

# MALDON WINTER WALK

## TOWN WALK



### CIRCULAR WALK

Circular walk on pavements and some road sections. Trainers or walking shoes recommended.



START  
MALDON LIBRARY



1.5 HOURS



4.6 MILES



Maldon High Street

### OVERVIEW

If you want a mud-free stroll which takes in the lesser-known parts of Maldon then this walk is a good option.

This easy circuit of Maldon uses plenty of quiet paths and lanes, giving you the chance to explore lesser-visited parts of the town.

### HOW TO GET HERE

#### Location for the start of the walk:

Maldon Library (CM9 5QP)

OS Explorer Map No: 183

OS Grid Reference: TL 850 069

**Parking:** White Horse Lane car park (CM9 6DG)

**Public Transport:** Bus services operate from Maldon High Street.

Visit [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) for journey details.

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



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

### A. MALDON'S SECRET GARDEN

Maldon's secret garden is guaranteed to surprise everyone who encounters it for the first time. This unexpected green oasis hides behind ancient red brick walls. Through the wooden entrance door, you will find a lovingly restored garden with narrow footpaths and box hedges. It is thought that the site was cultivated as far back as the 13th century when it was occupied by a Carmelite monastery. It is usually open on the first Sunday of every month.



Friary Walled Garden: Maldon & Heybridge Horticulturay Society

### B. ST GILES'S LEPER HOSPITAL



St Giles' Leper Hospital: Adrian Day (2020)

St Giles's Leper Hospital is one of Maldon's best kept archaeological secrets. The chapel was founded to provide services to the lepers and became a general hospital for the poor and infirm. It was connected to Beeleigh Priory and later served as a farm building for many centuries until work commenced to restore the ruins in the 1920s. Most of the existing structure dates from the 12th Century and contains Roman bricks.

### C. MALDON RAILWAY LINE (DISUSED)

When you arrive at the roundabout on Spital Road, you will be able to see the route of the old Maldon West to Woodham Ferrers railway line. Looking to your left you will see the West Station Yard; you are standing on the roof of a tunnel that took the line from the "cutting" (which has long gone) into the yard. Notice the blue engineering bricks of the bridge parapet, and if you have a head for heights, carefully look over into the yard and you will see a building that extends into the old tunnel. Maldon West station (and the railway line) closed to passenger traffic in 1939.

### D. BRICKHOUSE FARM

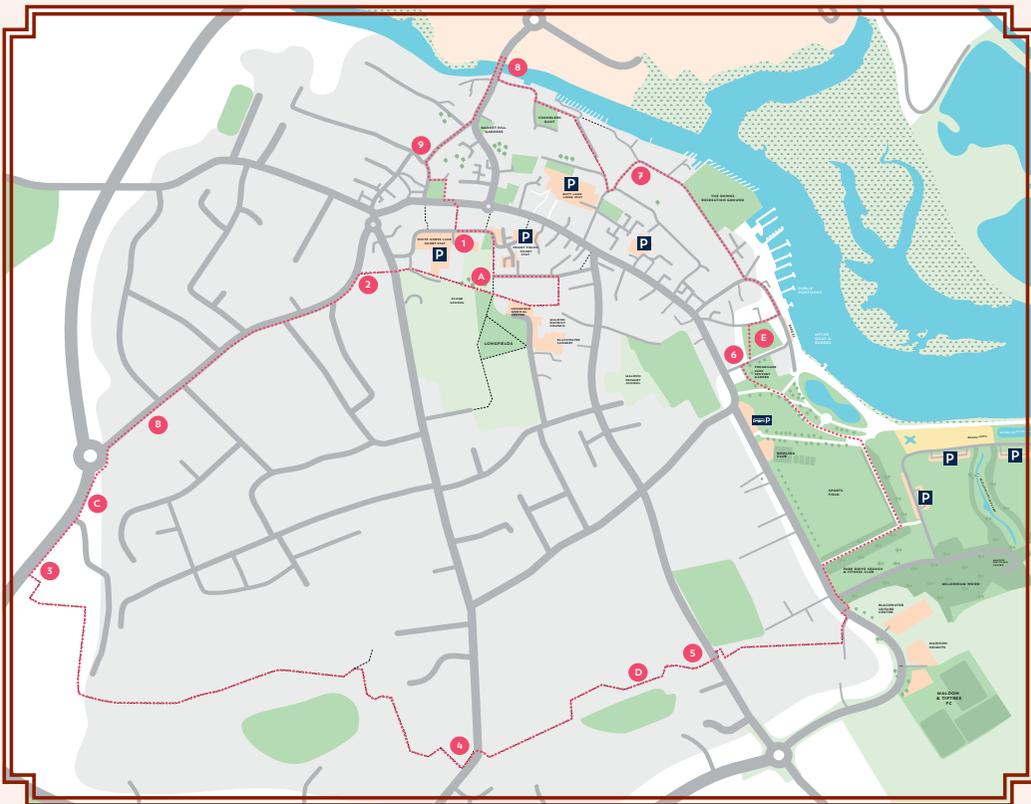
Brickhouse Farm was a historic farmstead to the south of Maldon. White's Directory of 1848 has this entry for the farm: "A prebendal farm, called Brick House farm, in this parish, belongs to the patrons of St Mary's Church, and is charged with the repairs of the chancel, which has a fine early English arch."

