



The Ferry Boat Inn dates back to either the late 15th century or early 16th century. It was originally built as two or three cottages. It is not known when it was converted to an inn, but records indicate that it originally formed part of the estate buildings of the owner of the Manor House. In 1591, Queen Elizabeth I granted North Fambridge Manor to Christopher Osborne, Member of Parliament for Helston. His father, Peter Osborne, owned South Fambridge Hall, just across the river. They both owed their privileged positions to the patronage of Lord Burghley, who was the Queen's chief adviser.

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

50p to cover printing costs

For further information please contact:
**MALDON DISTRICT
 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**
 Wenlock Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 5AD
 Tel: 01621 856503
 Website: www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk
 Email: tic@maldon.gov.uk



**MALDON DISTRICT
 COUNCIL**

WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT
 LINEAR COASTAL WALK - PART OF SALTMARSH75
**North Fambridge to
 Burnham-on-Crouch**



SAILING BARGE 'IRONSIDES'
 MOORED AT NORTH FAMBRIDGE

This wonderful linear riverside walk starts from North Fambridge railway station, taking you eastward towards the estuary at Burnham-on-Crouch, where you can catch a train to return to the start. Alternatively, you can opt to do a shorter walk by finishing at Althorne railway station and returning to North Fambridge by train. The Crouch Valley offers plenty of opportunities to see birds and boats amid peaceful scenery.

Distance:
 Full walk: 9.9 miles (15.2 km)
 Short walk: 4.9 miles (7.9 km)
 Time taken:
 Full walk: 4 hours. Short walk: 2 1/2 hours
 Location: North Fambridge railway station
 OS Explorer Map No.: 176 (Blackwater Estuary)
 OS Grid Reference: TQ 857 978

Parking: North Fambridge railway station car park (CM3 6NP) (car parking charges apply)

Public Transport: Regular trains from Wickford (change here for trains to London Liverpool Street, Shenfield and Southend Victoria). No bus service.



Refreshments on (or close to) the walk

- Parlour Café, Creeksea Place, CM0 8PJ
Tel: 01621 785292
- Swallowtail Bar & Restaurant, Burnham Marina, Foundry Lane, CM0 8BL - Tel: 01621 785505
- Cabin Dairy Tea Room, High Street, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AG - Tel: 01621 782404
- Star Inn, 29-31 High Street, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AG - Tel: 01621 782010
- Ye Olde White Harte Hotel, The Quay, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AS - Tel: 01621 782106
- Anchor Hotel, The Quay, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AT - Tel: 01621 782117
- Quayside Café Restaurant, The Quay, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AT - Tel: 01621 783350
- Ferry Boat Inn, Ferry Road, North Fambridge CM3 6LR - Tel: 01621 740208
- Victoria Inn, 1 Belvedere Road, Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8AJ - Tel: 01621 783585

Useful web links

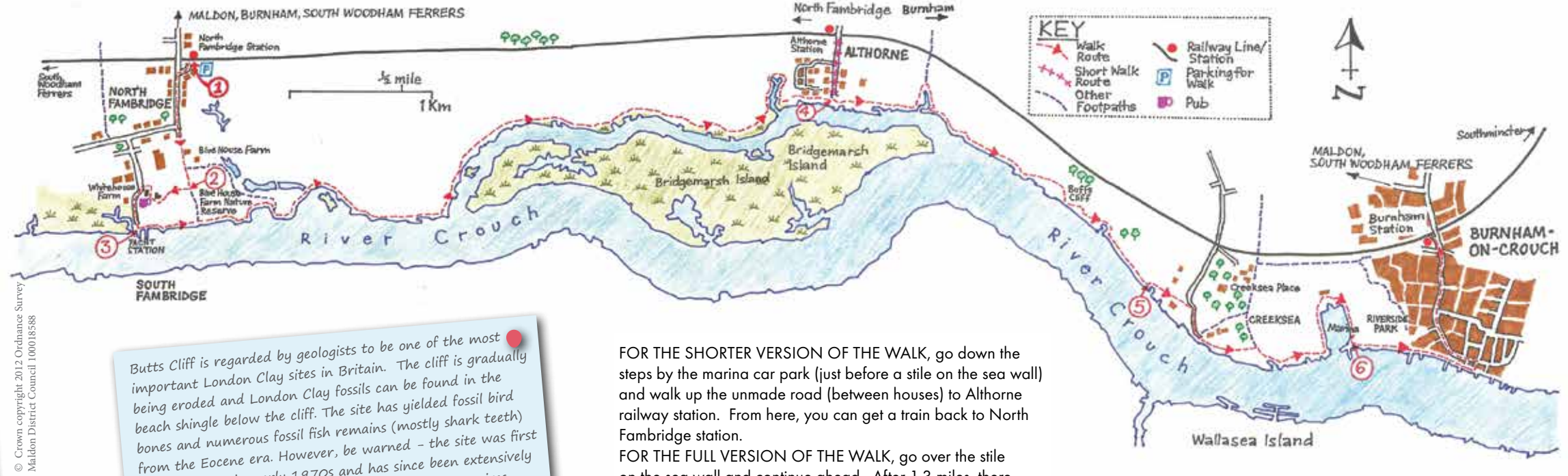
- Burnham-on-Crouch information www.burnham.org.uk
- Creeksea Place www.creekseaplace.co.uk
- Burnham-on-Crouch & District Museum www.burnhammuseum.co.uk
- RSPB www.rspb.org.uk
- Blue House Farm www.essexwtf.org.uk/reserves/blue-house-farm



