

The Church of St Thomas in Bradwell boasts a 14th-century nave and chancel, which was heavily restored in 1864. The tower dates back to 1706. There are a few interesting monuments in the church, including a brass to Margaret Wyott (1526).



This walk was kindly developed by Chris Harvey for the Maldon District Tourist Information Centre

50p to cover printing costs

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WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT  
 CIRCULAR COASTAL WALK - PART OF SALTMARSH75  
**Bradwell to  
 St Peter's Chapel**



This is an easy but spectacular waterside walk on the eastern edge of the isolated Dengie Peninsula. It provides the opportunity to visit what is arguably the most important historic site in the Maldon District – the ancient, lonely chapel of St. Peter's on the Wall. At low tide, you can also walk along beautiful sandy beaches, which are often deserted.

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5 km)  
 Time taken: 3 1/2 hours  
 Location: Bradwell-on-Sea  
 OS Explorer Map No.: 176 (Blackwater Estuary)  
 OS Grid Reference: TM 004 067

Parking: Village Hall Car Park, South Street, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex (CM0 7QJ)  
 Alternatively, this walk can be started from point 2 on the walk – public car park at footpath entrance for walk to St Peter's, adjacent to Eastlands Farm, East End Road (CM0 7PW)

Public Transport: Regular buses from Burnham-on-Crouch, Southminster and Maldon Monday to Saturday (nearest bus stop at the King's Head, Bradwell-on-Sea).

St Peter's on the Wall (also known as St Peter Ad Murum) was originally constructed as an Anglo-Celtic church for the East Saxons in AD 654 by St Cedd, on the ruins of the abandoned third-century Roman fort of Othona. The current structure was probably built around 660-662, incorporating the Roman bricks and stones. Cedd travelled south from Lindisfarne to spread Christianity at the behest of Sigeberht the Good, then King of the East Saxons, in 653. He returned the next year having been ordained as a Bishop in order to build this chapel. Following the death of St Cedd in 664 from plague, the Chapel became part of the Diocese of London.

It became disused during the Middle Ages, and although restored as a place of worship in Tudor times, it once again fell into disrepair, and for nearly 300 years it was used as a barn. In 1920, it was re-consecrated as a chapel and has been used ever since 1948 attracting pilgrims from all over the world.

Refreshments on (or close to) the walk

- King's Head, High Street, Bradwell-on-Sea, CM0 7QL due to reopen late summer 2016
- Cricketers, East End Road, Bradwell-on-Sea, CM0 7PT Tel: 01621 776013
- St Cedd's Café, Eastland Meadow Country Park, East End Road, Bradwell-on-Sea, CM0 7PP Tel: 01621 776800
- Marina Bar, Waterside Road, Bradwell Waterside, CM0 7RB Tel: 01621 776444 (seasonal)
- Green Man, Waterside Road, Bradwell Waterside, CM0 7QX Tel: 01621 776226

Useful web links

- RSPB [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)
- St Peter's Chapel, Bradwell [www.bradwellchapel.org](http://www.bradwellchapel.org)
- Othona Community [www.othona-bradwell.org.uk](http://www.othona-bradwell.org.uk)
- Bradwell Community Shop [www.bradwellshop.co.uk](http://www.bradwellshop.co.uk)

1. If you are starting the walk from the Village Hall car park, exit the car park and turn left upon reaching the road. Follow the road around into the village. After 100 yards (when you reach the King's Head pub), cross the road and turn right into East End Road. You pass St Thomas's churchyard, Caidge cottages and one of the few remaining examples of a parish lock-up on your left. The village school is on your right. Continue ahead on East End Road (which is a Roman road) for 1 1/3 miles, also passing the Cricketers pub and Eastland Meadows caravan park (with St Cedd's Café).



