

WILDLIFE

The river estuaries along the Essex coast are internationally important for vast numbers of birds who find food and shelter across the tidal saltings. So bring your binoculars as the Crouch Valley line travels right through this important habitat. Look for flocks of dunlin, lapwing and plovers in winter, as well as thousands of waders, ducks and geese. Hanningfield Reservoir, Tollesbury Wick Nature Reserve, and RHS Hyde Hall are all nearby.

From Burnham-on-Crouch town quay you can take a ten minute trip by ferry to Wallasea Island (www.burnhamferry.co.uk). The Wild Coast Project on the Island is the largest of its kind in Europe and will recreate the ancient wetland landscape of mudflats and saltmarsh. It is an RSPB site, a magical landscape of marshland, lagoons, ditches and sea. Walk along the seawalls to see the saltmarsh, mudflats and lagoons, where terns dive into the water in summer and huge flocks of waders and wildfowl arrive in winter.

North Fambridge - Blue House Farm Nature Reserve is a great location to see lots of wildlife including water vole, wild fowl, wading birds, lapwing, redshank, avocet and Brent geese. This 600 acre farm is situated on the north bank of the River Crouch. It has been managed by Essex Wildlife Trust since 1998. The Flat Fields have been grassland for the last 100 years and are used as a feeding ground for Brent Geese. Around 2,000 geese come to the area during the winter.



Photo by Tom Marshall

RESPECT PROTECT ENJOY



Let's help everyone enjoy the countryside in safety and ensure natural habitats, livestock and wildlife are protected.

As you explore the coastal paths, please:

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your food and litter home
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep dogs on a lead, especially around farm animals, horses, wildlife or other people
- Clean up after your dog
- Follow paths and local signs
- Plan ahead and be prepared for changes in weather and tide times
- Some areas may have weak mobile phone signals. Let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return.

BE BIRD AWARE



The Essex coast features mud-flats, saltmarshes and grazing marsh which are internationally important for thousands of waders and wildfowl.



The survival of species, such as avocets, ringed plovers, hen harriers and teals, relies on everyone helping to prevent bird disturbance.

Please keep noise levels low and dogs on leads when walking in these special places.

essexcoast.birdaware.org

GREEN TRAVEL TO THE COAST

Help us to reduce pollution by travelling to the coast by train or bus.

