

Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership

Established in 1998, the Partnership brings together 8 partners with the aim of promoting train travel and securing the future of our 5 branch lines. The Mayflower Line from Manningtree to Harwich Town has 6 stations along the line.

Each of the Mayflower Line stations has volunteers who work with the train operator and the CRP under the **Greater Anglia Station Adoption Scheme**.



For more information on the ESSCRP work Please look at our website www.esscrp.org.uk



The Mayflower Line

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History of the line

The present day Mayflower Line operates between Manningtree and Harwich Town.

A journey on the Mayflower Line takes you through varied countryside to the coast. Every town and village has its own unique features with walks and places to visit from the local station. For example the very popular walks from Wrabness station along the River Stour where the area offers beautiful views across the river to Suffolk. Harwich International Port provides links to Europe and at the end of the line are the towns of Dovercourt and Harwich, surrounded on three sides by the sea. The maritime influence continues through to the present day.

Visit London

Looking for a day out in the capital?

London has many attractions to keep all the family entertained.

Purchase a Travelcard and enjoy unlimited use of the Underground, Docklands Light Railway and London's buses for the the whole day.

See the **London 2FOR1** publicity and get two for one entry at top London attractions when you travel by train.



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Tickets and Travel Information

Latest information on train times and fares for any rail operator in the UK can be obtained from National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or via the website www.nationalrail.co.uk

Tickets & Fares

Tickets can be purchased from ticket offices, or ticket machines (where available) or from the conductor on the Mayflower Line train. If travelling from a station with ticket selling facilities you must purchase your ticket before you board. For certain tickets types it is cheaper to book in advance online.

Off Peak Tickets

Travel after 8.45 on weekdays. Off-Peak Day tickets do not have evening peak restrictions so the return journey can be made at any time, including from London. There are also special tickets available off peak.

Super Off-Peak Day Tickets

When travelling to London or Stratford these tickets are valid on the first train that arrives in London after 12.00 on Mondays to Fridays. The return journey from London may not be made between 16.00 and 19.00 inclusive. On local journeys, Super Off-Peak tickets may be used at any time after 12.00. No return restrictions apply from stations outside London. At weekends Super off-peak tickets may be used at any time of day so are the best value option.

Group Save Tickets

Groups of three or four travelling together can travel for the price of two to any station in the local area (including London Liverpool Street).

Child Tickets

Children aged 5-15 travel for half price and children under 5 travel free.

Railcards

Various railcards are available where you can get up to a third off the price of off-peak tickets.

16 - 25 Railcard - for anyone aged 16 - 25

Senior Railcard - for anyone aged 60 and over.

Friends and Family Railcard - for family groups.

Network Card - Anyone aged 16+ travelling in the South East (minimum fare applies weekdays).

2FOR1 offers at London attractions, theatre, restaurants, galleries, museums, tours and events.

Visit www.greateranglia.co.uk/2for1

Full details of Greater Anglia services, train times and ticket bookings can be found at www.greateranglia.co.uk

Visit Local Attractions

The Lifeboat Museum, Harwich

Housed in a Victorian lifeboat-house of 1876 this museum contains a comprehensive history of Harwich lifeboats.

The museum houses the old Clacton offshore lifeboat the "Valentine Wyndham-Quin", which is a 37ft Oakley class vessel. She was stationed at the Clacton Lifeboat station between 1968 and 1984.

She was moved to Harwich and the old Lifeboat boat-house was refurbished and reopened to accommodate her. The museum now contains a large collection of general and local lifeboat artefacts.

Today the lifeboat museum is run by the Harwich Society and is open to the public during the summer period.

Opening hours 11am - 3pm Monday to Wednesday, 1st May to 31st August. For more information see www.harwich-society.co.uk

The Redoubt, Harwich

An extremely impressive 180ft (60m) diameter circular fort built in 1808 to defend the port of Harwich against a Napoleonic invasion. It is the only such example open to the public, and can be viewed daily during the summer season, from 1st May to 30th September.

It is also open on Sunday for the rest of the year.

For more information see www.harwich-society.co.uk

Your ticket to a great day out in East Anglia by train
Take a walk between the line's stations, or visit a local pub or restaurant. Perhaps catch the train to Harwich Town and take the foot ferry over to Felixstowe for details see www.harwichharbourferry.com or telephone 0791 991 1440. The ferry runs from Easter to the end of September.

