

Heybridge

Words and pictures by Laurie Page of the Public Rights of Way team at Essex County Council.

A simple and popular route along the canal, (the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation) and then the river. Especially interesting if you are a boat enthusiast.

Distance: 3.4 or 2.6 miles.

Starting point: The car park at Heybridge Basin.

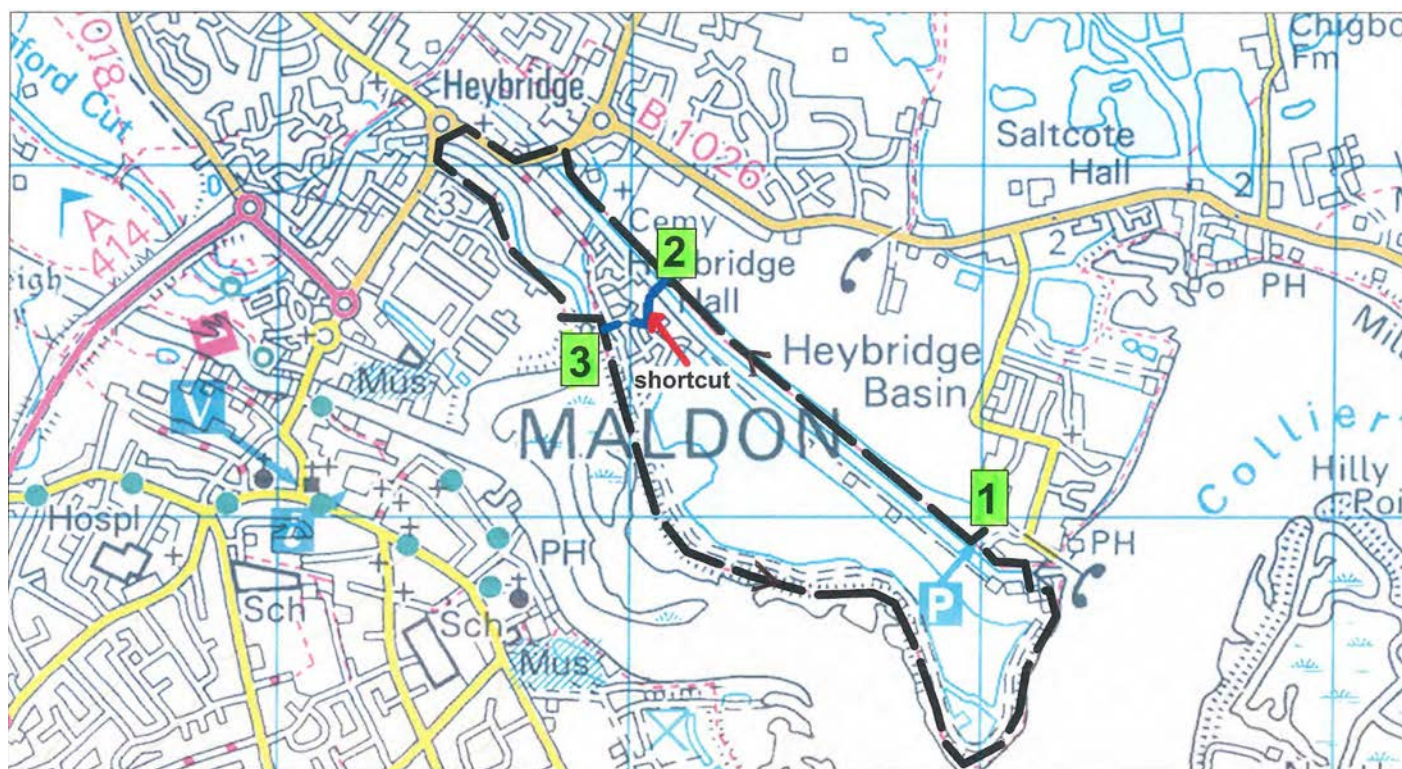
How to get there: Follow the B1026, the Goldhanger Road, between Maldon and Goldhanger. Turn down Basin Road, about a mile east of Maldon and go almost to the end. The free car park is signed on the right.

Map: OS Explorer 176 Blackwater Estuary. (Or Explorer 183 Chelmsford.)

Refreshment: There are two pubs at Heybridge Basin, The Ship and The Jolly Sailor. There is also the Lock Tea Room overlooking the River Blackwater.

Tourist Information Centre: Maldon. Wenlock Way, Maldon CM9 5AD
Telephone 01621 856503 email: tic@maldon.gov.uk
<http://visitmaldondistrict.co.uk> | [twitter@MaldonTIC](https://twitter.com/MaldonTIC)

Place of interest nearby: Nearby is the historic town of Maldon, overlooking the River Blackwater estuary. Promenade Park is by the river, where boat trips are available up and down the Blackwater on the magnificent old Thames barges which are moored there. There is the Moot Hall in the High Street, a very early brick building and further along the road in the converted St Peter's Church is the Thomas Plume 18th century library.



The Walk

1. Go to the rear of the car park and up the steps to the canal path. Turn right along the path. Follow this well trodden route for some distance. There are an assortment of boats and sailing craft, ducks swans and fishermen. After a while the river craft are absent but continue on the hard surface to the footbridge.

For a shortcut you can cross the bridge into the housing estate (Rennie Walk). Take the first turning on the right, Stebbens Way and follow to the end to the T-junction with Battle Rise. Almost opposite, just to the left is the little path leading up to the raised path along the sea wall. Turn left along the sea wall path. (Go to point 3).



2. For the longer walk, continue straight on past a cemetery to your right and when you reach the road bridge, go up the steps. Turn left along the pavement, crossing the canal and proceed past St Andrew's Church. At the roundabout go left then immediately left again onto a footpath which goes through the car yard and the car park. At the rear of the car park go

up a bank onto the raised path. Then through the trees. Cross the road and continue along the footpath on the other side. (If it is overgrown you can use the pavement alongside the road to your right). At the end bear sharp left up to the T- junction at the sea wall. Turn left along the raised grass path. Soon after, at the next T-junction turn right.



3. Follow the raised grass path. There are houses to the left for a short way. The town to the right is the ancient town of Maldon, with its church spires, fishing boats and Thames barges. Continue along this path all the



way. Between the Maldon and the path is the River Chelmer. After about a mile you reach the southern most point where there is a seat to take a rest and admire the view.



This is where the River Chelmer meets the River Blackwater. The path bends sharp left. It continues back to the Basin.



Descend the bank by Heybridge Sea Lock and use the pedestrian bridge to cross the canal. At The Ship pub go left back along the canal path and the entrance to the car park is a little way up on the right.

