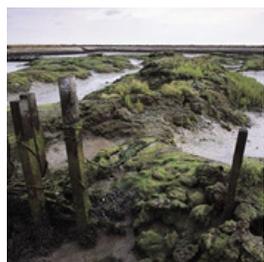


Points of interest

Old Hall Farm

In the 17th century, Old Hall Farm was an inn called The Crooked Billet, which was later renamed the Ship Ahoy Inn and survived until its closure after the First World War. The inn was once a meeting point for smugglers who hid their illicit cargoes of gin and tea in the large cellars. The name lives on in the Ship Ahoy Holiday Cottages at the farm.



Old Hall Marshes (RSPB)

The RSPB reserve at Old Hall Marshes comprises 1,560 acres of scenic marshland. In winter, 4,000 Brent geese feed on the pasture, along with small flocks of ruffs and golden plovers. Other residents include wigeons, teals, shelducks, curlews, redshanks and dunlins. Overhead you may see short-eared and barn owls, hen harriers or merlins.

The Sail Lofts

The now-iconic sail lofts were built at the turn of the 20th century to house the sails of J Class racing yachts during the winter months. Several of these yachts from Tollesbury took part in the America's Cup between the world wars, including Endeavour and Flying. The carefully restored lofts now house small offices and a tea room.



The Lightship

This floating centre run by the Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust is a unique place for adventure, relaxation and exploring the environment. Based on a 1950s converted Trinity Lightvessel, it's an activity venue for youth clubs, schools, churches, special needs groups and those wishing to gain sailing and power boating qualifications.

Refreshments

The Kings Head
The Loft - Tea by the Sea
The Harbour View

01621 869203
01621 869063
01621 869561

@tollesburykingshead
thelofttearoom.com
the-harbour-view.co.uk

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

TOLLESBURY & OLD HALL MARSHES

Coastal Walk

A fascinating walk around Tollesbury and the surrounding marshes. This walk has plenty of stunning views, historic sites and bird-watching opportunities



Uneven/muddy, walking boots recommended. Longer walk is isolated and difficult terrain