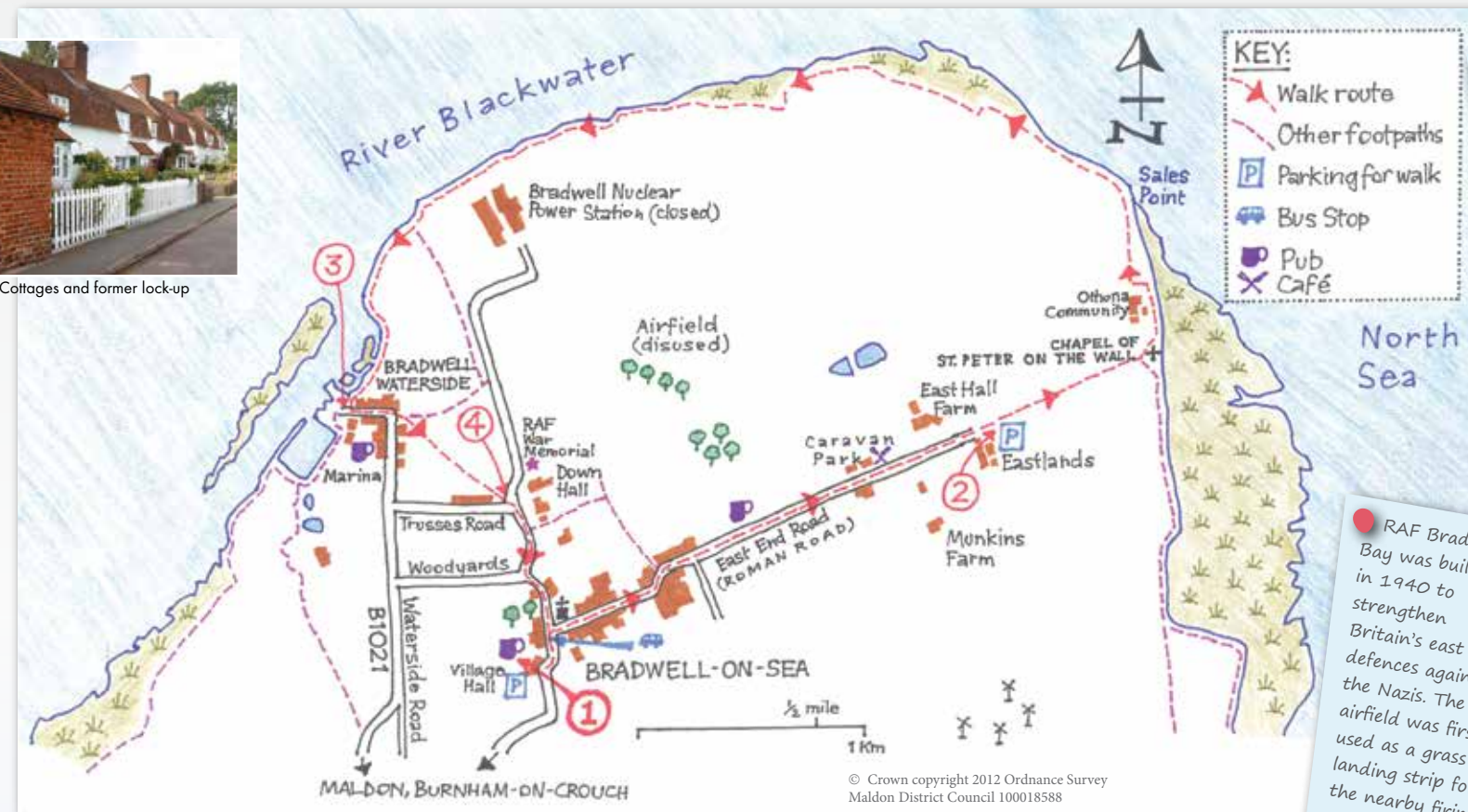
Caidge Cottages and former lock-up

2. After passing East Hall Farm on your left, in 150 yards the tarmacked road takes a sharp right hand bend into Eastlands Farm. Continue ahead here into the unmade public car park. This is also an alternative starting point for the walk.

At the eastern end of the car park, go through the gate and take the wide path for about 1/2 mile, which heads down to St Peter's chapel, which is clearly visible in the distance. The chapel is usually open to visitors, and it is recommended that you pause to absorb the unique atmosphere of this historic place of worship.

On exiting the chapel turn right, then immediately half right onto a wide, grassy track which heads towards the seawall. The track takes you over part of the site of the Roman fort of Othona. Ascend some steps on to the top of the sea wall, turning right to follow this along the shoreline. Continue ahead along the seawall for 3 1/3 miles. Along the way, you should be able to see the London Array (which is currently the largest offshore windfarm in the world), the north Essex coast towards Clacton, Mersea Island, Bradwell Nuclear Power Station (now closed) and Bradwell Marina.

At low tide, particularly on the northern section of the seawall, there are several places where you can descend to the beaches, which are surprisingly sandy. Take care to watch the incoming tide, however.



3. As you approach the clubhouse of Bradwell Quay Yacht Club, take the footpath (which borders on a fence) down from the seawall and turn left on reaching the road (Waterside Road). You will soon pass the Green Man pub on your right. After 200 yards, the road takes a sharp right bend. Look out for a footpath sign here just to the right of the Old Post Office on the corner of the road. Take this path, which runs between hedges. After 60 yards, go through the barrier on the edge of a large field. There is a fork of paths here – take the right hand fork, which is a cross-field path heading towards a line of trees.

After 350 yards (on reaching the line of trees), continue ahead on another cross-field path heading towards houses. The path soon follows the right hand of the field, with garden fences on the right.

The Othona (Christian) Community has its roots in the aftermath of World War II – its early pioneers created a movement that sought to pursue reconciliation and understanding between people of different faiths, cultures and nationalities. Othona's founder, Norman Motley, an RAF chaplain, started the Community in 1946 as a place for people to come together for periods of reflection, discussion, discovery and spiritual renewal.

4. After 300 yards, you will reach a T-junction of roads. Cross over Trusses Road and take the road heading south towards Bradwell village. If you have time, you might wish to make a short detour (of 170 yards each way) at this junction to head north to see the RAF War Memorial, which is situated outside the entrance to the disused Bradwell Bay airfield.

Resuming the walk route, you will soon pass Down Hall (a residential care home) on your left. Continue along this road for 1/2 mile, entering the village, passing the King's Head on your right.

If you started the walk at the Village Hall, continue ahead past the pub and retrace your steps around the right hand bend to the car park. If on the other hand, you started the walk at the St Peter's Chapel car park, turn left onto East End Road just past St Thomas's church, following the directions as at (1) above.

RAF Bradwell Bay was built in 1940 to strengthen Britain's east coast defences against the Nazis. The airfield was first used as a grass landing strip for the nearby firing ranges before being turned into an RAF station with concrete runways and hangars. It closed in 1946.

Construction of Bradwell Nuclear Power Station started in 1957, with electricity being generated by 1962. On a typical day, it could supply enough electricity to meet the needs of three towns the size of Chelmsford, Colchester and Southend combined. Decommissioning started in 2002, making it the first UK nuclear plant to be closed on a planned basis. Much of this work is now completed, with the protective cladding of the two Magnox reactor buildings being finished in 2016.