Alternatively, take the train from Manningtree and go sightseeing in London, visiting one of the many free museums - go shopping in Norwich - the capital of East Anglia, or take a walk along the modern riverfront in Ipswich.

Wherever you feel like going - go by train!

The Mayflower Line

The Mayflower Line

Your guide to the Manningtree - Harwich link and surrounding areas for a great day out by train



GreaterAnglia

Where the Stour meets the Sea

A walk from Mistley to Wrabness, and by rail back to Manningtree.

This is a delightful walk along the Stour estuary, also taking in some mature woodland. It is about 5¼ miles long and although easy, it is a bit rough and boggy in places so stout footwear is advisable. It is unsuitable for wheelchair users or for those with buggies.

At high tide you may be forced slightly inland away from the river, but the path is still quite easy to follow. The walk provides pleasant views across the estuary to Suffolk, and also takes in some nature reserves and many wading birds may be seen at low tide, amongst other attractions.

For walk details please visit our website <http://esscrp.org.uk/mayflower-line/walks.html>



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Manningtree station is in Essex but very close to the county boundary with Suffolk. It stands right on the edge of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), often described as Constable Country, and from its platforms there are some beautiful views across typical Suffolk countryside.

Set in such a rural location the station is an ideal starting point for walkers. Some of which are listed below.

1. Turn right on leaving the station, down the slope towards the lower car parking area, and a public footpath is signposted. Turn right at the bottom and keep following the signs. The more adventurous can continue towards East Bergholt, Stratford St Mary or Dedham, but for those preferring to see where John Constable painted his famous landscapes, there is a right hand turn to Flatford, where there is a tea room, shop, boat hire and toilets. On the return journey continue along the River Stour to join up with the A137 Ipswich Road, turn right and the station is within sight.

2. For those wanting to visit Manningtree, England's smallest town (just over 19 Hectares at low tide), turn left on leaving the station and left again onto the A137 but be careful, this is a busy road and at first there is no pavement. After the underpass/level crossing turn right, where there is a pavement and continue to just before the White Bridge. Turn right along the footpath beside the river and under the small railway bridge. On the right are the Lawford and Manningtree industrial estates – not pretty but providing employment for many people. Look left across the River Stour to the Suffolk shoreline and on a clear day it is possible, looking down the river to see the cranes at Felixstowe Docks. At low tide there is plenty of mud, which supports a variety of wading birds. These can be seen at all times of the year. This path eventually leads to Manningtree, which has a selection of shops and cafes, two banks, a library and a market on Tuesday and Saturday. Return to the station by either walking back the way you came or by taking the easier route along Station Road.



Café at Manningtree Station

Why not visit the café at Manningtree Station, a warm welcome is always offered, with Hot snacks, fully licenced Bar & beer garden.

Open	
Mon – Thurs	5am – 9pm
Fri	5am – 11pm
Sat	8am – 11pm
Sun	8am – 2pm



Nestled between the Rivers Stour and Orwell Dovercourt is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1087, under the name of Duvrecurt. This is the oldest station on the line.

Holding the European Blue Flag for clean beaches, originally Dovercourt was a Victorian seaside and spa resort. Today it is a busy small town with regular Friday markets and a varied selection of shops, bars and cafes.

The seafront is still very popular. Walk westwards to find rows of huts, a boating lake, park, indoor swimming pool and model yacht pond. There is also a putting green, croquet lawn and you will find a cafe near the skating rink.

Walk eastwards along the promenade for approximately a mile and you will arrive in Old Harwich. On the way, you will have a great view of the large container ships berthed at Felixstowe Port.

The Community Rail Partnership worked with Greater Anglia staff in 2012 to create a pleasant community garden on what was once a waste piece of ground in front of the station.



Mistley is a small riverside town, noted for its swans, which gather on the river bank in large numbers. For two centuries, Mistley was an important brewing centre and port. Even today, although on a reduced scale, the brewing industry is still represented.

When leaving the station, turn right and walk up the hill to find The Anchor Inn (B&B), where they serve a traditional roast Sunday lunch. If you turn left out of the station, you can pick up the Essex Way public footpath by going through the Edme site. Further down the hill is the Mistley Swan Basin, erected by Richard Rigby in the 1700s when he tried to establish Mistley as a spa town. Behind the basin overlooking the River Stour are the Mistley Workshops, which include a gallery and café. Opposite the basin is the Mistley Thorn Hotel and Restaurant, reputed to be where the famous self-styled Witch Finder General had his base and held court. It serves lunch and dinner daily.

