

1 GOOSE GREEN SETTLEMENT

This short circular trail is ideal for families with young children or indeed anyone wanting a stroll to explore Goose Green settlement. Beachcombing, birding and fishing opportunities abound and there are interesting historical features. The walk is on fairly gentle terrain and flat but take care to watch footfall on rocky, slippery and bumpy sections.

Main route

Begin in the parking area alongside the "Galley Café". Walk towards the Community Hall, easily distinguishable by its steeple. Follow the road in an easterly direction, passing the school and playpark on the right-hand side. Cross a cattle grid and turn immediately left and walk overland between the buildings to the dog kennels named "The Marriot".

Drop down to the shoreline at any safe, convenient place and walk around "The Point" so doubling back in a westerly direction. The coast is great for beachcombing and birding, but take care as some objects can be dangerous to handle. High tide may necessitate walking on the grass instead of the shore itself. Choose any suitable route around the next point or straight across to find a small group of allotments. Follow the fence-line along the north side of the allotments and walk towards a small round building which was once part of a meat-canning factory.

Walk through a gate and pass the old canning factory so that it is to the left then bear left to join the shoreline



Tips:
 Try fishing from the beach by the jetty or nearby the wind turbines; The Point is a great area for beachcombing and bird spotting
 Spend time in the museum; visit the shearing sheds especially if the shearers are in action!



behind the dog kennels named "The Hilton". Follow the coast, in front of the houses, in the direction of the wind turbines and radar array. After the static caravan, "The Lyndhurst", turn right and follow the track to the shearing sheds, identifiable by their large size and black walls.

Turn right at the shearing sheds and walk towards the centre of the settlement and the start of the trail. The store & museum occupy a single building on the right-hand side. Before finishing, take a short detour by turning left before the Galley Café towards the jetty; at the head of the jetty is the "Stone Cottage" built in 1899 and lovely views to the north. Walking on the jetty itself is not advised as some sections are now very unstable.



Countryside Code

1. Always ask for permission before entering private land.
2. Keep to paths wherever possible. Leave gates, open or shut, as you find them.
3. Be aware of the high fire risk throughout the islands; particularly when lighting fires, BBQs or smoking.
4. Do not litter*. Take your rubbish home with you or use a bin provided
5. Never feed, touch, handle, injure or kill any wild bird or animal*.
6. Always give animals the right of way. Do not block the routes of birds or animals coming home to their colonies. Do not startle or chase wildlife from resting or breeding areas*.
7. Prevent disturbance to wild birds and animals. Always stay on the outside of colonies and remain at least 6 m (20 ft) away.
8. When taking photographs or filming, stay low to the ground. Move slowly and quietly. Make sure your flash is turned off*. Always be aware of the location of your camera and equipment, including "selfie-sticks". Do not use this to get closer to wildlife.
9. Some plants are protected and should not be picked*. Wildflowers are there for all to enjoy.
10. Whalebones, skulls, eggs, etc. may not be exported from the Falkland Islands*. They should be left where they are found.
11. Do not disfigure rocks or buildings*.

*Such actions may constitute an offence in the Falkland Islands and could result in significant fines.

Stay Safe

Always tell someone where you are going with an estimated return time. Ensure you have plenty to eat and drink. Take clothing to account for all weather conditions and sun-lotion or sun-block.

Unexploded ordnance and land mines from the 1982 war are very occasionally found around the islands, particularly along the coast. In the very rare event of finding a suspect item, mark the spot if possible and contact the Royal Falkland Islands Police on 28100.

Self-Guided WALKS

GOOSE GREEN



Flora & Fauna highlights

Black-crowned night heron	Magellanic Oystercatcher	Brown hare
Blackish Oystercatcher	Patagonian Crested Duck	Diddle dee
Dolphin gull	Rock Cormorant	Christmas bush
Falklands Flightless Steamer Duck	Ruddy headed goose	Gorse
Falklands Thrush	Skua	Small fern
Kelp goose	Southern Giant Petrel	
Kelp gull	Turkey Vulture	
Long-tailed Meadowlark	Two banded Plover	
	Upland goose	



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Self-Guided WALKS

GOOSE GREEN

Goose Green is the largest farm in the Falklands so there is plenty of land to explore. Home to the beautiful "Bodie Creek Bridge", a pretty settlement and more wildlife than may be expected, the walks presented here take in the bridge itself, a penguin colony, attractive coastlines with a plethora of birdlife and many stunning views.



