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.

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 the next field, following the left hand edge of the next field. 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.

Go over a stile at the side of Kennet’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. ¾ 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.
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.

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 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 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. His father, Peter Osborne, owned the Manor House. In 1591, Queen Elizabeth I granted North Fambridge Manor to Christopher Osborne, Member of Parliament for Hertford. His father, Peter Osborne, owned the Manor House.

Distance:
Full walk: 9.9 miles (15.9 km)
Short walk: 4.9 miles (7.9 km)

Time taken:
Full walk: 4 hours. Short walk: 2½ 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.

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

SAILING BARGE ‘IRONSIDES’
MOORED AT NORTH FAMBRIDGE

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

Refreshments on (or close to) the walk
Parlour Café, Creeksea Place, CM0 8PJ
Tel: 01621 785299

Swallowtail Bar & Restaurant, Burnham Marina,
Foundry Lane, CM0 8BL - Tel: 01621 783505
Cabin Dairy, Tea Room, High Street,
Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AS - Tel: 01621 782404

Star Inn, 29-31 High Street,
Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AT - Tel: 01621 782217
Ye Olde White Horse Hotel, The Quay,
Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AT - Tel: 01621 782192

Apes Court Hotel, The Quay,
Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AT - Tel: 01621 782001

Quayside Cafe, The Quay,
Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AS - Tel: 01621 783350
Ferry Boat Inn, Ferry Road, North Fambridge CM3 6LR - Tel: 01621 740209
Victoria Inn, The Quay,
Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AJ - Tel: 01621 783585

Visitmaldondistrict.co.uk