### E. ST MARY'S CHURCH

The original tower of St Mary's Church was built in 1300 and served as a navigation aid on the River Blackwater during the medieval period. A beacon fire was lit at the top of the tower to guide ships to shore. The tower was so important to navigation that when it collapsed in 1605, the town petitioned King James I to rebuild it, but the rebuilding was not complete until 1638. Later in 1740, the shingled spire was added, and this still serves as an aid to navigation on the river.



River Blackwater: Stanley Brett (2017)



WALK ROUTE

1. Turn right on to White Horse Lane and follow the path round, when the lane turns left toward the car park, continue straight between the houses and the old friary wall. Turn left into Tenterfield Road before the narrow path, turn right after 160 yards down a path between the houses. After 70 yards, turn right past the bungalows and head to the footpath. Turn right and follow the path towards Fambridge Road, passing the Plume Academy on your left. Cross the road at the zebra crossing and take the path opposite which exits on Mount Pleasant; continue straight to Spital Road.

2. Turn left, passing the remains of St Giles's Leper Hospital on the left. Continue on this road to the roundabout, passing the remains of the old railway bridge on your left; Maldon West Station lay to the right and closed to passengers in 1939. Continue on this road away from the roundabout and cross West Station Yard, towards the fire station. On passing the fire station, look out for the footpath on the left.

3. Follow the path downhill behind the industrial units and turn left by the supermarket, through a cutting in the embankment of the old railway line. Stay on the path, passing West Maldon Recreation Ground and Community Centre on the right and through the housing estate. Keep to the main path as it bends right, ignoring the path ahead. From here, the path crosses several roads and cul-de-sacs but is easy to follow as it has a solid white line to separate pedestrians and cyclists. After 0.25 miles, you will reach Fambridge Road; cross over the road using the zebra crossing.

4. Take the footpath ahead; continuing to follow the painted white line separating cyclists and pedestrians through the housing estate until you reach the Brickhouse Farm flood plain, with its newly planted woods and children's play area. The buildings on the left, are the remains of the old Brickhouse Farm. Passing the allotments on your right, continue on the path to Mundon Road.

5. Go over the zebra crossing and turn right, then on the left the white line continues on the footpath way as it heads through the estate. After 400 yards, the path exits on Park Drive. Cross over the zebra crossing and turn left towards Promenade Park. Turn right into the park at the main entrance, go through the park towards the Maldon Museum and Maze, exiting through the metal kissing gate near St Mary's Church.

6. Turn right on St Mary's Lane, then left into the churchyard, passing the front of the church. Exit the churchyard and turn right on Church Street; head towards Hythe Quay and turn left at the junction. Follow the road to the junction with Downs Road and continue until the sharp left turn uphill.

7. Continue up the hill until the junction with Victoria Road, turn right, and then immediately right again onto The Downs. After 40 yards, take the footpath on the right going back down the hill to Chandlers Quay. Follow this road until you reach the bottom of Market Hill and the road bridge over the River Chelmer.

8. Cross the road using the crossing on the opposite side of the bridge and turn left to head back over the bridge and up Market Hill; look out for the Old Custom House and Workhouse (early 19th century) as you head uphill. Turn right onto Cromwell Hill, passing the water pump which dates to 1805.

9. Turn left onto Silver Street, then left again towards the rectory, following the path through the churchyard to the High Street. Cross the road by the historic Moot Hall, go down the alley by Marks and Spencer's to White Horse Lane and the Library where you started earlier will now be on your left.