TOWN TO PORT TRAIL

A 2 mile walking trail celebrating the heritage and industries of the former port in the Hythe

The trail includes eleven new wayfinders and interpretation installations along the Colne River and showcases the Hythe’s unique history.

Explore quiet green links, learn how coal fuelled the railway, discover former industries, the iconic Lightship and the role the former port played in the growth and history of Colchester.

LIGHTSHIP

The Lightship is one of the iconic vessels on the river and home to the Colchester Sea Cadets. The wayfinder includes maritime artefacts and audio information to supplement detail on each wayfinder.

QUAY

This wayfinder is situated at the Rowhedge end of King Edward Quay, near to the location of the former Maltings, which predominantly produced malt for the brewing industry. The port used to be home to numerous freehouses to cater to the crews, of which few remain today.

FIREBRICK

On the University side of the river, this wayfinder is situated near to the old Moler brick works, which imported clay from Denmark to produce firebricks. Original firebricks can be found in the interior of this wayfinder.

WILDLIFE

This wayfinder is on the footpath towards Rowhedge. Walkers using the path will enjoy unsurpassed views of the Hythe Marshes, birdwatching opportunities at the Hythe Lagoons and pass through a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

SMUGGLING

Also on the University side of the river, this wayfinder is situated on the Wivenhoe trail, a tranquil route for walkers and cyclists following the river. The wayfinder contains original gin barrels to help illustrate the information on the smuggling trade.

TOWN TO SEA TRAIL

The dots on the map denote the Town to Sea trail, which overlaps in places with the Town to Port trail. More information and a leaflet can be obtained from the Visitor Information Centre in Hollytrees Museum in Castle Park.

Project designed by
dallas pierce quintero
SUGGESTED STARTING POINTS
Walkers and cyclists from Colchester town centre can start the route at East Hill heading southwards, starting at wayfinder C. The nearest station for train and bus visitors is Hythe Rail Station, adjacent to wayfinder B. Walkers and cyclists from Wivenhoe and Rowhedge can pick up the trail at wayfinders S and W respectively.

C COAL
Pieces of imitation coal fill this wayfinder, located near the railway bridge to Colchester Town Station, and offers insight into the importance of coal and the railway industry in the former trading port.

M THE MOORS
Between East Hill and Hythe Hill, the Moors is a haven for wildlife and offers a quiet green link between the town centre and the Hythe. The wayfinder is at the junction with the footpath leading to St Leonard’s Church.

B BRIDGE
The old Hythe Bridge is closed to traffic and has been transformed into a new public space for the community. An information panel also reveals further information about the bridge and about Colchester’s cloth trade.

D DIESEL
Adjacent to the entrance of the pedestrian bridge over the river, the wayfinder celebrates what was perhaps the most famous industry: the engineering and manufacturing of diesel engines. Original Paxman engine parts are displayed within the wayfinder.

P PRINTERS
Another significant industry in Colchester was printing, and this wayfinder is situated on reclaimed land near the old Spottiswoode Ballantine printworks and adjacent to the site of an old tar works, which is reflected in the contents of this wayfinder.

R RIVER
This wayfinder is situated on King Edward Quay, and adjacent to the Colne Causeway bridge. Before the bridge was erected, the river accommodated a variety of vessels, carrying cargo around the world. The port and the shipping industry was vital to the growth of the town.