



walks



LOCATION: SHAPINSAY

ROUTE: BALFOUR VILLAGE & MILL DAM RESERVE



DISTANCE

7.8km



GRADE

2



DURATION

2hrs 15mins

A gentle introduction to one of Orkney's most accessible islands.

Route guide

- 1) Starting at the Shapinsay pier (HY4793 1645) turn right to head through Balfour Village. Keep to the right as the road passes the village shop. Pass the school on your left before taking the first road on the left (HY4829 1688)
- 2) Follow the road north for around 1km to arrive at the bird hide for the RSPB Mill Dam Nature Reserve (HY4837 1776)
- 3) Continue north along the road for a further kilometre before taking the farm track on the right to head eastwards (HY4834 1877 - not the track leading past a house, but the one 200m further on)
- 4) Follow the track for 1km before arriving back on a public road close to the farm of Parkhall (HY4938 1873)
- 5) Turning right, head 1.2km along the road to arrive at a T-junction (HY4935 1754)
- 6) Turn left for 300m before taking the first turnoff on the right towards the church (HY4964 1738)
- 7) As the road turns left towards the church, carry straight on to pick up a stony agricultural track for 600m
- 8) Arriving back at the public road (HY4943 1679), turn right to head towards the village and the start of the walk.

For further details and mapping information, find the walk on [Orkney.com/walking](https://orkney.com/walking)

Make sure you follow our guide to being a responsible visitor:



Pick up litter, taking it home with you or using any bins provided.



Keep your dog on a lead around farmland and livestock, and clean up after pets too.



Avoid lighting fires or BBQs on moorland or in the countryside, and if you do have a BBQ or bonfire on a beach, please clean up afterwards.



Stick to designated walking and cycling routes when you're out exploring, and be respectful of private property.



Use gates where they're provided and, if they're closed when you find them, close them again after passing through.



Avoid disturbing any natural flora, fauna or wildlife habitats.



It's always worth reading up on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code before you explore Orkney too.