

Blackpool Mill

Walk 10

Distance - 8¾ km (5½ miles) Map: Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure 36, South Pembrokeshire, 1:25,000 Ascent 90m (295ft)



 - Walk  - B4341

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Start/car parking - Car park at Blackpool Mill, (although the Mill is closed there is some restricted parking) grid reference 060144. From St. Bride's drive through Haverfordwest, then along the A40 past Slebech. At the roundabout, take the third exit to Blackpool Mill then right again along a minor road in less than a quarter mile. The mill is a little more than half a mile along this road.

The very impressive four storey Blackpool Mill dates from the early 19th century. During that century substantial ships could deliver cargoes of grain along the tidal Eastern Cleddau River. The mill has been restored and is now a seasonal visitor attraction, housing a museum, with shop and tea room.

Much of the outward route and some of the return route of the walk is through Minwear Wood, part of the Forest Enterprises Slebech Forest, high on the side of the river valley.

Apart from some mud, there are no difficulties and very few stiles.

Note: It would be a great help to future walkers if you could record any inaccuracies you come across during this walk and report them to reception so that appropriate amendments can be made.

Thank you for your help. **Happy walking.**

WALK

Start from a signpost in the car park at Blackpool Mill, immediately to the left of the toilets, along a grass path. Go through a gate with a permissive path waymark and cross a meadow to a waymarked gate/stile. Keep left at a signpost, cross a swampy area on a boardwalk to reach a gate/stile with a Landsker Borderlands Trail waymark. Rise into woodland.

- 1 At a waymarked post turn right, along an unsurfaced roadway. Pass a wooden barrier and continue along a broad track through the attractive woodland. Cross a stream, rising to a junction. Go straight across; the river is below to the right and there is soon a short diversion to a viewpoint with seat, for a fine view of the valley, with extensive reed beds. Continue along the main path, now narrower but always clear on the ground. Go straight ahead at a signposted junction, descending to cross several little streams on footbridges.
- 2 At a cross-path go straight ahead; there is a 'Minwear Woods – permissive path' sign. There are more footbridges and another rise before the path levels, high above the river. Bluebells and primroses are abundant in Spring. Cross another bridge before rising to a Landsker Borderland Trail waymarked post. Turn right here; along the way are posts with yellow tops.
- 3 Go over a stile, with adjacent railings. Bear left; close by are the ruins of 'Sisters' House', reputedly a hospice for female pilgrims en route to St. David's and Non's Well. Rise along a sunken lane. After a modern kissing

gate continue along the left edge of a field. At the top bear left at a gate/stile by the side of a pond. The farm lane leads through Minwear Farm to join a road beside a church. Follow this road to a junction with the public highway.

- 4 Turn right, then left in 20m. to follow a broad track through two gates. This bridleway, a sunken lane, continues, gently uphill, for approximately one mile, passing through several modern gates. Some sections are likely to be muddy from use by horses. Cott Farm is in view to the right before a junction with an unsurfaced road is reached.
- 5 Turn left, soon reaching tarmac. Pass a farm, Forest Lodge, and carry on along a broad track descending gently through woodland. Reach rough tarmac and continue, ignoring any apparent junction. Pass a cluster of houses immediately before joining the public highway.
- 6 Turn right; there is a path through the trees beside the road. Pass a road junction, staying with the major road, downhill, to the entrance to the Blackpool Mill car park. Turn left into the car park.