



Title: Tollesbury Wick

Distance: about 9 miles

Time taken: 4 hours

Refreshment: The King's Head and The Hope, in Tollesbury

Location: 9 miles East of Maldon Parking: Outside the King's Head, in the village square

### **Walk description**

This walk is absolutely lovely. On the seaward side you have the bustling, delightful Tollesbury Marina, plenty of sailing boats of all shapes and sizes, and views across the river to the marinas of West Mersea and St Lawrence. Set against these is a thin strip of saltmarsh, and the river itself, which at some times of year is teeming with wild birds over-wintering here. On the landward side you have the borrowdyke snaking along beside you, and then the fleets criss-crossing the saltmarshes. And finally, there are points of industrial or architectural interest, such as old WW2 buildings, views of Bradwell Power Station, the Red Hills, and the remains of the old railway line. Over it all is the huge expanse of the wide Essex skies. And as you go back to the village square there are some amazing panoramic views of the river.

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. Go up the lane, past Rolls Farm, until you come to Prentice Hall Farm, then take the

footpath to the right, along a farm track.

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.

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