Welcome to the Flitch Line

By the 1830s the industrial progress in other areas was beginning to leave Braintree behind. Holsted aside, the network of Turnpike roads, and without access to rivers and the sea, firms in Braintree depended upon carts to bring materials in and send out finished goods to their customers. Silk manufacturers such as Courtaulds, one of the largest local employers, packed their cloths into large yellow hampers which were loaded onto horse-drawn wagons. With the arrival of the Eastern Counties Railway at nearby Witham, in 1838, pressure grew in the town for a railway line.

The railway goods handling facilities included cranes and trucks designed for very heavy goods. Immediately to the north of the goods station by Crittall Windows, new Manor Works. A railway siding had been laid across Manor Road into the rear of the factory. The factory was designed to produce components for lorries by rail. Crittall’s railway siding took in raw materials such as iron bars and consigned to their customers completed products such as industrial and commercial window units and later, agricultural equipment. To the east lay the maltings suppliers to the towns breweries. Maltings were found in most town areas as large quantities of beer were consumed by working men at this period. Maltings were heavy freight users handling bulk grain products.

Alongside by Braintree Gas Works which had superseded the original works in New Street to take advantage of easy access to coal supplies from the railway goods yard. The Gas Works roasted coal in huge retorts, producing coke, a bulky by-product and town gas which was stored in a huge gasometer at the south of Manor Road. The largest factory
White Notley
John Ray Walk
John Ray (1627-1705 born in village of White Notley, Essex) pioneered the classification of plants and animals he was also an influential philosopher and theologian. He is often referred to as the father of natural history in Britain. To celebrate the life and achievements of this great man, the John Ray Walk has been devised. This 9 mile linear walk, linking the towns of Braintree and White Notley, passes through the delightfully picturesque riverside of the Brazen Head, the birthplace and home of John Ray. The walk also provides a link between the two former railway lines, the Flitch Way (Braintree to Bishop's Stortford) and the Blackwater Rail Trail (Maldon to Witham). These disused railway lines are now managed by Essex County Council as Country Parks. Since their demise as railways, nature has reclaimed them to provide excellent homes for many plants and animals. Foxes make their homes in the disused drainage pipes whilst slow-worms and snakes take advantage of the grassy banks for basking in the sun. You can explore and enjoy these wildlife havens, as no doubt John Ray would if he were alive today.
For more information on John Ray and the John Ray Walk please view: http://johnraytrust.com/

Cressing
Cressing Temple
Cressing Temple takes its unusual name from the medieval monks of the Knights Templar who founded the two vast wooden barns, which form the centrepiece of this delightful rural estate. Nestled to one side of the barns is the Walled Garden. Inspired by an age when gardens combined beauty and functionality, it is the result of painstaking research and archaeological excavation, and is filled with species widely cultivated at the time.
As you step within the Tudor walls, you step back in time. Here plants have been carefully grouped according to medicinal, culinary and dyers' plants, a potager and a small orchard and nuttery. The nosegay garden is a celebration of the diverse collection of fabrics and designs within the Warner Textile Archive. The Gallery is a unique record of the history of textile manufacture and design since the 18th century. It includes almost every example of woven and printed fabric produced by the Warner company as well as original artwork by leading designers commissioned to furnish palaces, stately homes, liners, hotels and ordinary homes.

Fenport
Fenport Shopping Village
Fenport Shopping Village offers over 80 stores with a range of men's, women's, children's, foot ware, gifts, cosmetics and designer stores. There is a selection of places to eat and drink and after shopping why not pop over to Fenport Park and have a game of bowling or watch a film at the cinema.
For more information please view: www.fenport-braintree.com

Flitch Way
The Flitch Way passes through 15 miles of countryside along the former Bishop's Stortford to Braintree railway line. It is a haven for a variety of habitats providing food and water for wildlife.

