

About this walk

The Stert Peninsular has been internationally recognised as an important site for wintering wildfowl and migratory birds since 1954. Taking in both the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Bridgwater Bay nature reserves, these walks offer all round views of the Poldens, Mendips, Exmoor and Brecon Beacons, as well as providing hides and screens for keen bird watchers. Much of the route is also accessible for disabled access.

Once an area of drained, reclaimed land, today it is being returned to its original state as a working wetland and now provides local flood defences, productive farmland, a thriving nature reserve and a carbon sink that contributes to climate change mitigation.

Photo credits

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Useful websites

nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw
somersex.gov.uk/england-coast-path
visitsomersex.co.uk



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

Stert Marshes Circular

ENGLAND
COAST PATH
NATIONAL TRAIL

3 or 6.5 miles / 5 or 10.5km | 1.5 or 3.5 hours | Easy



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/stert-circular



All information correct at the time of publication

WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



Distance: 3 or 6.5 miles/5 or 10.5km

Duration: 1.5 or 3.5 hours

Map: OS Explorer 140: Quantock Hills & Bridgwater

Grade: Easy



Access:

These are easy flat walks with a choice of shorter circular routes or a much longer walk taking in the whole peninsular. Much of the route is on paved paths and has disabled access from the start to point **6** on the map.



Getting here:

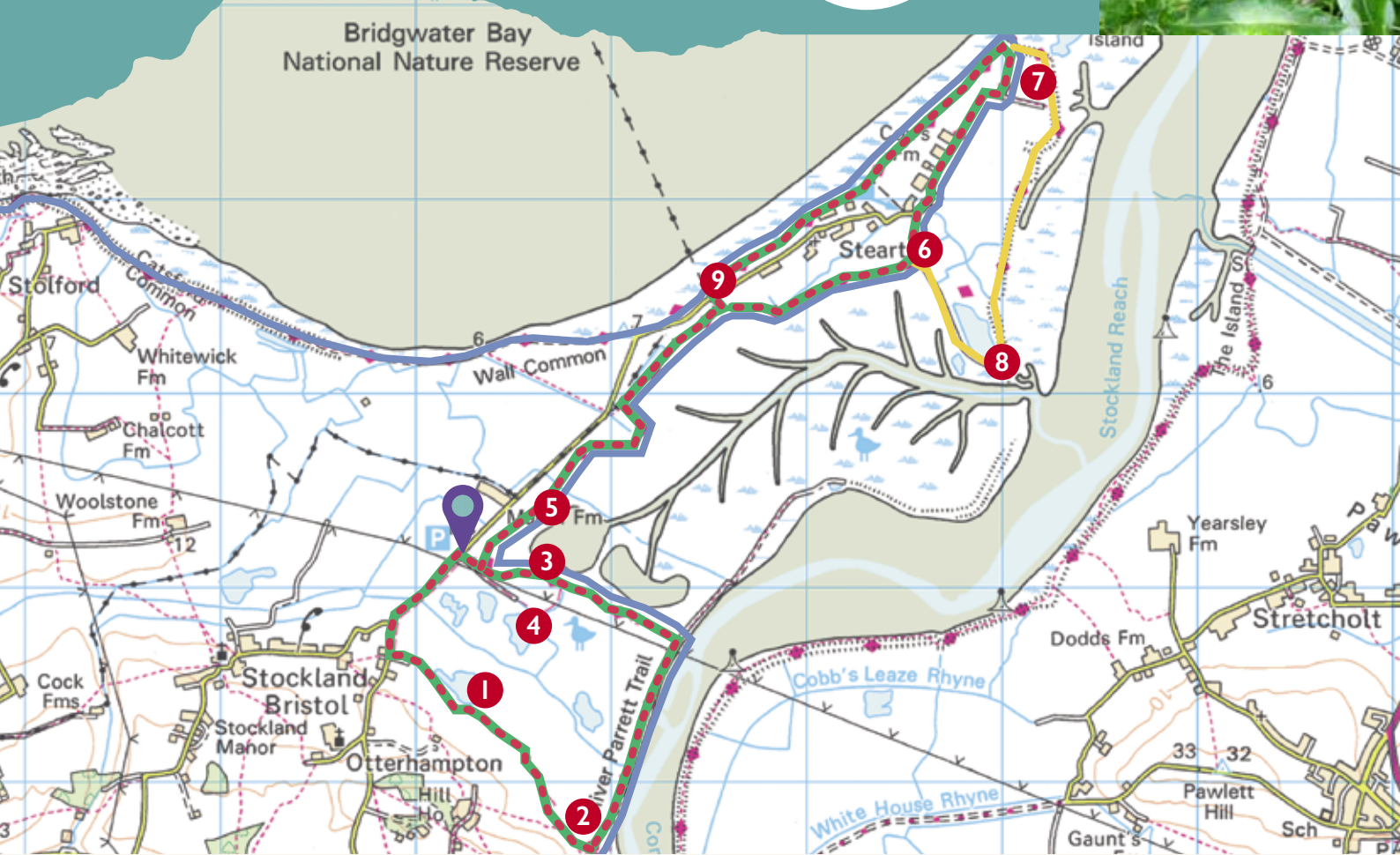
By car to WWT Car Park, Stert Drove, Bridgwater TA5 2PU. Parking is free here and in the overflow car park at point **9** on the map. Please note that if all car parks are full visitors are requested to not to park on verges or in gateways but to respect the visitor capacity of the area and return another day.