**2 hours 15 minutes - short
3 hours 30 minutes - long**



6.4 or 10.2 miles



Trinity Lightvessel at Tollesbury Marshes

How to get here



**King's Head Pub, Church Street,
Tollesbury CM9 8RG**



Bus 95 from Maldon, 91 from Witham



OS Explorer 184



searches.shocked.drawn



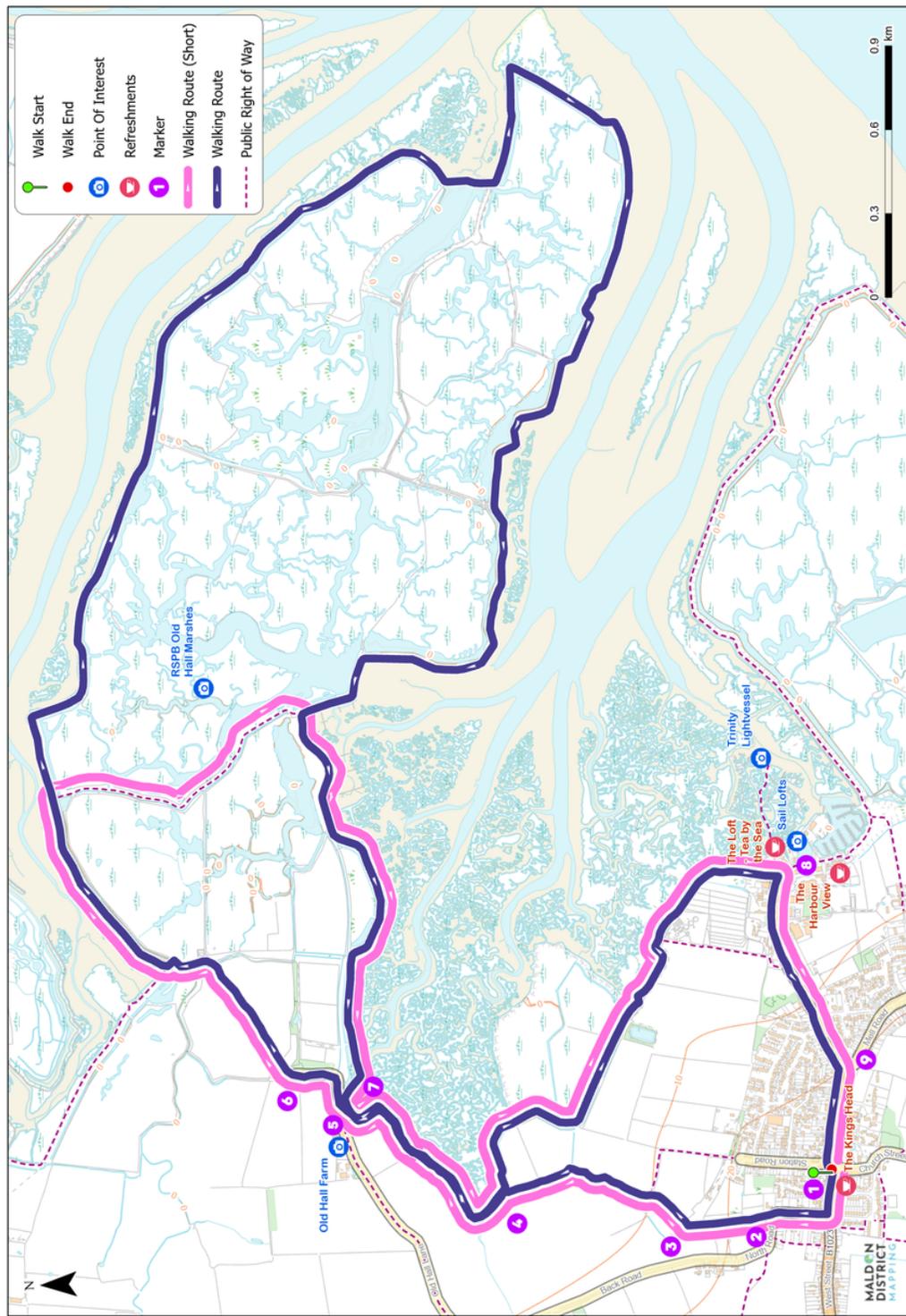
Discover the Maldon District



visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/walks



@visitmaldondistrict



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Route

1. From the **King's Head** pub, turn left onto the **High Street** for about 150 yards then turn right onto North Road. There is an interesting collection of old houses along this road.
2. Where the road takes a sharp bend to the left, take the footpath going straight on (to the right of a house, with high hedges). After a while, there are steps up and then down a bank. Here, the path crosses the route of the former **Crab and Winkle railway line**.
3. At a footpath T-junction, take the path to the left and pass through a gap in a hedge. The path immediately turns right. Stay on the path following the direction of the arrow on the footpath signpost for around 300 yards. Continue along this path for a further 250 yards on the grassy track which crosses a field before reaching the **seawall**.
4. Turn right away from the path and climb the grassy bank, turn left onto the seawall and follow it for 0.5 miles until you reach **Old Hall Farm**.
5. Past the farmhouse, by the **Ship Ahoy Quay** marker, turn left on the footpath away from the seawall, descending the steps down the bank. At the front gate of **Old Hall Farm** turn right along the track until you reach a junction of footpaths, at this point take the left path.
6. After 150 yards, you will pass the outbuildings of **Old Hall Marsh Farm**. After passing the big barn on your left, turn right to follow the footpath sign, go through a gate and cross the field. **CAUTION:** If Brent geese are in the field, retrace your steps past the large barn, then take the marked **goose-friendly trail** to the left which goes around the edge of the field. At the far edge of the field, go through the gate, turn left towards the seawall and climb up the bank. Turn right along the seawall and immediately go through a gate and follow the path for 0.5 miles. This is a good area to admire the views over the **Salcott Channel** and the hamlet of **Salcott-cum-Virley** with its ruined church. If visibility is good, you can also see the imposing Tudor gatehouse of **Layer Marney Tower** on the north-west horizon. At this point the path splits with a short and long route option available.
 - **Longer walk:** Go through another gate on the seawall and continue along this path for 4.3 miles around **Old Hall Marshes**, until you reach the gate adjacent to Tollesbury, proceed through this gate. There are good views of **Mersea Island** and birdwatching.
 - **Shorter walk:** On reaching the gate on the seawall, descend the bank, turn right and cross a stile onto a track marked "short cut". Take this track across the marshes until you reach the seawall by **Tollesbury Fleet**. Climb the seawall, go right and through the gate.
7. Continue along the seawall for 2.5 miles, retracing the route past **Old Hall Farm** and passing the footpath you took from Tollesbury earlier.
8. Continue on the seawall towards **Tollesbury Marina**. On reaching the road, descend the steps by the **Tollesbury Sailing Club** HQ with the restored **Sail Lofts** on your left.
9. Turn right along Woodrolfe Road for 0.5 miles until you reach the junction with Mell Road, this runs into East Street. Continue to the High Street; Church Street is to your left.