2 SHAG ROOKERY POINT

Starting at the ferry terminal at Newhaven, circular trails can be created of varying lengths to suit the time available. The main route suggested is the shortest and works well for those who want to see something of the beautiful coastline without too much walking. There are fantastic views across to West Falkland as well as to the hills of East Falkland and a variety of wildlife. All routes begin with a short uphill stretch but are then fairly flat and on relatively even ground.

Main route

From the ferry terminal, walk back along the road. Just after the road bends to the left, approximately 600m from the terminal, there is a "siding" to the right with vehicle tracks leading from it, making a right angle with the main road. Follow these tracks, walking across open ground with views to the sea and the hills of West Falkland ahead. It's a little over 1km to the coast where a right turn is made at the shoreline. Follow the shoreline, convenient sheep or vehicle tracks running alongside it. Eventually the ferry terminal is reached;

Distance: 5.0 km Time: 70-90 min Terrain: Moderate

3 TO THE RACES!

This circular trail is a great little route to see some interesting features just outside the main settlement including a gorse "forest", a memorial for the 1982 war, the racecourse and with wonderful views to the north and west. Boca Beach can easily be added to discover a pretty shoreline, the edge of Brenton Loch. The walk is relatively flat and the terrain generally easy to negotiate.

Main route

From Goose Green Galley café, walk away from the coast to the settlement road. The Community Hall, easily distinguish-able by its small spire is ahead. Face the Hall from the road, then turn to the right to follow the main route out of the settlement. The settlement store with a small museum (key available from the Galley Café) is a little further along on the left.

At the junction in front of the shearing sheds, take a left turn in the direction of Bodie Creek Bridge, Newhaven and North Arm. Follow the road towards the wind turbines and radar array continuing around to the right with the road, passing these to the left-hand side.

Distance: 8 or 12 km (direct or via shore)
Time: 3-4 or 4-5 hours Terrain: Moderate

4 BODIE CREEK BRIDGE

This circular trail is ideally started from the Galley Café at Goose Green. The bridge is impressive as the only suspension bridge in the Islands; the coastal return route reveals pretty coves and beaches along with beautiful views across to the northern hills and outlying islands. There are some steep but short up and down hill stretches.

Main route

A simple out-and-back route to Bodie Creek Bridge can be undertaken on foot, by mountain bicycle or vehicle.

From Goose Green Galley Café, take the road out of the settlement, turning left at the shearing sheds, following the road around to the right in the direction of Newhaven / North Arm (passing the wind turbines to the left). Continue through the first gate, keeping the radar array to the left and on through the second gate. Here a track turns off to the left, sign-posted to Bodie Creek Bridge.

Follow the track, staying to the right and using the gate immediately alongside the sheep shelters. This well-used track continues for around 2km before arriving at a wire-gate. This is the perfect parking place for vehicles with less than 400m left to walk! Go through this gate and onward to the bridge. DO NOT attempt to enter the bridge; it has for many years been deemed unsafe to cross by any means.

Return via the same track or, if on foot, take a scenic, rambling route along the shore:



Tips:

- Walk with a friend to chat on the long road to the bridge; plan lunchtime at the bridge to make the most of the day.
- Waterproof socks are useful for some parts of the trail!

stick closely to the shore then a fence needs to be climbed to gain access before continuing along to the starting point. Do not try to climb the steep vehicle track which leads into a prohibited area.

