

Points of interest

Tollesbury Wick Marshes

Tollesbury Wick Nature Reserve covers 600 acres of coastal marsh, seawall and saltings. It is designed to show how traditional coastal farming can encourage wildlife. In winter, Brent geese and wigeon feed on the pasture. Lapwings, redshanks, meadow pipits, grey plovers, curlews, oystercatchers, hen harriers and kestrels can be spotted.



Kelvedon & Tollesbury Light Railway

The Kelvedon and Tollesbury Light Railway, affectionately known as the Crab and Winkle Line, opened in 1902. It ran from Kelvedon to Tollesbury, with stations at Feering, Tiptree and Tolleshunt D'Arcy. The deck of Tollesbury Pier was removed in 1940 to prevent an enemy landing. In 1951 British Railways closed the line, but traces still remain.

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 King's Head	01621 869203	@tollesburykingshead
The Loft - Tea by the Sea	01621 869063	thelofttearoom.com
The Harbour View	01621 869561	the-harbour-view.co.uk

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

TOLLESBURY WICK MARSHES

Coastal Walk

Tollesbury Wick Marshes is a Site of Special Scientific managed by Essex Wildlife Trust. Two walk options explore the views and birdlife of the spectacular reserve



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



**2 hours 45 minutes - short
4 hours 30 minutes - long**



5.8 or 8.9 miles



Avocets in flight, Tollesbury Wick (Essex Wildlife Trust)