Facilities:

There are toilets at WWT's main car park and a small café in Otterhampton as you are drive to the peninsular. There are also cafés, pubs and shops in the nearby villages of Comwich, Cannington, Nether Stowey and Stogursey.

Steart Marshes Circular



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England Coast Path

Summer Route

Open between 1st April & 30th September

Steart Marshes Circular

DIRECTIONS

Both walks start at the WWT car park. Leave the car park and carefully cross the road and go through the gate onto the path. For the short walk take the right hand path to Otterhampton Marsh and for the longer walk turn left and skip to the next paragraph.

For the short walk cross a brook near the road and follow the path to the left. You will come to a viewing platform **1** where you can look back over Otterhampton Marsh. Stay on this path until it joins the England Coast Path at the River Parrett in Combwich **2**. Turn left and follow the path as it turns inland to the Mendip Bird Hide **3** looking out over the main saltmarsh and the Quantock Hide **4** looking back over Otterhampton Marsh. Stay on this path to return to the the car park.

For the longer walk follow the England Coast Path signs to Steart passing Polden Hide **5** where you can indulge in some bird watching. Continue to where the path turns to the right, and when you reach the T-junction turn left to a meeting of paths in an open area **6** where you choose between the winter and summer routes. Between 1st April and 30th September the summer route is closed to ensure that over-wintering birds are not disturbed, and walkers must use the winter route.

For the winter route keep straight on until you reach the road, go through the gate and turn right. Stay on the road, which becomes a track and then turns to the right on a bend. Take the next left following the Coast Path Acorn markers. At the end of the track pass through a wooden kissing gate and turn right to visit the Tower Hide **7**.

For the summer route, turn right at the open area **6** and follow the path east until you reach the bird screens **8**. After the screens turn left and go through the gate following Coast Path signs until you reach the Tower Hide **7**.

From the Tower Hide you can look out over the mouth of the River Parrett to Steart Island, which was part of the peninsular until the late 1790s. The expansive mudflats here host a myriad of shrimps, shellfish and lugworms which provide valuable food for visiting birds.

Leaving the Tower Hide walk across the field following the line of an old wall and pass through the gate following signs to Wall Common. At the WWT overflow car park **9** turn left through the car park to re-join your earlier route and retrace your steps to the main WWT car park.

For the more ambitious, you can combine both walks; this is about 9 miles / 15km and takes about five hours.