

# Redwick & Porton Loop

Distance: 8 km | Time: 3 hours



## About the Gwent Levels

The Gwent Levels are an iconic, estuarine landscape of international significance. First reclaimed from the sea in Roman times, the Gwent Levels are a network of fertile fields and historic watercourses, known locally as reens. This special landscape of high skies and low horizons is one of the finest examples of a 'natural' landscape hand-crafted by people in Europe; and one of the largest tracts of bio-diverse wet grassland left in the UK.

## The Partnership

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are delivering a programme of work which will promote and reconnect people to the heritage, wildlife and wild beauty of the Gwent Levels.



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For more information about this walk visit:

[www.livinglevels.org.uk](http://www.livinglevels.org.uk)



## Walk Highlights

### REDWICK VILLAGE

Redwick probably originated in the late eleventh/twelfth century and is the best preserved medieval village on the Levels. The name 'Redwick' translates as 'farm, or dairy, in the marshes'.

The ornate bus shelter near the church has a display featuring a range of Commissioners of Sewers notices relating to the drainage system, some stones that were placed along reens to mark the stretches which individual tenants were responsible for maintaining, several cider mills and a cider press.

### CHURCH OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, REDWICK

The ancient church of St. Thomas the Apostle is unusually large for a parish church on the Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels. The church has a full-immersion baptistry, unique medieval stone carvings and a fine Victorian pipe organ salvaged from two previous churches. On the south side of the church are two marks indicating the height of flood waters during the Great Flood of 1607.

### WINDMILL REEN

Windmill Reen is one of the main drainage ditches on the Levels and was probably constructed sometime in the fifteenth century. The banks of the reen are a good place to look for dragonflies, herons, kingfishers and other wildlife.

### SEA WALL

The sea wall was extensively rebuilt in the 1950s and '60s with a stone rubble face and a concrete wave return wall on top. It cuts across the older field layout, creating odd shaped triangular fields. The original medieval sea wall was much further out in the estuary. Without the sea wall, much of the Levels would be submerged under water twice a day.

### PORTON

Porton is first recorded in the mid thirteenth century on land held by Goldcliff Priory. The hamlet today consists of a collection of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings. There is a local legend that the original village was much closer to the sea and has since been eroded away; some claim the ghostly bells of Whitson church can still be heard on stormy nights.

## Follow the Countryside Code

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so gateways and driveways are clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow
- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep your dog under effective control and on a lead around livestock.
- Pick up after your pet - dog mess can harm livestock
- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

## Look out for...



Wheatear (Ben Andrew, RSPB-images.com)



Migrant hawk dragonfly (Chris Harris)



Common blue butterfly (Chris Harris)



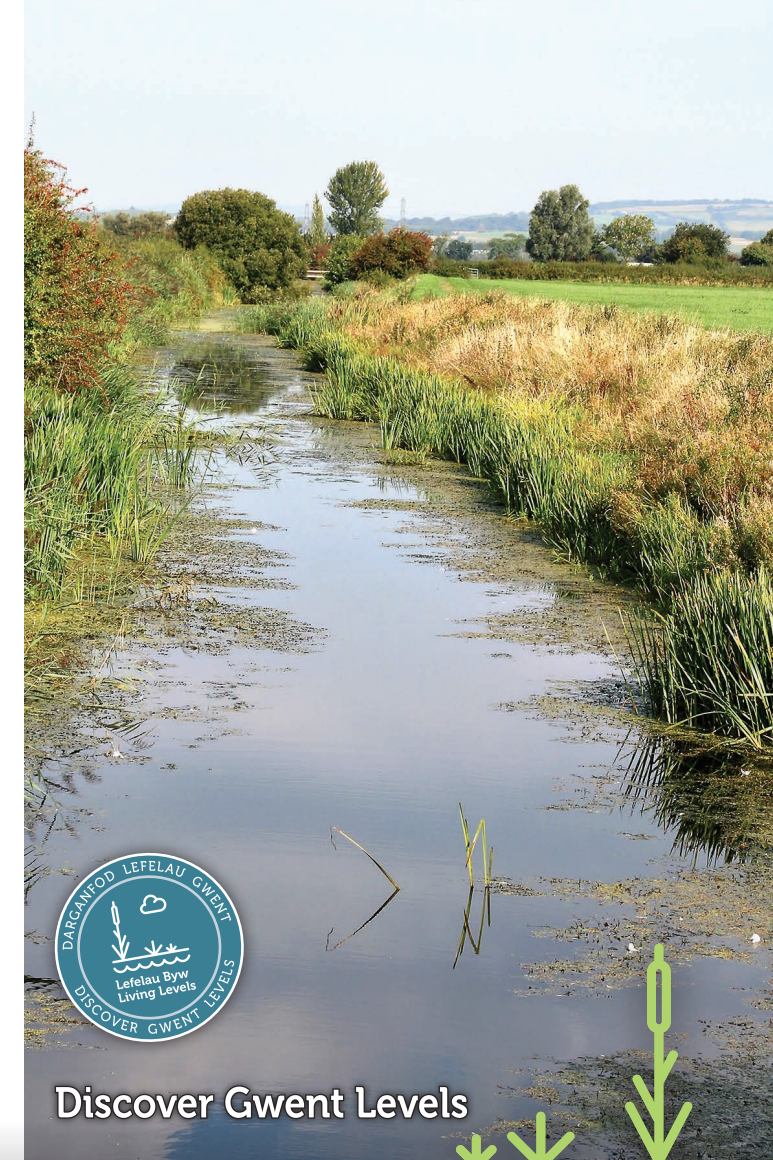
Restharrow (Chris Harris)



Kingfisher (Chris Harris)



Little egret (Chris Harris)



# Redwick & Porton

A pleasant mix of rural footpaths and a refreshing coastal walk takes you from the impressive Church of St Thomas at Redwick to Porton and back via a section of the Wales Coast Path.

## The Route

**Start at St Thomas' Church, Redwick**  
(Grid Ref ST 412841 | OS Explorer Map 152)

- 1 Start at gates of **St Thomas' Church**, Redwick, bear left and follow path through church yard to a small paddock at rear of church and on to a roadside stile.
- 2 Turn left onto South Row and after short distance look for finger post on right.
- 3 Follow footpath through field gate and continue along field path towards sea wall, crossing **Windmill Reen**.
- 4 Walk up onto **sea wall**, turn right and follow the Wales Coast Path (WCP) towards Porton House. Along the sea wall, look out for curlew, oystercatcher and shelduck feeding along the shoreline. Lines of wooden stakes, visible at low tide, are the remains of fish traps.



St Thomas' Church, Redwick (Chris Harris)

- 5 After Porton House, leave the WCP and head inland across a series of footbridges until reaching a stile leading you on to Porton Road.
- 6 You are now in **Porton**. Follow road to the right for around 70 metres then join Hare's Lane (green lane) on the left. Continue along the lane for approximately 100 metres.
- 7 Join footpath on the right and follow waymarked path over a series of footbridges towards Llanwern pipeline.
- 8 Cross pipeline steel footbridge and continue along the footpath as it zigzags across fields and footbridges reaching a roadside stile.
- 9 Turn left onto Mead Lane (rough track) and follow back towards Redwick. At the first road junction go straight ahead on Bryn Road for about 150 metres and join the footpath on the right through the churchyard to finish.



Heading west along the sea wall (Chris Harris)



Great flood commemoration marker, St Thomas' (Chris Harris)



Old cider mill, Redwick (C Harris)



Windmill Reen (Chris Harris)