At the other end of the small High Street are the Mistley Towers, erected in 1776 and designed by Robert Adams. Continue walking along the river banks into Manningtree. Alternatively, turn left at the Towers, and this will take you to the church, cricket ground and bowling green, alongside which is a park and green space named The Welcome Home Field. This was created for and in remembrance of the local men who fought in World War II.



Wrabness is a small village of 300 or so inhabitants situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the south bank of the River Stour. On either side are nature reserves, **Stour Wood RSPB** to the east and **Essex Wildlife Trust**, (the site of an old mine depot) to the west. There are many paths and miles of walks in both locations.

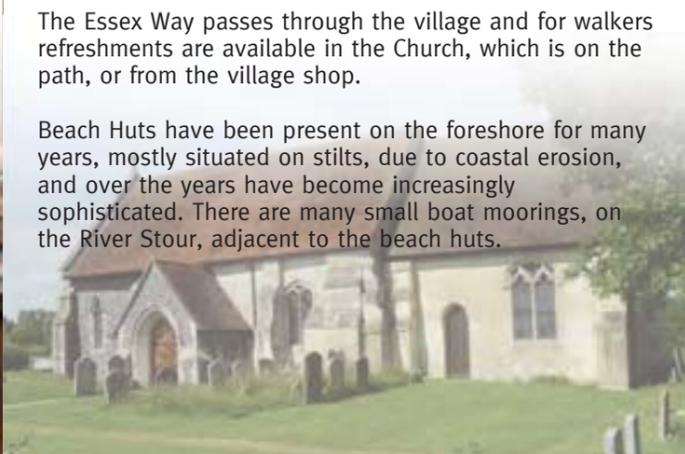
All Saints Church dates from approximately 1120 AD with many subsequent alterations and additions. There is a Norman Arch between the Vestry and Naive. The Bell Tower collapsed in the 17th Century and the remaining bell is now housed in a wooden bell cage in the Churchyard.

There is an hourly (half hourly in rush hour) train service to London (1hr 15mins) and Harwich (10 mins). The Harwich Platform boasts a large mural painted by the local art group, depicting village life. A small garden was developed as a millennium project in the old Station Master's garden. It has a smaller mural and is lovingly tended by three local ladies.

The post office closed several years ago and the village shopkeeper retired in 2011. Since April 2011 the shop has been run as a Community Project with volunteer staff opening the shop seven mornings and five afternoons a week.

The Essex Way passes through the village and for walkers refreshments are available in the Church, which is on the path, or from the village shop.

Beach Huts have been present on the foreshore for many years, mostly situated on stilts, due to coastal erosion, and over the years have become increasingly sophisticated. There are many small boat moorings, on the River Stour, adjacent to the beach huts.



On leaving Wrabness the line curves left, following a deviation from the original route direct route to Dovercourt that can be seen on the right hand side. This is a very pretty section of the route with views over the River Stour across to Suffolk. Passing the oil refinery and over a level crossing, the line then enters Harwich International station. Originally this station was named Parkeston Quay after the Chairman of the Great Eastern Railway Charles H Parkes. The Great Eastern Hotel was built on platform 1 and survived until the 1960s. Today it is used by the port as its main office block.

The Boat Trains that left from here were steam hauled expresses that ran directly to Liverpool Street. Later there was also a daily train from Liverpool and Manchester. In 1984 the port was privatised and developed into a modern multi-purpose facility covering 258 acres, offering top class bulk freight and roll-on / roll-off ferry operations. Ferries leave here for Holland, Germany and Denmark and from 1993 the port has also served the world cruise sector.

Harwich Town Station was opened after the original station at the end of George Street was knocked down to make way for the new Continental Pier and still stands today at the extreme end of The Mayflower Line

In the forecourt of the station stands a drinking fountain that is maintained by the Harwich Society and is surrounded by a flower bed. Today parts of the site are used to host the Mayflower Project, a charitable foundation which is in the process of building a replica of the original Mayflower. Harwich Town itself has a beautiful promenade and a small quay where sailors can moor their boats. The Pier Hotel and Restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. On the pier itself is a small building used by the Harwich Society to provide tourist information, and from which walking tours of Harwich can be arranged.

For more information see www.harwich-society.co.uk