



Title: Tollesbury Wick

Distance: about 9 miles

Time taken: 4 hours

Location: 9 miles East of Maldon

OS Explorer Map: 176

Grid Ref.: TL 956 104

Parking: Outside the King's Head, in the village square, CM9 8QU

Bus:  Bus 91 - Witham, 92 - Colchester, 95 - Maldon

Train: No train service nearby

Refreshment: The King's Head in Tollesbury

PEAR Rating: 

Walk Description

This coastal walk takes you through the historic centre of Tollesbury, past the marina and along the sea wall beside the Blackwater estuary. There are lovely views across the river to the marinas at West Mersea and St Lawrence, and the waters are often busy with sailing boats. Inland, the borrowdyke snakes along between the path and Tollesbury Wick Marshes. Virtually unchanged since the middle ages, these marshes have been designated an SSSI because of their importance for migratory birds. The walk crosses the remains of the old 'Crab and Winkle' railway line which used to bring tourists to this remote and beautiful estuary. The route returns over farmland, from where there are some panoramic views across the estuary.

Directions

A. From the parking, turn right on East Street

B. At the fork in the road, turn right into Mell Road (1)

C. After 400 yards, turn left into Woodrolfe Farm lane. After a short distance the road becomes a footpath (2) continue along it until you come to the Marina.

D. At the Marina, turn right onto the sea wall (3).

E. Continue on the sea wall, past the lightship, (4) and into the nature reserve.

F. Continue along the sea wall - there's no need for directions here, just keep going! (5)

- G.** You will pass Shinglehead Point - between late April and early July please do not venture onto the shingle itself because little terns, oyster-catchers and ringed plovers will be nesting there. (6)
- H.** Look out for the remains of the Crab and Winkle line, you can see from the level of the line how much the sea wall has been built up since the 1953 floods (7).
- I.** Loop around Mill Creek (8) and continue on until you can see Rolls Farm in the distance.
- J.** As you approach Rolls farm you can see a track leading up from the marshes to the left of the farm - this is Prentice Hall Lane (9).
- K.** Follow the lane past Rolls Farm for just over a mile. When you reach a pair of redbrick semi-detached houses on your left, just before Prentice Hall Farm, turn right along a farm track marked with a footpath fingerpost.
- L.** After 400 yards the footpath goes straight ahead into some trees, although the farm track turns to the right (10).
- M.** Stay on the footpath and look for a footbridge on the left (11), cross this and follow the path to the backs of some houses and turn right.
- N.** Continue on through a playground, then take the route past the metal barrier on the left back to Church Street (12).
- O.** Follow Church Street back to the parking area.

[ROUTE DIRECTIONS at www.essexwalks.com](http://www.essexwalks.com)

The ROUTE MAP and ROUTE PHOTOS **also** need to be downloaded and saved on your computer for printing.



The Route Map PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Description & Map](#)



The Route Photos PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Photos](#)

This route description is not meant to be used in isolation, it is one piece of a three part guide to the walk. The other two pieces are the route map, and the numbered photographs. The walks work best when the description, map and the photos PDF are printed off and used in conjunction with each other.

The numbers in brackets in the description refer to specific points along the route, marked with numbered symbols and these in turn are matched to illustrative photographs which show you the lie of the land.



These symbols are shown at strategic points along the route, overlaid on a 1:50K Ordnance Survey map: [Online OS Map at www.essexwalks.com](#).