For buses visit essexbus.info

For trains visit greateranglia.co.uk

greateranglia



For more information go to www.esscrp.org.uk

◆ THE ESSEX COAST ◆



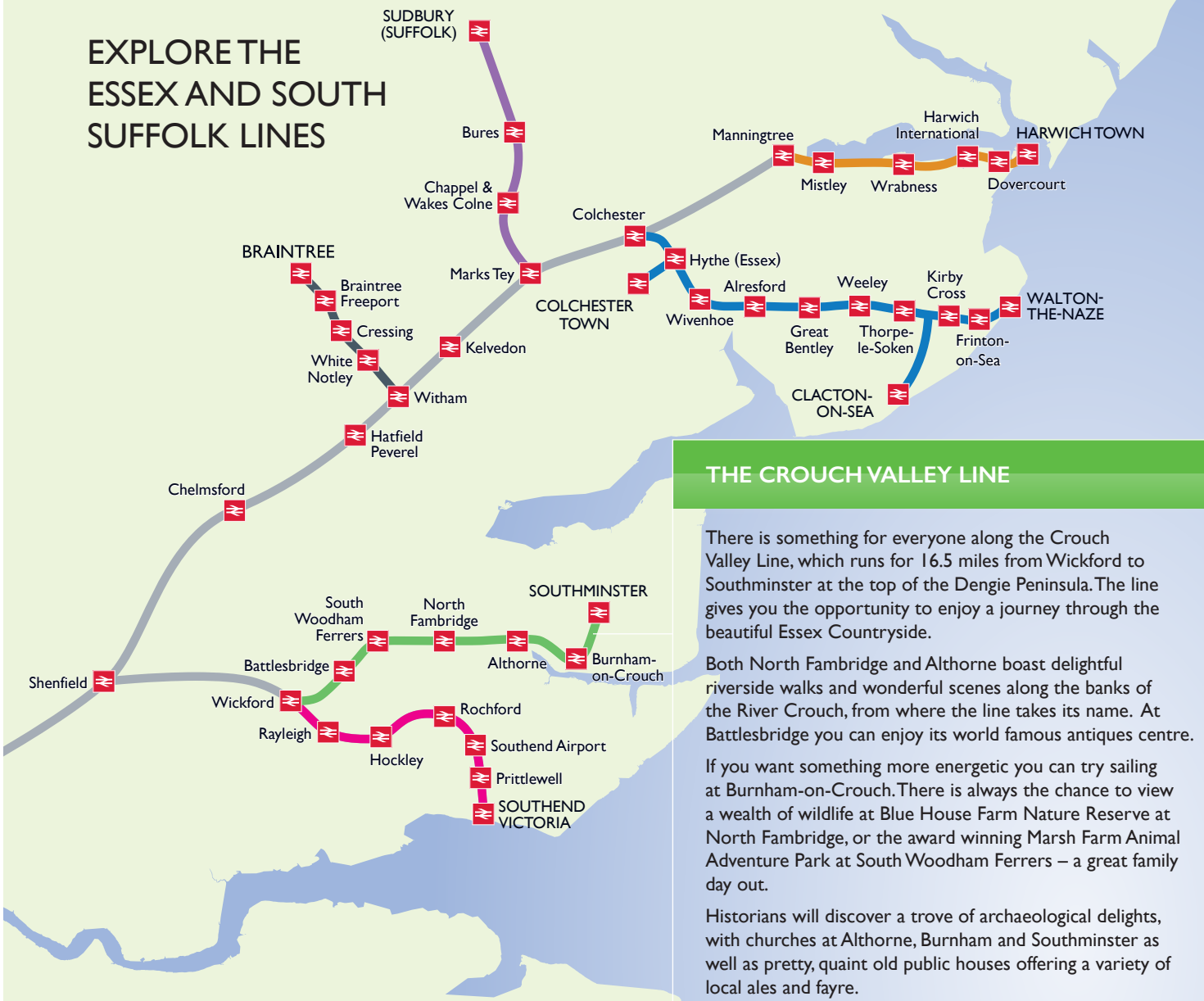
EXPLORE
EXPERIENCE
ENJOY

THE CROUCH VALLEY LINE

Experience the Unexpected



EXPLORE THE ESSEX AND SOUTH SUFFOLK LINES



THE CROUCH VALLEY LINE

There is something for everyone along the Crouch Valley Line, which runs for 16.5 miles from Wickford to Southminster at the top of the Dengie Peninsula. The line gives you the opportunity to enjoy a journey through the beautiful Essex Countryside.

Both North Fambridge and Althorne boast delightful riverside walks and wonderful scenes along the banks of the River Crouch, from where the line takes its name. At Battlesbridge you can enjoy its world famous antiques centre.

If you want something more energetic you can try sailing at Burnham-on-Crouch. There is always the chance to view a wealth of wildlife at Blue House Farm Nature Reserve at North Fambridge, or the award winning Marsh Farm Animal Adventure Park at South Woodham Ferrers – a great family day out.

Historians will discover a trove of archaeological delights, with churches at Althorne, Burnham and Southminster as well as pretty, quaint old public houses offering a variety of local ales and fayre.

THINGS TO DO

Burnham-on-Crouch a former oyster port. It is an attractive historic town to explore with its iconic Clock Tower, 117 listed buildings which include oyster merchants houses, weather boarded fisherman's cottages, town museum, yacht clubs including the art deco Royal Corinthian yacht club and the towns Rio cinema. Take a walk along the quay where there are several restaurants, pubs and cafes, offering views out across the Crouch Estuary and over to RSPB's Wallasea Island.

Althorne – Althorne is home to Bridgemarsh Marina, a scenic marina for small boats, situated on Althorne Creek which is accessed by crossing the train tracks to Bridgemarsh Lane.

South Woodham Ferrers – is a new town which is home to Marsh Farm Animal Adventure Park, it really is a fun filled day out for all things to do with children and family.

Battlesbridge – if shopping is more your thing don't miss The Old Granary Antiques Centre at Battlesbridge, where over 80 dealers are housed in a variety of old buildings and courtyards.

Lovers of history will enjoy St Peter's Chapel at Bradwell (near Southminster) which is a striking Grade I listed building and among the oldest largely intact Christian churches in England, a place to bring you peace and tranquility. The Chapel is right on the coast and has stunning views.



With six branch lines covering Essex and South Suffolk, from Southend in the south to Harwich in the North, there is a vast array of beautiful countryside, exciting and historic attractions and a coastline covering 350 miles – the second longest of all the English counties.

For more information on these other routes please visit esscrp.org.uk