Walk further

There are other vehicle tracks leading towards the shore at varying distances from the ferry terminal. The next loop begins around 1.1 km away. The track from the road soon meanders to the right but then turns left and leads directly to the coast; the distance is 1.2km. (Do not turn off on other rotivated tracks which may appear from time to time.) Turn right and follow the shoreline to return to the terminal. This adds on just over 1km. Intrepid walkers may wish to explore longer alternatives, leaving the main road and walking to the right at any convenient point prior to the signed dangerous bend, but these will involve a long road walk at the outset. Always seek local advice and study maps carefully before setting out on any pathway not mentioned above.



- Tips: Look out for the Gentoo penguin colony close to the ferry terminal
- Check the ferry times in advance for a glimpse of the Concordia Bay



Pass through a gate just after the wind turbines. Continue along the road to the next gate which is the junction of the track to Bodie Creek Bridge. Go through this gate and pass a stockyard on the left. Walk to the end of the stockyard, to where there is a gate on the right-hand side of the road. Go through the gate and head towards a square of gorse bushes and small trees, crossing a fence-line en-route. This is known locally as "Brooke's forest". Planted by a previous landowner, Brooke, it is a pleasant spot for a sheltered rest break; there is just one way in and out. Continue onward in the same direction to meet the Goose Green by-pass road and turn right.

Pass through a cattle grid at the top of small rise. The memorial for Nick Taylor, a Harrier pilot killed in the 1982 war, surrounded by a white picket fence and the racecourse stadium building are visible ahead on the left side of the road. (The memorial is around 500m distant and the stadium beyond it, to its left.) The memorial can be reached directly across open ground, then use the small gate alongside to reach the grandstand.

From the grandstand, turn back to return to the settlement by a more direct route. Retrace the route back to the memorial but stay on the right-hand side of the fence to walk straight to the road on a clear vehicle track. Cross the road and follow the vehicle track directly ahead in an south-easterly direction. This track runs parallel to the airstrip. There is one gate to pass

through; the route to the settlement and back to the parking area by the Café is obvious.

Walk further

For a lovely view across Brenton Loch, follow the racecourse in a roughly north-westerly direction to reach the shoreline, Boca Beach, about 1km (0.6 miles) away. Return to the grandstand via the same route. Add 30 to 40 minutes or a little more to include exploration of the coastline.



Tips:

- Choose a day in sports week and work up an appetite ahead of the races, dog trials or fun events.
- A service is held in early May to remember Nick Taylor at his graveside; all are welcome to pay respects to this brave pilot

A slight doubling-back for about 100m is needed from the bridge entrance to follow the coastline for a very short distance in a southerly direction, quickly turning east across open scrubland. After around 300m, cross the fence and follow a well-marked track which leads down to small cove. Climbing slightly out of this cove, continue along the coast which turns north-east towards the head of a small inlet.

