The sea wall now turns northwards to run alongside Mill Creek. Nearly 1/2 mile after passing the remains of Tollesbury Pier, go through a metal gate which marks the boundary of the nature reserve. The seawall path now curves to the left.

The Sail Lofts were built at the turn of the 20th century to house the sails of J class racing yachts during the winter months. Several J class yachts from Tollesbury took part in the America’s Cup between the wars, including “Endeavour” and “Flying.” The restored lofts now house small offices and a tea room.
WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT
CIRCULAR COASTAL WALK - PART OF SALTMARSH
Tollesbury Wick

Refreshments
on (or close to) the walk
King’s Head, 1 High Street, Tollesbury, CM9 8RG - Tel: 01621 869203
McColls (General Store), 2 High Street, Tollesbury, CM9 8RG - Tel: 01621 868684
Tollesbury Café, Woodrolfe Road, Tollesbury, CM9 8RG - Tel: 01621 869980
The Loft (Tea By The Sea), Woodrolfe Road, Tollesbury, CM9 8SE - Tel: 01621 869063
Tyndall’s Bakery, 10 High Street, Tollesbury, CM9 8RG - Tel: 01621 869317

Useful web links
Saltmarsh 75
www.saltmarsh75.co.uk
Essex Wildlife Trust
www.essexwt.org.uk
Essex Birdwatching Society
www.ebws.org.uk

Tollesbury Wick Marshes is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); this leaflet offers a short and long walk around the spectacular reserve, which is today managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. Both routes make for superb walks as they provide plenty of interest; there are good views of the Blackwater Estuary and Mersea Island, as well as excellent opportunities for bird-watching. Tollesbury is now renowned as a yachting centre. Once upon a time the marshes were the haunt of smugglers.

visitmaldondistrict.co.uk

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

The Tollesbury Wick Marshes reserve covers 600 acres of coastal marsh, sea wall and saltings. It is designed to show how traditional coastal farming can encourage a superb variety of wildlife. In winter, flocks of brent geese and wigeon feed on the pasture. Lapwings, redshanks, meadow pipits, grey plovers, curlews, oystercatchers and dunlins frequent the marshes. Short-eared owls, barn owls, hen harriers and kestrels regularly hunt the reserve.

The Kelvedon and Tollesbury Light Railway, more affectionately known as the “Crab and Winkle” Railway, opened in 1902. It ran from Kelvedon to Tollesbury, with stations along the way at Fearing, Tiptree and Tolleshunt D’Arcy. The deck of Tollesbury Pier was removed in 1940 to prevent an enemy landing. Sadly, in 1951 British Railways decided that the line was unprofitable and it was closed to both passenger and freight traffic.

Distance:
Short walk – 5.8 miles (9.3 km);
Longer walk – 8.9 miles (14.4 km)

Time taken:
Short walk – 2 3/4 hours;
Longer walk – 4 1/2 hours

Location: 9 miles east of Maldon (via B1026 and B1023)
OS Grid Reference: TL 956 104
OS Explorer Map No.: 176
Parking: In the village square (Church Street), CM9 5AD
Public Transport: Bus No. 95 – Maldon to Tollesbury. Mon-Sat (not Sundays)