

Leave Maldon town centre by turning down Market Hill at the mini-roundabout in the High St. Cross the River Blackwater by the Fullbridge. Go straight over (!) the first 2 roundabouts, TURN RIGHT at the 3rd into Heybridge Street.

At the bridge over the canal there are two possibilities:

1) Riders of A.T.B'S can take the towpath next to the canal. Join it on the opposite side of the road on the furtherside of the bridge. By following the towpath you will arrive in Heybridge Basin.

2) Riders of road bikes should continue to the small roundabout by 'Houldings' garage. TURN RIGHT into Goldhanger Road, the B1026. After approx. 3/4 mile TURN RIGHT into Basin Road, which leads to Heybridge Basin.

After exploring Heybridge Basin, all riders should leave the village by the road (there is only the one!). Rejoin the B1026 by TURNING RIGHT onto it.

2 miles on you come to Goldhanger. TAKE 1st RIGHT (Head St.) to find the village square.

Notice the water pump (still in working order) next to the bus shelter, and the two old petrol pumps in the garden wall of the house opposite.

Access to the sea-wall is via a short footpath leading left off the bottom of Fish Street. (Right turn at The Chequers) Maldon & District Agricultural & Domestic Museum is in Church Street (Left turn at The Chequers) and opens on Weds. 2pm-6pm and Suns. 10am-6pm in Summer.

When ready to leave Goldhanger, take Church Street. At it's junction with the main Maldon to Tollesbury Road TURN LEFT, then RIGHT into Little Totham Road.

After passing through the village of Little Totham you come eventually to a crossroads. TURN LEFT into Plains Road.

A long, slow climb follows. TURN RIGHT at the 'T' junction at the top of the hill, signposted Gt.Braxted, Wickham Bishops, Kelvedon.

A little further along Chapel Road, the B1022 comes into view. TURN LEFT onto the main road and almost immediately RIGHT into Mountains Road, signposted Wickham Bishops & Witham. A steep climb (by Essex standards) brings you to the top of Beacon Hill. *Beside the beacon there is a seat, from here you can enjoy a panoramic view of the Blackwater estuary and the Dengie Peninsular beyond.*

TURN RIGHT at the crossroads towards Great Braxted.

Follow this road, wooded in places, for 3/4 mile. TURN LEFT into a lane at the sign 'Please drive carefully through our village'. *To visit the village, don't turn left but go a few yards further. There is a pottery at the Post Office (if the P.O. is closed, ask at the house). Return to the route.*

The lane takes you fast downhill, there is a double bend, quickly followed by a junction. Be ready to stop!

TURN LEFT and continue your downhill run, the wall of Braxted Park is to your right.

Follow the wall by TURNING RIGHT at 'Riverside Produce'. Head for Kelvedon.

You are now alongside the River Blackwater again - it's just over to your left amongst the willows. Keep going until you find yourself above and beside a dual carriageway, the A12.

TURN LEFT, thus crossing the A12.

A pretty bridge (there's a seat) takes you across the river and so into Kelvedon, passing a small museum.

TURN RIGHT at 'The Angel' and cycle the length of Kelvedon High Street.

TAKE A LEFT TURN into Station Road, the B1024, for Coggeshall - see the River to your right - you must cross it yet again as you arrive in Coggeshall.

Local information, a town walk and other leaflets about Coggeshall are available. Ask at 'Dolphin Framing', 8 Market End, weekdays & Sats., or at the Visitor Centre, Sundays (Good Friday - 1st week October) in the Clock Tower. National Trust also has 2 properties in Coggeshall:- Grange Barn and Paycockes.

Leave Coggeshall on an un-numbered road at the Colchester (East) side of the town, signposted Feering & Kelvedon.

After passing through Feering village and under the railway bridge, you arrive at a 'T' junction (a Renault garage faces you). TURN RIGHT.

Ignore the B1023 (signposted Maldon) it doesn't make pleasant cycling.

Downhill to Kelvedon and leave the village by Maldon Road, on which you arrived earlier in the day.

Once over the River and the A12, TURN LEFT towards Inworth. This narrow road takes you slowly uphill and through a wood. TURN RIGHT by the cottage, then down and up and TURN RIGHT again at the top.

After passing Grange Farm, TAKE 1st LEFT next to 'Pincroft'. BEAR RIGHT at the next

fork and TURN LEFT at the end of Priory Road.

At the B1022 TURN RIGHT THEN LEFT into Loamy Hill Road.

A nice, long, downhill run brings you to a crossroads you'll recognise. Go STRAIGHT ON THROUGH Little Totham.

Take 2nd RIGHT (the road goes off obliquely) and KEEP RIGHT at the next 2 junctions, heading towards Little Totham Church.

This road snakes across flat farmland, stay on it and you'll pass fishing lakes and a local floodlit football pitch. At the end of Scraley Road, TURN LEFT into Colchester Road.

Finding yourself in Heybridge, the only way back to Maldon is the way you left, you may need to walk up the hill!!

Refreshments en route

No need to go hungry or thirsty on the way.

All villages boast at least one pub serving food. Maldon, Kelvedon and Coggeshall also have coffee shops and restaurants.



For further information
please contact

**MALDON DISTRICT
TOURIST INFORMATION
CENTRE**

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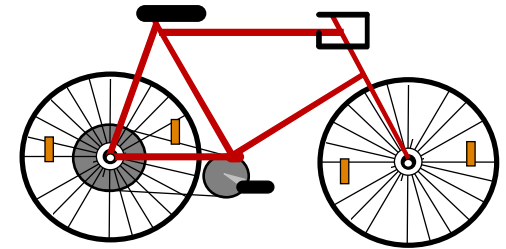
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MALDON DISTRICT CYCLE ROUTE 4

'The Blackwater Ride'



This tour visits 2 villages on the north shore of the Blackwater Estuary then heads inland to join the River Blackwater as it meanders through the Essex countryside.

O.S. Map 168

Distance 34 miles

Compiled and produced by
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