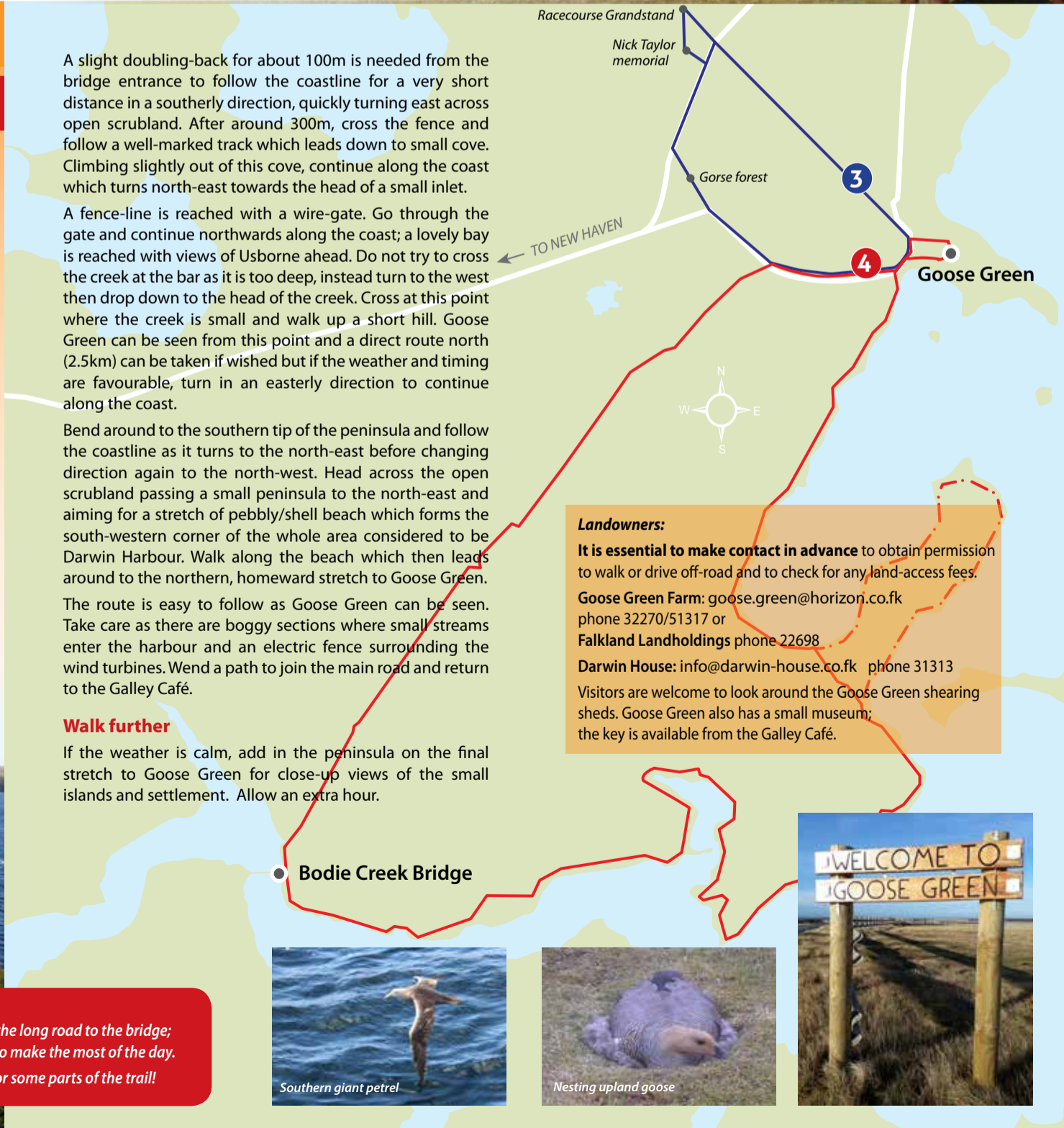
A fence-line is reached with a wire-gate. Go through the gate and continue northwards along the coast; a lovely bay is reached with views of Usborne ahead. Do not try to cross the creek at the bar as it is too deep, instead turn to the west then drop down to the head of the creek. Cross at this point where the creek is small and walk up a short hill. Goose Green can be seen from this point and a direct route north (2.5km) can be taken if wished but if the weather and timing are favourable, turn in an easterly direction to continue along the coast.

Bend around to the southern tip of the peninsula and follow the coastline as it turns to the north-east before changing direction again to the north-west. Head across the open scrubland passing a small peninsula to the north-east and aiming for a stretch of pebbly/shell beach which forms the south-western corner of the whole area considered to be Darwin Harbour. Walk along the beach which then leads around to the northern, homeward stretch to Goose Green.

The route is easy to follow as Goose Green can be seen. Take care as there are boggy sections where small streams enter the harbour and an electric fence surrounding the wind turbines. Wend a path to join the main road and return to the Galley Café.

Walk further

If the weather is calm, add in the peninsula on the final stretch to Goose Green for close-up views of the small islands and settlement. Allow an extra hour.



Landowners:

It is essential to make contact in advance to obtain permission to walk or drive off-road and to check for any land-access fees.

Goose Green Farm: goose.green@horizon.co.fk
phone 32270/51317 or
Falkland Landholdings phone 22698

Darwin House: info@darwin-house.co.fk phone 31313

Visitors are welcome to look around the Goose Green shearing sheds. Goose Green also has a small museum; the key is available from the Galley Café.



Southern giant petrel



Nesting upland goose

