...

The England Coast Path is well waymarked and easy to follow. The acorn symbol of the National Trails is found on waymarks and fingerposts along the route.



Where your walk takes you away from the Coast Path it will be signed with the standard waymarks shown here:

Footpath Bridleway Permissive path

Stay safe and follow the Countryside Code on your walk and always follow guidance on local advisory signs. You can see the Countryside Code at www.gov.uk/countryside-code.



Dogs are welcome on these walks but always keep your dog under close control near livestock and wildlife, especially ground nesting birds, and always clean up after your dog and dispose of dog waste in an appropriate bin.

For more information about this walk or to download a .gpx file, scan the QR code or visit nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/apex-circular



All information correct at the time of publication

Apex Park Circular

ENGLAND
COAST PATH
NATIONAL TRAIL

1.25 miles / 2km | 30 minutes | Easy



WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



Distance: 1.25 miles/2km

Duration: 30 minutes

Map: OS Explorer 153: Weston-super-Mare & Bleadon Hill

Grade: Easy



Access:

An easy walk on paved pathways with no gates or stiles, so suitable for wheels. There is also the opportunity to extend the walk while staying on paved paths.



Getting here:

By car to Apex Park, Marine Drive, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1NQ. There is a large free car park here, and the Park is close to stops for bus 20 from Weston-super-Mare or bus 21A from Taunton and Bridgwater. To find out more visit travelsomerset.co.uk



Facilities:

There are public toilets in the car park and a mobile café, as well as shopping and facilities not far away in Burnham-on-Sea town centre.

Apex Park Circular



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England Coast Path

Apex Park Circular

DIRECTIONS

The walk begins in the Apex Park car park off Marine Drive. Walk towards the lake but just before it take the path to the right and continue with the lake on your left. The name Apex comes from the Apex Tile Company that operated here in the 19th Century producing bricks and tiles from clay mined in the area that is now the lake. At one time this site supported four kilns, each with the capacity to make 2,000 bricks. Production stopped in 1966 after which the area was cleared, and Apex Park was created in the 1970s.

Today mallard ducks gather by the slipway and grey herons are regularly spotted during the breeding season searching for small fish and eels for their young. Other water birds include mute swans, cormorants, pochard ducks and tufted ducks. While coots, Canada geese and moorhens can sometimes be spotted by the rushes.

Wildlife thriving around the lake includes common toads, water voles (which are sometimes mistaken for brown rats) and a wide variety of insects, including orange gatekeeper butterflies and common darter dragonflies.

As you walk beside the lake you'll see a wildflower meadow **1** to your right and a turning. Take this right turn and continue on the path until you reach the bank of the River Brue **2**. Across the channel is the Steart peninsular and the Bridgwater Bay Nature Reserve and Hinkley Point Power Station can be seen behind this, with the Quantock Hills and Exmoor in the distance.

For a 30 minute excursion towards Burnham-on-Sea turn right here and follow the England Coast Path towards the estuary where the River Brue joins the mouth of the River Parrett **3**. Historically this would have been a busy intersection of rivers with some boats waiting on the tides to head upstream to the docks in Highbridge, while others headed up the River Parrett to Combwich and Bridgwater. Today, many sail boats are moored along the River Brue at this point and at high tide it is possible to watch them sailing in and out of the river mouth. To continue the walk, return to point **2** and go straight on.

If you are not taking the Burnham-on-Sea excursion, turn left and follow the England Coast Path keeping the River Brue on your right until you reach a tarmac drive. Cross the road with care to go back into Apex Park. Follow the path around to the right until you come to a T-junction **4**, then turn left onto the cycle path.

At this point you are following the route of what was once the Burnham to Evercreech Junction section of the Somerset & Dorset Railway which provided two sidings for use by the brick and tile manufacturers based here. After 200 yards, you will come to another junction where you can either continue straight ahead on the cycle path back to the car park, or turn left and follow the lakeside walk to return to your earlier path next to the wildflower meadow. When you reach this path turn right to return to the car park.