

Waveney Valley Walks – Beccles and Geldeston



Beccles is an historic market town, at one time a busy Saxon fishing port (it even paid its taxes in herrings!) reputed to have been founded in 960 AD. Granted its charter in 1584 by Queen Elizabeth I, its history has recently been added to by an important and exciting archaeological find of an Iron Age 'roadway' on the river below the town.

Today Beccles is a thriving modern community but still very much in touch with its history with a well preserved square, narrow streets and fine Georgian buildings. The Bell Tower dominates the town and the surrounding countryside and the splendid views from the top make climbing the many steps worthwhile.

This walk starts in Beccles, going alongside the River Waveney to the charming village of Geldeston before crossing the marshes and then returning to Beccles along the Angles Way.



WALKING ROUTE INFORMATION

Car park	Beccles – Car park off Fen Lane
Train	Beccles Station
Starting point	Beccles – Information Centre, The Quay
Length of walk	7 miles
Type of walk	Easy to Moderate – flat with one steep incline
Terrain	River bank slightly uneven in parts, quiet lanes, pasture/marsh (can be boggy at certain times of year), farm tracks and pavement/roads in Beccles
Refreshment stops on walks	Geldeston – Farm shop, Wherry Inn, Lock Inn

BECCLES AND GELDESTON

- 1 The walk starts from the Information Centre close to the car park. With the Information Centre at your back head towards the town centre along Fen Lane and after 50m turn right towards the road bridge following the footpath on the right and over the bridge.
- 2 Once over the river, cross the road and take the footpath by Big Dog Ferry, through the yard and along the river bank. This is the Norfolk bank. Follow this path for approx 1.5 miles. Along the river bank you will have views of Beccles and the houses that meet the river.
- 3 The path turns slightly inland towards an elevated house amongst the trees overlooking the river. At the footpath junction turn right and head uphill until reaching a quiet lane and turn left. Proceed down the quiet lane until reaching the busier road heading towards Geldeston.
- 4 Turn left and follow the road into Geldeston where you will find some lovely village homes, a farm shop and the Wherry Inn, an ideal refreshment stop.
- 5 Shortly after the Wherry Inn the road comes to a T-junction. Turn left down Station Road where you will see the distinctive old station house on the right.
- 6 50m after crossing what was the old railway line and just as the road curves to the right you will see a track to the left signposted Lock Inn. Follow the track until you reach Lock Inn. On a clear day as you look far to the left you should be able to see the Bell Tower of Beccles dominating the skyline.
- 7 At the Lock Inn, another possible refreshment stop, head to the right over two bridges and head across the marsh over a wooden bridge towards an iron gate/stile (please note that the marsh can flood and become impassable at certain times of the year).
- 8 Once over the stile turn left along the track over a fence/stile and a further stile on the right gives access to a field. Turn left and follow the edge of the field to the next stile.
- 9 Turn left at the stile and keep straight ahead over another stile. Follow the field edge past cottages on the right and keep straight ahead until reaching cottages by the main Bungay to Beccles road.
- 10 Turn left and walk on the grass verge passing Elizabethan Roos Hall on your left until you reach Puddingmoor Lane.
- 11 Turn left down Puddingmoor Lane and follow lane below town until reaching steps on your right which will take you up to St Michaels Church and the Bell Tower. Turn left and follow Northgate back to the Information Centre.

● FURTHER INFORMATION

Beccles Marsh Trail – As a shorter alternative to the 7 mile Beccles and Geldeston walk, Beccles Town Council have created 3 walks of 1.5, 3 and 4 miles to view the Beccles Marsh. All walks can be accessed from the same starting point. A leaflet describing the walks is available from the Broads Information Centre.



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