

- A** Along **Bridewell Lane** is the oldest building in the village, a 15th Century cottage that has had only a few alterations to its structure.

Shapwick School was originally known as Shapwick Manor and later Down House; it was built around 1540 and was the second **manor house** built in the village.

There are 2 listed **Dovecotes** in Shapwick, one in the grounds of Shapwick Manor and another at Shapwick House.

- B** **Shapwick House** was the original manor house at Shapwick; built around 1490, it belonged to Glastonbury Abbey but was heavily remodelled in the 17th century.
- C** Nidons Iron Age Trackway was first excavated on **Nidons Ridge** in 1953, it is thought to have been used as a bridge between the Polden Hills and Meare Island.

Icehouse Copse probably gets its name from the 18th century icehouse located there. The icehouse was for Shapwick House illustrating the wealth of the owner George Templer.

- D** Royal ascent was given to the inclosure of **Shapwick Turf Moor** on the 6th June 1777. It was acquired as a nature reserve by The Hawk and Owl Trust in 2007, and is being restored to permanent semi-natural grassland. The rhynes provide an important water control measure, while the grazing by traditional rare breeds such as Red Devon cattle are instrumental to the conservation management of the site.

- E** **Catcott** has revealed evidence of occupation since pre-history, it has held turbaries and mills and even a disused Friends burial site above Lippetts Way.

- F** **Manor Farm** was built by George Warry in 1849; it is constructed of coursed lias which was probably from a local quarry.

- G** **St Mary's Church** was originally dedicated to St Edith but was renamed after the Blessed Virgin Mary by 1541 due to the feast day clashing with farm work.

More information about this walk and others can be found at
www.avalonmarshes.org

Acknowledgements:

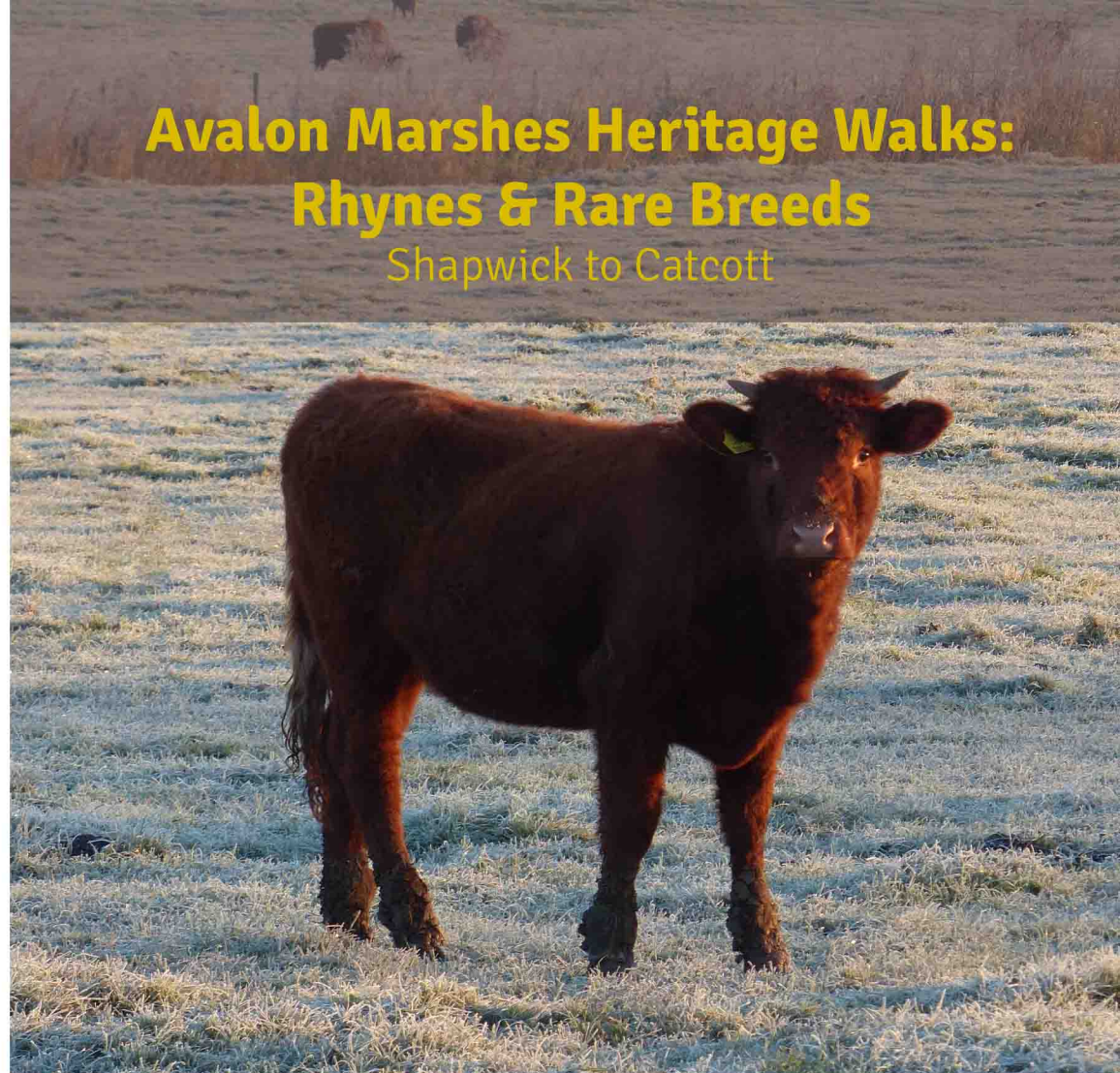
Special thanks to the many local volunteers who have been involved in the surveying of walking routes across the Avalon Marshes. Walk based on a route by Ken and Helen Wade; more can be found on the Shapwick Village website.