How to get here



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



Bus 95 from Maldon, 91 from Witham



OS Explorer 176 and 184



searches.shocked.drawn



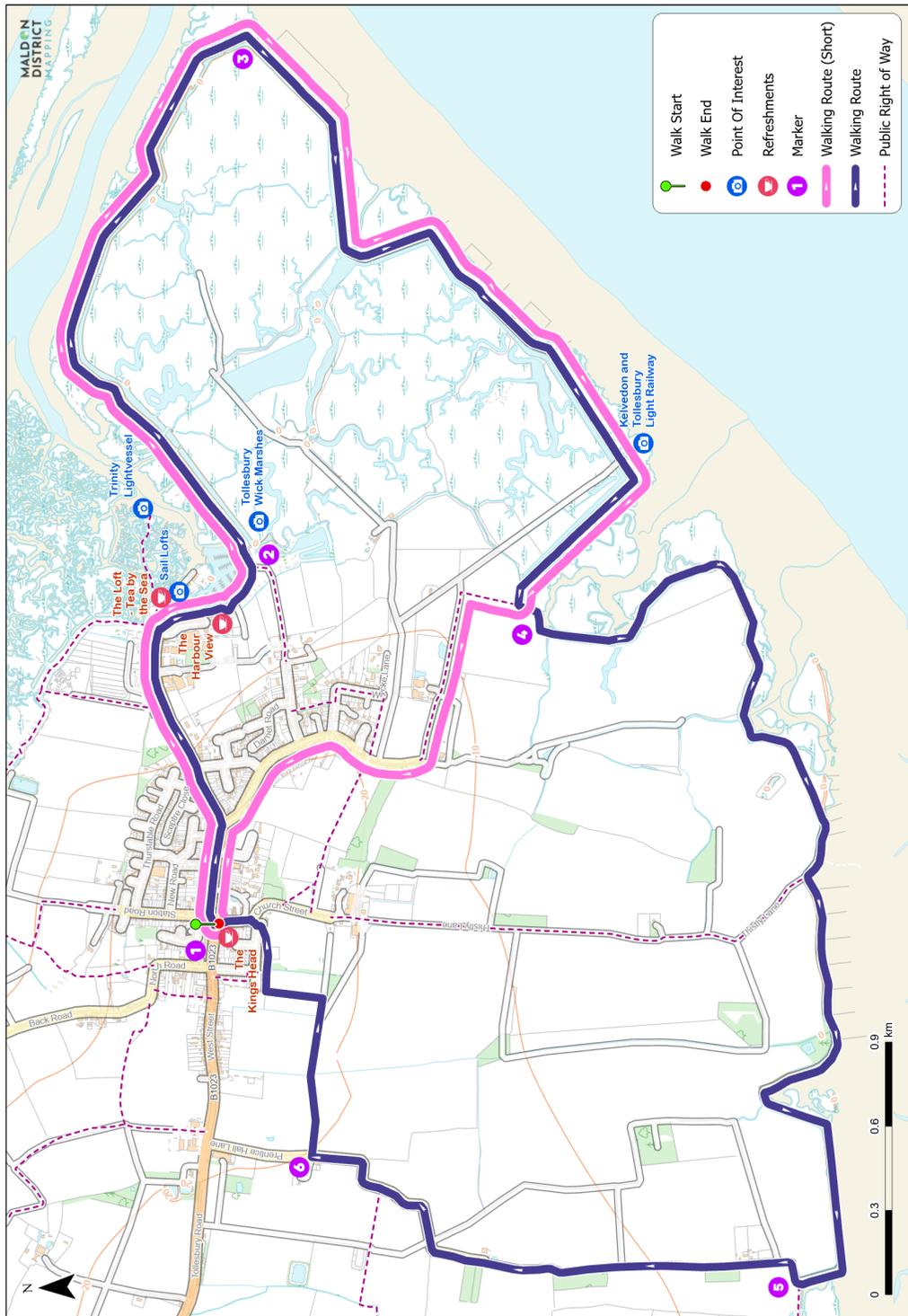
Discover the Maldon District



visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/walks



@visitmaldondistrict



Route

1. Start in Church Street by the **King's Head**. Turn right into East Street. At a fork of roads (after 350 yards), keep left and go ahead on Woodrolfe Road. After ½ mile, after passing the **Tollesbury Sailing Club** on the left, turn right and go up the grassy bank to take the footpath along the seawall. To your left are the **Sail Lofts**. Continue ahead, in front of the **Tollesbury Marina** clubhouse. After 300 yards, go through a gate to **Tollesbury Wick Nature Reserve**.

2. The walk continues on the seawall, with views of **Woodrolfe Creek** and the **lightship**. After a quarter of a mile, look for a permissive path heading away from the seawall. Turn right down the steps and follow this to the hide to view the birdlife then return to the seawall by the same route. Resume the walk along the seawall, taking in the views of West Mersea. After one mile, you will pass the wartime pillbox at **Shinglehead Point** (between late April and July, please don't go onto the shingle because little terns, oystercatchers and ringed plovers nest there).

3. There are now good views of the decommissioned nuclear power station at Bradwell across the Blackwater Estuary. After 1½ miles, you will reach an information board about the **Crab and Winkle** railway line, near the remains of **Tollesbury Pier** (by another pillbox). The terminus station for the railway line was just inside the seawall; the level shows just how much the seawall has had to be raised since the 1953 floods. The seawall now turns northwards to run alongside **Mill Creek**. Nearly ½ mile after passing the remains of Tollesbury Pier, go through a metal gate which marks the boundary of the nature reserve. The seawall path curves left.

4. For the shorter walk: After 75 yards, take the enclosed, hedged path on the right below the seawall, with a field to your right. After 220 yards, go over the stile and turn left onto the track. Ahead of you in the distance is a Second World War **naval watch tower** (now a home). After 400 yards, you pass **Wick Farm** farmhouse on your right; the track then narrows, with a field to your right. After a further 250 yards cross over a low stile, then go through a kissing gate and turn right onto a lane, heading uphill. Ignore the crossing footpath; the lane soon enters Tollesbury, becoming Mell Road. Stay on Mell Road for a third of a mile, then turn left onto East Street. After another 350 yards, turn left into Church Street, the start of the walk.
For the longer walk: Continue ahead on the sea wall path for another 2½ miles.

5. As you approach Rolls Farm you will see a track leading up from the marshes to the left of the farm. Drop down from the seawall and turn right to take this track (Prentice Hall Lane), passing the farmhouse on your right. Continue ahead on Prentice Hall Lane for ¼ miles.

6. At Prentice Hall Farm, turn right onto the footpath, along a farm track. After a third of a mile, the footpath goes ahead through some trees, whereas the farm track forks off to the right. Stay on the footpath, looking out for a footbridge on the left; cross this and follow the footpath across a field towards the backs of some houses. Turn right on reaching the back gardens, continuing through a playground. Then take the route past the metal barrier on the left back into **Church Street**.