

## Events and Activities

The Rangers host many events throughout the year. It could be an astronomy evening, a glow-worm hunt or children's activity days in summer. All these guided activities are shown on our notice boards and in the events leaflet which is available on site or from local Tourist Information Centres. If you would like an activity specially organised for your group, just speak to a Ranger.

## Educational activities



The variety of habitats at the country park makes it a wonderful place for environmental education. Activities include looking at mini beasts, pond life and Sensory Walks full of new hands on experiences.

The site also offers the opportunity to step back in time for an Anglo-Saxon experience. The site has a replica Saxon House, its own archaeological dig and offers the opportunity for children to make clay coil pots, jewellery, coins and runestones. For more information please contact the Rangers.

## Countryside volunteers

Why not call us to find out about conservation tasks at Hadleigh. Task days are sociable, fun and help protect the Park's landscape and wildlife.

## How to find us

**By road:** The main car park can be found at the bottom of Chapel Lane, which is off the A13 in Hadleigh opposite the Waggon and Horses public house. Follow the brown signs from the A127 Rayleigh Weir. Car parking charges apply.

**By bus:** For bus routes and timetables phone Essex Traveline: **0870 6082608**.

**By rail:** Closest stations are Benfleet and Leigh, on the C2C service. All trains stop at these stations. Timetable enquiries phone **08457 484950**.

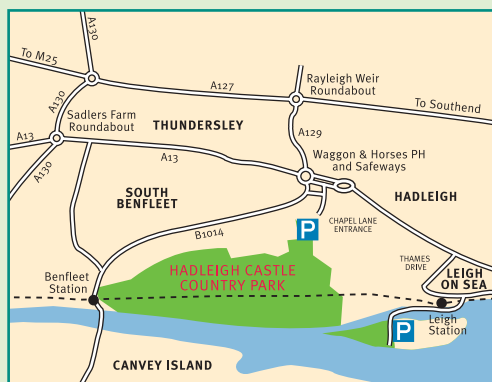
**Enquiries:** Telephone: 01702 551072

**Email:** [country.parks@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:country.parks@essexcc.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk) –

EnjoyingEssex/Country Parks

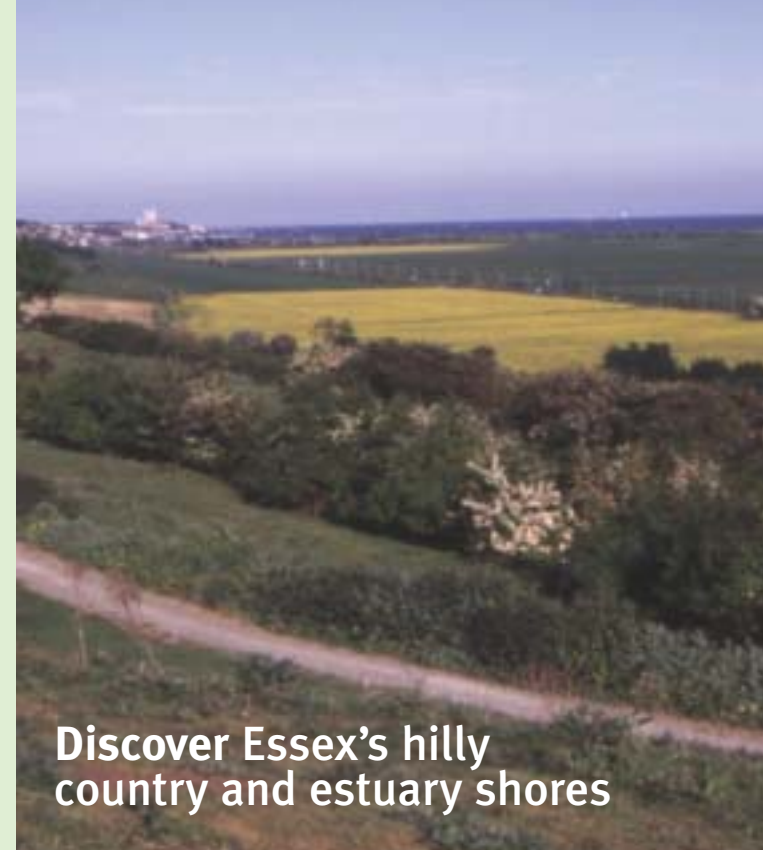
Salvation Army Rare Breeds Centre: 01702 558550



**Hadleigh Castle Country Park is jointly owned by Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Castle Point Borough Council, and is managed by Essex County Council.**



# Hadleigh Castle Country Park



Discover Essex's hilly country and estuary shores

E004592/DS04024



Essex County Council

# Welcome

Hadleigh Castle Country Park is one of the largest in Essex. Whether you want to explore on foot, bike or horse, this leaflet will help you discover more about where to go and what you can see.

## The Castle

The Country Park gets its name from Hadleigh Castle, an impressive ruin of a fortress built over 700 years ago. Although the Castle is not within the Park's boundary, it is easy to reach. It is only a short, level stroll from Chapel Lane car park.



## Park and People

Whatever the weather there is always something to do at the Park. In spring, the bluebells and other flowers put on a magnificent display. In summer Hadleigh is a great place for a picnic or flying a kite. In autumn, the wild harvest of blackberries and other seasonal fruit is a great attraction. In winter come and watch bird life from the hides or if it's snowing bring a sledge.



## From Leigh or Benfleet

Why not take a bracing walk along the seawall between Leigh and Benfleet. Have a pub lunch and then return by train to your starting point. The station car parks are free at weekends.

## From Chapel Lane

Follow the attractive hilly trail from Chapel Lane and take in some of the best views in Essex.



Where else in the county are Kent, Canvey, Southend Pier, Canary Wharf and the Dartford Bridge all visible from the same place?

## From Two Tree Island

Try a flatter stroll at Two Tree Island and wander along the creek. From our bird hides, you can see redshank, herons and breeding avocets in May and June.



Photo by Richard Brooks, RSPB-images.com

## Birds and butterflies

The mix of scrub, grassland and woodland provides many places for plants and animals to live in the Park. You will find lots of interesting wildlife on your visit; a kestrel hovering high above, a flock of geese feeding on the marshes, and if you listen carefully, you may hear the 'laughing' call of a green woodpecker.



In the summer, the park is one of the best places in Essex to see butterflies, which like to bask on the sunny, south-facing slopes. Dragonflies and damselflies dart around the ditches and ponds on the marshes.



If you look carefully and walk quietly, you may be lucky enough to see a lizard or snake.