

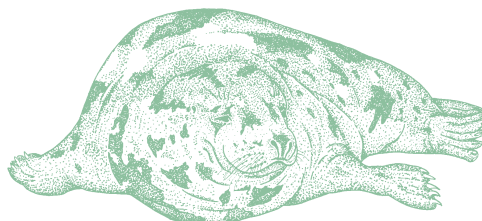
Blakeney Point National Nature Reserve

Blakeney Point is a shingle ridge which extends westwards from Weybourne and runs more or less parallel to the coast from which it is separated by tidal water: sand and finer particles of silt and mud help to build up the Point. Saltmarsh is formed by mud and silt deposited by the tides in the bays sheltered by the shingle bank. This site is constantly changing due to tide and storm action: the amount of shingle moved during one heavy storm for example may be spectacular.



Dunes/saltmarsh at Blakeney Point NNR

Blakeney Point was purchased from Lord Calthorpe's trustees by Charles Rothschild in 1912, and was handed over to the National Trust later that same year. Since then, the site has been managed by the National Trust and now attracts thousands of visitors and schoolchildren each year. Blakeney Point forms part of the North Norfolk Coast SSSI.



grey seal

The shingle banks are colonised by a variety of specialised plant species such as biting stonecrop, thrift, sea campion, yellow horned-poppy, sea sandwort, sea beet and bird's-foot trefoil.

At the saltmarsh-shingle boundary another plant community occurs which includes species such as shrubby seablite, rock sea lavender and the rare matted sea lavender. The stabilised mature sandunes hold a rich flora including a number of uncommon halophytic species and are consolidated by the binding rhizomes of marram grass, sea bindweed and grey hair-grass. The shingle banks and foreshore provide suitable habitats for wintering passerines such as twite, snow bunting and shore larks. Common and sometimes grey seals can be seen at Blakeney. The best way to see the seals is by ferry boat as it causes least disturbance and offers the best views.

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Fact File

LOCATION

North Norfolk coast, 8km east north east of Wells. Landranger 132, 133.

HABITATS

Intertidal sands and mud, saltmarsh, shingle, dunes.

SPECIES

Breeding birds (tern colonies with little, common, sandwich and arctic terns), ringed plover, oystercatcher, shelduck, brent geese and waders in winter, snow buntings, common seals, shingle flora.

ACCESS

Marked boardwalks and paths including circular route. The main access to Blakeney Point is by ferry boats (mainly from Morston Quay) which also visit the seal colony. Useful on-site interpretation for visitors can be found at the Old Lifeboat House, Blakeney Point.

CAR PARKING

Morston and Blakeney Quays and Cley, (charges are made during the summer season).

Management

The ternery is protected by fences. Visitors are asked to keep out of the ternery during the breeding season April to September.

Key

- Reserve Boundary
- Reserve Boundary (over the sea)
- Coastline
- A149
- Other Roads
- Public Footpaths
- Car Park
- River

