

TOLLESBURY & OLD HALL MARSHES

COASTAL WALK



CIRCULAR WALK

Shorter walk: uneven or muddy ground. Walking boots recommended.

Longer walk: Isolated walk with difficult terrain.



START
TOLLESBURY



2 HOURS 15 MINS OR
3 HOURS 26 MINS



6.4 MILES OR
10.16 MILES



OVERVIEW

A fascinating walk around Tollesbury and the surrounding marshes. This walk has plenty of stunning views, historic sites and bird-watching opportunities! Tollesbury nowadays is a renowned sailing venue so keep an eye out for passing vessels on the water! You might also spot some of the locations used during the filming of ITV's 2017 thriller 'Liar'.

HOW TO GET HERE

Location for the start of the walk:

King's Head Public House, Church Street

OS Explorer Map No: 184 (Colchester)

OS Grid Reference: TL 956 104

Parking:

In the village square (Church Street), CM9 8QU

Public Transport:

Bus No. 95 – Maldon to Tollesbury
(www.traveline.info)

M A L D O N D I S T R I C T



VISITMALDONDISTRICT.CO.UK



TOURISM@MALDON.GOV.UK

Tell us what you think of the walk & send us your photos:



VISITMALDONDISTRICT.CO.UK/WALKS



[@VISITMALDONDISTRICT](https://www.facebook.com/VISITMALDONDISTRICT)

This walk was developed by Maldon District Council & Chris Harvey.

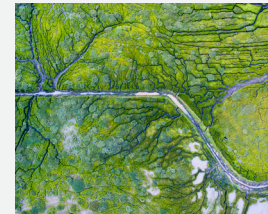


KELVEDON & TOLLESBURY LIGHT RAILWAY

Known locally as the 'Crab and Winkle' the railway was opened in 1902. It ran from Kelvedon to Tollesbury via Feering, Tiptree and Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Sadly, in 1951 it was decided that the line was unprofitable, and it was closed to both passenger and freight traffic shortly after. Fortunately, much of the original embankments and other structures survive so keep a look out for them!

OLD HALL FARM

In the 17th century, Old Hall Farm was an inn called "The Crooked Billet", which was later renamed the "Ship Ahoy Inn" and survived until its closure after the First World War. The inn was once a meeting point for smugglers with their illegal cargoes of gin and tea; the large cellars often being used to store the contraband from discovery.



OLD HALL MARSHES (RSPB)

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve at Old Hall Marshes comprises 631 hectares (1,560 acres) of scenic marshland areas. In winter, 4,000 brent geese feed on the pasture, with small flocks of ruffs and golden plovers also making an appearance. Other residents include wigeons, teals, shelducks, grey plovers, curlews, redshanks and dunlins which often frequent the area. Divers, grebes, goldeneyes and occasional seaducks are seen in the estuary channels and overhead you will find hunters like Short-eared owls, hen harriers, barn owls and merlins.

THE SAIL LOFTS

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 of these yachts from Tollesbury took part in the America's Cup between the world wars, including "Endeavour" and "Flying". The restored lofts now house small offices and a tea room.



THE LIGHTSHIP

This floating centre is a unique place for adventure, relaxation and exploring the environment. Based on a converted lightvessel, it's an activity venue for youth clubs, schools, churches, special needs groups and those wishing to gain sailing and power boating qualifications.

REFRESHMENTS

KING'S HEAD, 1 High Street, Tollesbury, CM9 8RG - Tel: 01621 869203

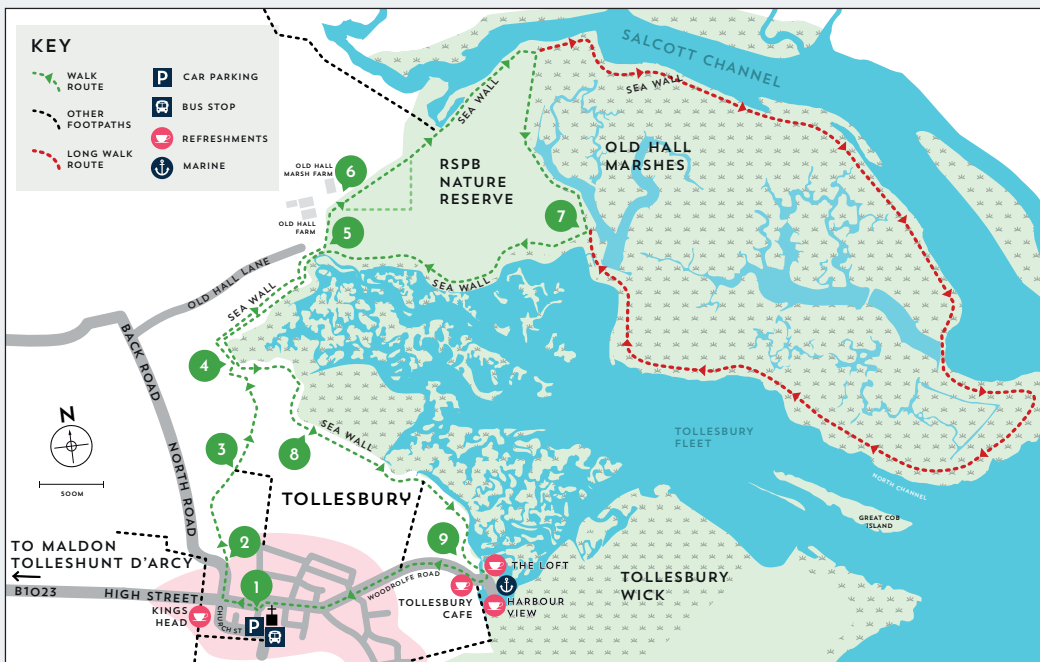
BARRETT'S BAKERY, 10 High Street, Tollesbury, CM9 8RG - Tel: 01621 869317