Feedback:

If you would like to comment on this walk route, please contact us at:
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T: 01458 860556 E: info@avalonmarshes.org

Specific footpath faults should be reported to Somerset County Council.

Avalon Marshes Heritage Walks: Rhynes & Rare Breeds Shapwick to Catcott



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

This moderate 6 mile (9.5km) walk takes in the historic villages of Shapwick and Catcott along the Polden Ridge, and includes an interesting detour down onto Shapwick Moor, a wetland nature reserve managed by the Hawk and Owl Trust.



The Walk: Street parking is available in Shapwick - please park responsibly, or alternatively, use the car park provided at the Hawk & Owl Trust Nature Reserve (marked 'P'). Regular buses run between Shapwick, Bridgwater, Glastonbury and Wells. Café and toilet facilities can be found a couple of miles away at the Avalon Marshes Centre (BA6 9TT) and there are two pubs in Catcott.

- 1 The walk starts in Bridewell Lane, between the church and village hall (look out for the old manor house and dovecot on the right)
- 2 Continue straight ahead into Kent Lane, which passes Monk's Drive and Kent Farm.
- 3 Take signed footpath to the right onto Kent Drove. (For a shorter route to Catcott, continue straight on through industrial area)
- 4 At the entrance to Shapwick Moor Nature Reserve continue straight ahead and cross the bridge over the rhyne, then immediately look for a gate to the left into the field.
- 5 At the end of the rhyne cross two bridges, turn half left and look for a gate mid-way along the left hand field edge, near an owl box.
- 6 Cross the footbridge, and go half right up the field to where you will find a stile - do not cross - instead turn immediately left and proceed downhill to the gate and cattle trough.
- 7 Cross the stile, and straight across a narrow field and another footbridge and stile, then head half right, crossing another two fields, with a stile between them, eventually emerging on a lane, which leads towards Catcott.

- 8 Before you reach the road, take the footpath to the left (over another stile) and head half right up the hill to a metal kissing gate, which emerges in Steel Lane; then cross into Weares Lane.
- 9 Ignore the footpath into the playground, and continue uphill and turn left at the footpath sign just before the road junction.
- 10 This footpath takes you back to Shapwick, with some fine views of the Mendips and Glastonbury Tor. At the end of a long narrow field, the path emerges onto a concrete farm track near the wind turbine.
- 11 After Manor Farm the track meets the road, and you can follow this back into Shapwick, turning left by the church to return to the start of the walk.

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.
6. Respect the local community and other people enjoying the countryside, and take your litter home.