1. Start the walk from North Fambridge station car park; please note that if you have travelled by car, car parking charges apply. Walk down Station Approach and turn left onto Fambridge Road (the pavement is on the opposite side of the road). In just over ¼ mile, just before Fambridge Road bends sharp right, cross over the road and go ahead on the gravel track (Blue House Farm Chase). There is a footpath sign here and you will also see the Essex Wildlife Trust's sign for Blue House Farm Nature Reserve. Continue ahead, ignoring the permissive footpath to the left (unless you wish to visit the nature reserve's bird hides). Go through two gates, going to the right of the barn. The path is following the right hand edge of a field. Cross a stile on your right, then take the footpath which joins from the right.

Blue House Farm Nature Reserve (which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest), encompasses 660 acres of coastal grazing marsh, and is managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. It is home to a wide variety of coastal wildlife, as well as being a working farm. To the east of the public footpath there is a permissive footpath which goes to the three bird hides on the reserve. In the spring, lapwing, redshank and avocet can be seen in the flooded fields. In summer, the reserve supports large numbers of a few species of butterflies, including small heath, common blue and meadow brown. In the autumn and winter, large numbers of brent geese arrive from early November and stay until the end of March. Wading birds winter here, including golden plover, curlew, black tailed godwit, dunlin, lapwing and redshank.

2. Head towards a large building (Kennett's Farm); you will also see the yacht masts in Fambridge Yacht Station. The path follows the right hand edge of a field, with the river to your left. Follow the footpath as it curves left, then go ahead in the direction of the waymarker, following the left hand edge of the next field.



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Butts Cliff is regarded by geologists to be one of the most important London Clay sites in Britain. The cliff is gradually being eroded and London Clay fossils can be found in the beach shingle below the cliff. The site has yielded fossil bird bones and numerous fossil fish remains (mostly shark teeth) from the Eocene era. However, be warned - the site was first discovered in the early 1970s and has since been extensively searched. Finding fossils below Butts Cliff today requires good eyesight and a lot of patience. Beware of the tide!

Go over a stile at the side of Kennett's Farm and take the footpath as it turns right to go around the back of the Ferry Boat Inn. Turn left on reaching the lane, ascending the grassy bank and passing in front of the pub. Cross over the entrance to Fambridge Yacht Station and continue ahead on the grassy path on the bank, to soon reach the sea wall.

3. Turn on to the sea wall, going past the small marina. Continue along the sea wall for 4 miles. Along the way, you will pass Bridgemarsh Island (which is uninhabited saltmarsh); at this point, there are good views of the hilltop village of Canewdon on the opposite bank of the River Crouch. After 4 miles, you will reach Althorne.

FOR THE SHORTER VERSION OF THE WALK, go down the steps by the marina car park (just before a stile on the sea wall) and walk up the unmade road (between houses) to Althorne railway station. From here, you can get a train back to North Fambridge station.

FOR THE FULL VERSION OF THE WALK, go over the stile on the sea wall and continue ahead. After 1.3 miles, there is a small deviation away from the river, when you encounter Butts Cliff (simply referred to as The Cliff on Ordnance Survey maps); here the path veers off to the left and climbs to the top of the cliff. On a day with good visibility, there are excellent views east from here of the Crouch Estuary, Wallasea Island and Creeksea, and towards the Crouch Valley and Althorne to the west.

5. 3/4 mile after descending The Cliff, the sea wall path ends as you near Creeksea. Turn left down the steps, go through a gate and turn right onto the field edge path. After 250 yards, turn right onto the road, which re-joins the sea wall just past the slipway (after a further 300 yards). Continue ahead on the sea wall past the hamlet of Creeksea. You will soon reach the western edge of Burnham Marina. Walk around the edge of the marina, passing in front of the marina buildings, then walk south to re-join the sea wall by the river.

6. Continue ahead, with Burnham-on-Crouch's Riverside Park to your left and the river to your right. There are some interesting houseboats here. You soon join the walkway along Burnham Quay, continue along as it twists and turns past pubs, cafés and houses. When you have passed the Olde White Harte coaching inn and just before you reach the Anchor Hotel, turn left into Shore Road. On reaching the High Street (with the famous Clock Tower to your right), turn left and head up the High Street; as it bends right (near the public library) it becomes Station Road. 2/3 mile after turning left onto the High Street from Shore Road, you will reach Station Approach (shortly after passing the Co-op supermarket). Go left here, soon reaching Burnham-on-Crouch railway station to catch a train to North Fambridge, where we started the walk.

