

Points of interest

Heybridge Basin

Heybridge Basin marks the eastern end of the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation. A granary was built by the Navigation Company and service industries sprung up around it, including ropemaking and boatbuilding. The Basin is now a leisure boating and yachting centre and has hosted an annual summer regatta since 1859.



Blackwater bird life

The Blackwater Estuary and the flooded gravel pits are a haven for bird life. Depending on the season, you may see common tern, oystercatchers, redshanks, godwits, shelducks, swifts and swallows. In winter the estuary and its mud flats are alive with overwintering birds, including hundreds of Brent geese.

St Andrew's Church

The tower walls, nave and chancel of this Grade I Listed church are Norman and the wooden south door has original ironwork from the early 1100s. The tower base is unusually large and buttressed and once supported a great tower, but this collapsed following severe flooding in 1450 and the small pyramid-shaped cap replaced it.



The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation

The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation was designed by the famous canal architect John Rennie. It opened in 1793, with the last working traffic in the early 1970s. The Navigation runs for 14 miles (with 13 locks, including the sea-lock at Heybridge Basin) connecting Chelmsford with the tidal estuary of the River Blackwater.

Refreshments

The Maltsters Arms
Heybridge Inn

Le Bouchon Brasserie & Hotel

01621 853880

01621 853545

01621 856511

@maltstersarmsmaldon

@heybridgeinn

lebouchon.co.uk

More locations available at visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink

HEYBRIDGE TOWPATH & SEAWALL

Short Walk

A slightly longer stroll but worth the effort, taking in bustling Heybridge Basin with its boats, sea-lock and pubs, the seawall with estuary views, and the canal towpath



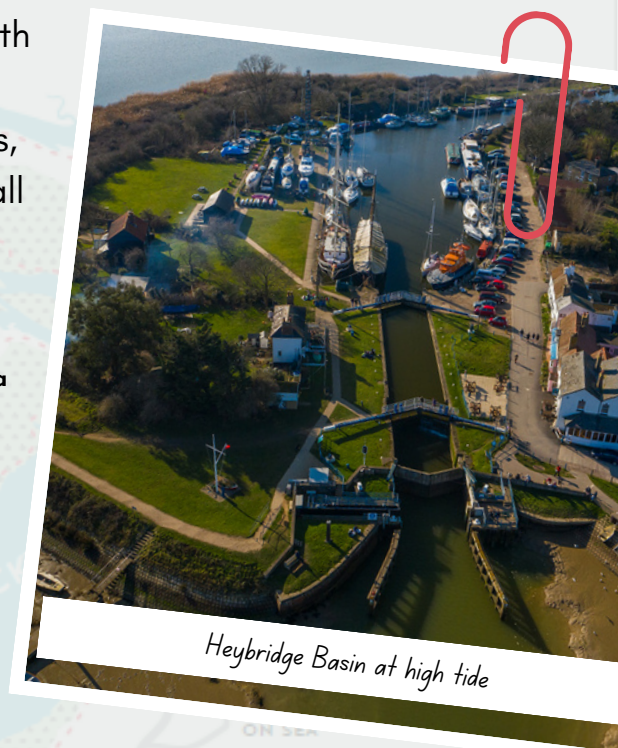
Mostly all-weather surfaces, sea wall can be muddy. No stiles, ramp access from car park



1 hour 10 to 1 hour 30 mins



3.58 miles



Heybridge Basin at high tide

How to get here



Daisy Meadow car park, Heybridge Basin CM9 4RW (pay-and-display)



Buses 73, 73A (Chelmsford-Maldon) or 95A (Tollesbury-Maldon)



