

Points of interest

Blue House Farm Nature Reserve

Essex Wildlife Trust manages these 660 acres of coastal grazing marsh. From the public footpath, a permissive path goes to three bird hides. In spring, lapwing, redshank and avocet visit the flooded fields. In summer, butterflies abound. Brent geese and wading birds such as plover, curlew, black tailed godwit, dunlin, lapwing and redshank winter here.



The Ferry Boat Inn

The Ferry Boat Inn dates from around the early 16th century. It was originally built as two or three cottages forming part of the estate buildings of the owner of the Manor House. It has been an inn since the early 1800s, serving customers of the ferry that once crossed the Crouch. It's now a gastro pub with rooms, and convenient electric car charging points.

North Fambridge Hall

The manor house dates from around 1600, but was altered in the 19th century. In 1591, Queen Elizabeth I granted North Fambridge Manor to Christopher Osborne, MP for Helston. His father, Peter Osborne, owned South Fambridge Hall, just across the river. They owed their positions to the patronage of Lord Burghley, the Queen's chief adviser.



Holy Trinity Church

Tiny Holy Trinity Church sits on the highest point in the village; records show there has been a church here since at least 1296. The current brick walls were built during the 1600s or 1700s, probably encasing the earlier building. The small bell tower existed in 1763, but the bell was installed later and is inscribed with the date 1771.

Refreshments

The Ferry Boat Inn	01621 738844	ferryboatinnsex.com
River Breeze Café and Bar	07443 871549	@Riverbreezefebarnorthfambridge
Clayhill Vineyard (closed during Jan)	07771 995460	@clayhillvineyard

More locations available at [visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink](https://www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink)

NORTH FAMBRIDGE SEAWALL STROLL

Short Walk

This walk has a bit of everything – the river Crouch, boats galore, an historic pub and farmland. All within the confines of the village of North Fambridge.



Mostly field and seawall paths which can be muddy. One flight of steps to ascend the seawall



1 hr 5 mins to 1 hr 20 mins



3.1 miles



The riverside village of North Fambridge

How to get here



Blue House Farm Nature Reserve car park, North Fambridge CM3 6GU



By train to North Fambridge station



Explorer 176



clocking.spenders.constants



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Route

1. Leave the **Blue House Farm Nature Reserve** car park and turn left onto Blue House Farm Chase. In 40 yards, go through two gates in quick succession which are to the right of the farm buildings; both are signposted "Public Footpath to Seawall". Go ahead on the grassy footpath in a southerly direction for a third of a mile, going through a gate to reach the steps up to the **seawall**. Ascend the steps and turn right along the seawall, soon reaching **the quay**. Cross over the two tracks to reach two footpath signposts.

2. Turn right onto the seawall, signposted to the village. In 250 yards, cross over the driveway and continue ahead on the grassy bank. **The Ferry Boat Inn** is on your right. At the end of the grassy bank, go ahead on Ferry Road, entering the village. Look out for the footpath sign on your left (about 60 yards after passing Rutland Road). Turn left along this footpath, which is initially fenced and then enters a small wooded area, behind **North Fambridge Hall**. In 180 yards, the path exits into the churchyard of the parish church, **Holy Trinity**.

3. Leave the churchyard through the gate in the far right corner. Turn right along the lane, passing **North Fambridge Hall** on your right. In 90 yards, turn left onto The Avenue, which soon bends around to the left. Ignore the footpath off to the right. Follow the lane for a third of a mile, passing the sign welcoming you to the **Fambridge Yacht Haven**. Enter the haven, taking care when passing by the boats. You will find the clubhouse on the right, with the **River Breeze Café and Bar**. Turn round at this point and retrace your steps to the point where the road bends right. Turn left onto the footpath here (which enters a copse). This soon opens out into a large field; the path follows the field's left-hand edge. Go ahead for nearly half a mile (crossing the **railway line** on the level crossing) until you reach a crossroad of paths.

4. Turn right to follow the path on the right-hand edge of the field. In 250 yards, this becomes a track between houses (Rectory Road). Go ahead on this track, which soon becomes a paved road, until the road curves to the left; continue ahead here (passing a five-barred gate on your right) to reach Fambridge Road. Turn right to walk along Fambridge Road, soon going over the **railway bridge**, for nearly half a mile. Where the road takes a sharp right bend and becomes The Avenue, go ahead on Blue House Farm Chase (an unmade road), until you reach the nature reserve car park on the left, where the walk started.