Attractions on the Flitch Line

婴儿学校于1862年和1897年分别建成，目前主要建筑是博物馆、接待处和临时展览馆；旅游景点包括维多利亚学校和约翰·雷纪念馆，于1993年开放。第二个建筑于2002年开放，并设有咖啡馆和学习中心。

地址：

Great Notley Country Park
Great Notley Country Park offers a 100 acres of open space, which is managed for the benefit of wildlife and the community. The site was formally arable farmland and has been transformed into a mixture of wetland and open grassland. Each of these habitats provides a haven for a variety of species.

Freeport
Freeport Shopping Village
Freeport Shopping Village offers over 80 stores with a range of men's, women's, children's, footwear, gifts, cosmetics and designer stores. There is a selection of places to eat and drink and after shopping why not pop over to Freeport Park and have a game of bowling or watch a film at the cinema.
For more information please view: www.freeport-braintree.com

Flitch Way
The Flitch Way passes through 15 miles of countryside along the former Bishop’s Stortford to Braintree railway line in the heart of rural Essex. Its name comes from a medieval ceremony, which originated in Little Dunmow and which still takes place every four years. The ceremony involved married couples trying to prove that they hadn’t argued for a year and a day - if successful they were awarded with a Flitch (or side) of bacon.

The route of the Flitch Way has a multi-user surface making it accessible for all throughout the year. Much of the route can be explored on foot, by bike or by horseback taking you through picturesque railway cuttings, past Victorian stations and over embankments with views across impressive farmlands, villages and woodland. Cycling the 8 mile route from Braintree to Little Dunmow is particularly ideal for families as it is completely traffic free giving everybody the opportunity to discover the wildlife.

The start of the Flitch Way route at Braintree is adjacent to the Railway Station.
The route passes through historical towns and villages allowing you to explore places such as Great Dunmow or to combine a walk/cycle ride with refreshments being served at Rayne Station. The station was built in 1866 and was one of the busiest on the line. Renovated in 1994, it is now the Visitor Centre and Ranger base for the Flitch Way.

The Flitch Way forms part of the National Cycle Network route 16 www.sustrans.org.uk
The Flitch Way also links with other countryside attractions such as Great Notley Discovery Centre and Hatfield Forest.

Witham
Dorothy Sayers birthplace
Dorothy L. Sayers was one of the first women to receive a degree from the University of Oxford. She was most famed for her detective novels featuring the character Lord Peter Wimsey, Harriet Vane, and Montague Egg, but she was also a successful playwright, noted theologian, and scholar of Dante’s poetry. She moved to Witham in 1929 after her marriage to Arthur Fleming, and lived in Newland Street until her death in 1957.

Witham Library holds a reference collection of her works, press clippings, reviews and letters in the Dorothy L Sayers Centre, jointly managed by Essex Libraries and the Dorothy L Sayers Society, held in a specially furnished room on the upper floor (tel 01376-519625).
The statue of Dorothy L Sayers is located in Freebournes Court. Reference: www.witham.gov.uk

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The Gallery
Open to the public three days a week, the Gallery is a celebration of the diverse collection of fabrics and designs within the Warner Textile Archive. The Code Shape and Texture are the key words to describe the Gallery. Every drawer and display case takes the visitor on an exciting voyage of discovery from Warner's unique three-pile velvets, the intricate woven silks of Owen Jones and the cutting edge designs of the 1920s and '30s through to the boldness of the '50s and the iconic creations of the late twentieth century.

Address:
The Warner Textile Archive, Silks Way, Braintree, Essex, CM7 3GB
Telephone: 01376 577741
Website: www.warnerstextilearchive.co.uk

Braintree Museum
At Braintree District Museum the story of the District and its diverse industrial and cultural history unfolds. The Main Galleries examine the development of the area from prehistory to the twenty-first century, focusing upon the textile and manufacturing industries of Courtaulds, Warners and Crittalls, as well as displays of Castle Hedingham pottery, the work of the Great Bardfield artists and Essex straw and lace. A vibrant calendar of temporary exhibitions complements the Main Galleries throughout the year.
The Museum is housed in the converted Victorian Manor Street Junior and