Explorer 176 or 183

scrubbing.hedgehog.bookmark



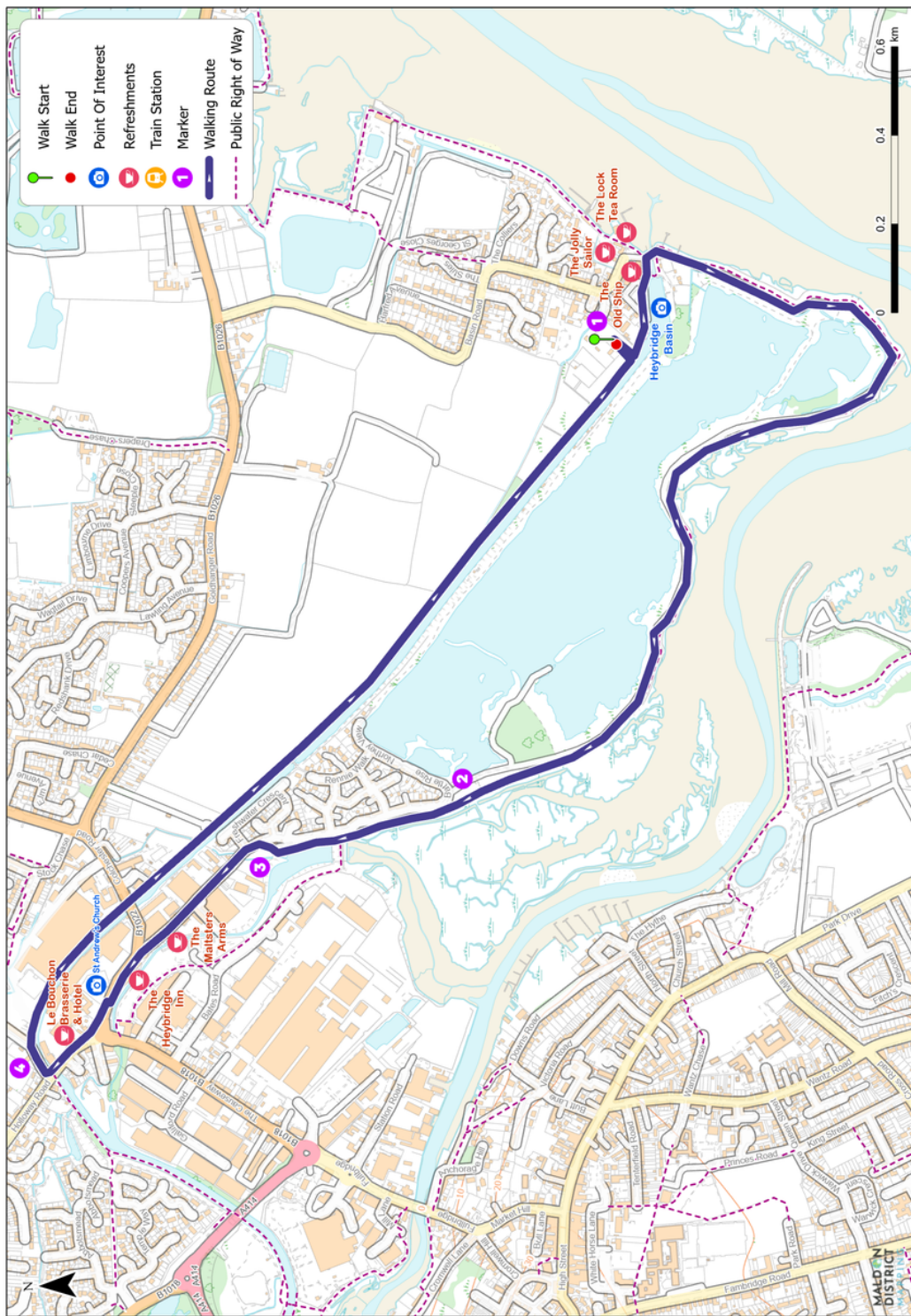
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Route

1. Leave the Daisy Meadow pay-and-display car park using the steps or ramp up onto the towpath of the **Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation**. Turn left along the towpath, passing the canalside cottages to reach the **sea-lock** and the **Old Ship** pub. Cross the canal using one of the walkways across the sea-lock gates. Facing the **lock-keeper's house**, turn left and ascend the **seawall** using the shallow steps or the slope. Go ahead on the seawall for 1.4 miles. Initially, there are good views of **Northey Island** (owned by the **National Trust**) and the wider estuary, followed by views of Maldon's **Promenade Park** and the town itself. The lakes to your right were formerly gravel pits. Eventually, you will reach a gate on the seawall footpath.
2. Go through the gate and stay ahead on the seawall footpath for a third of a mile. There is now a new housing estate to your right and more views of Maldon across the **saltmarsh** to your left. Ignore the crossing footpath and enter a small area of vegetation with trees running behind the historic **Hall Cottage** (parts of which date to the 14th century). The path emerges onto Hall Road. Go ahead on Hall Road, passing the **Maltsters Arms** pub, for 400 yards until you reach the junction with The Street (B1022).
3. Turn left here, passing the Grade II Listed **Heybridge Inn** pub, which has a beer garden overlooking the creek, on your left. In 140 yards, use the zebra crossing to cross The Street, soon passing **St Andrew's Church** on your right. Continue ahead on the path to the right of the roundabout, passing the **Bengal Tiger** Indian restaurant and **Le Bouchon Brasserie**. Go over the road bridge crossing the **Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation**.
4. Turn right immediately after the bridge onto the signposted bridleway, and after 90 yards fork right onto the old towpath of the canal. Go ahead on this canalside footpath for 1.3 miles. Look out for the old **Bentall agricultural works** warehouse, built in 1866 and now converted to offices, on your right after you pass under the road bridge. William Bentall's famous Goldhanger Plough was once made here. The path follows the canal all the way back to the Daisy Meadow car park where you started the walk.