MCCOLLS (GENERAL STORE), 2 High Street, Tollesbury, CM9 8RG - Tel: 01621 868684

THE LOFT (TEA BY THE SEA), Woodrolfe Road, Tollesbury, CM9 8SE - Tel: 01621 869063

TOLLESBURY CAFÉ, Woodrolfe Road, Tollesbury, CM9 8SB - Tel: 01621 869980

HARBOUR VIEW BISTRO & BAR, Tollesbury Marina, CM9 8SE - Tel: 01621 869561



WALK ROUTE

1. The walk starts in Church Street by the King's Head Pub, turn left onto the High Street for about 150 yards then turn right onto North Road. There is an interesting collection of old houses along this road.
2. Where the road takes a sharp bend to the left, take the footpath going straight on (to the right of a house, with high hedges bordering the path). After a while, you will ascend some steps onto a bank, which has steps down the other side. Here, the path crosses the route of the former "Crab and Winkle" railway line.
3. At a footpath 'T' junction, take the path to the left and pass through a gap in a hedge. The path immediately turns right. Stay on the path following the direction of the arrow on the footpath signpost for around 300 yards. Continue along this path for a further 250 yards on the grassy track which crosses a field before reaching the sea wall.
4. Turn right away from the path and climb the grassy bank, turn left onto the sea wall and follow it for 0.5 miles until you reach Old Hall Farm.
5. Just past the farmhouse, by the Ship Ahoy Quay marker, turn left on the footpath away from the sea wall, descending the steps down the bank. At the front gate of Old Hall Farm turn right along the track until you reach a junction of footpaths, at this point take the left path.

WALK ROUTE

6. After 150 yards, you will pass the outbuildings of Old Hall Marsh Farm. After passing the big barn on your left, turn right to follow the footpath sign, go through a gate and cross the field. **CAUTION:** If grazing Brent Geese are in the field, retrace your steps past the large barn, then look out for a path to the left, which is signposted "goose-friendly trail". Take this path, which goes around the edge of the field.

- At the far edge of the field, go through the gate, turn left towards the sea wall and climb up the bank.
- Turn right along the sea wall and immediately go through a gate and follow the path for 0.5 miles. This is a good area to admire the views over the Salcott Channel. Including the hamlet of Salcott-cum-Virley with its ruined church, The village of Great Wigborough; the church tower can be seen at Peldon church. If the visibility is good, you can also see the imposing Tudor gatehouse of Layer Marney Tower on the north-west horizon.
- At this point to path splits with a short and long route option available.

For the longer walk: Go through another gate on the sea wall and continue along this path for 4.3 miles (see the map showing the route) as it heads around Old Hall Marshes, until you reach the gate adjacent to Tollesbury, proceed through this gate. There are good views of Mersea Island and opportunities for birdwatching on this stretch.

For the short walk: On reaching the gate on the sea wall, descend the bank, turn right and cross a stile onto a track marked "short cut". Take this track across the marshes until you reach the sea wall adjacent to Tollesbury Fleet. Climb the sea wall, turn right and go through the gate.

Both walks: From this point (if there is good visibility) you can see the decommissioned nuclear power station at Bradwell to the south-east. Further along the Dengie Peninsula you can see the chapel of St Peter's, which is reputedly the oldest church in England.

7. Continue along the sea wall for 2.5 miles, retracing the route past Old Hall Farm and passing the footpath you took from Tollesbury earlier.

8. Continue on the sea wall towards Tollesbury Marina. On reaching the road by the Marina, descend the concrete steps by the Tollesbury Sailing Club HQ with the beautifully restored Sail Lofts on your left.

9. Turn right along Woodrolfe Road for 0.5 miles until you reach the junction with Mell Road, this runs into East Street. Continue along East Street until you reach the High Street. You will soon see Church Street to your left, turn left here to finish the walk.

USEFUL WEBSITES

THE LIGHTSHIP
www.fact.org.uk

TOLLESBURY MARINA
www.tollesburymarina.com

TOLLESBURY WICK NATURE RESERVES
www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/tollesbury-wick