

**EXPLORE
Braintree
District
BY BICYCLE**

**Family-Friendly
Cycle
Route 4**

0 miles 1/2
0 kilometres 1/2

Clare

A family-friendly cycle ride suitable for adults with children over 10 years of age. Uses mostly flat, quiet country roads and lanes. Start and finish at Ridgewell.

8.2 miles (13.2km)

Quiz Points!

- 1 What's the name of the farm on the concrete curves?
- 2 What's the name of this farm?
- 3 What's the long hedge made of?
- 4 What is the tall, distant structure you can see?
- 5 What's the colour of the first barn here?

Symbols

- Q Quiz point
- ! Take Care location
- P Car parking
- Café
- Pub
- Museum
- Church
- Attraction
- Play park
- Village store

Route key

- ← Direction
- Featured route
- Road
- - - Bridleway
- Byway



Ridgewell has a playpark, a pub, a C14th church, a village hall... and a water pump! Nearby is Ridgewell Airfield Commemorative Museum and memorials

Victorian water pump, Ridgewell

Cycle Route 4

This is an 8.2-mile (13.2km) circular ride starting and finishing in the village of Ridgewell. It uses country roads, very quiet lanes, and is largely flat, aside from one notable gentle descent to the River Stour and the climb back from it. Other than a pub in Ridgewell there are no facilities directly on this route so do ensure you take plenty of supplies with you. (NB: there are pubs, cafés and stores in nearby villages, but these are only accessed by A-roads).

Good Cycling Code

ALWAYS:

Follow the Highway Code

Cycle at a safe and responsible speed

On shared-use paths give way to pedestrians, wheelchair users and horse riders

Ring a bell or call out to warn of your approach, acknowledging people who give way to you

Remember that some people are hard of hearing and visually impaired so don't assume they can see or hear you

Follow the Countryside Code; in particular respect crops, gates, livestock, wildlife and take litter home

Take special care on roads, at junctions, cycling downhill, beside open water, or on loose surfaces

Carry food, water, a puncture repair kit, a map, a mobile phone and waterproofs

Keep your bike in good condition and use lights in poor visibility

Consider wearing a helmet and high visibility clothing

Directions

- There's only on-street parking in Ridgewell and we suggest you park *considerately* in Ashen Road where the ride starts. Head away from the village and at the small grassy triangle with a large tree, turn right at the T-junction signed "Tilbury Juxta Clare 2".
- Go past the farm complex and turn left at the next right-hand bend where there's a collection of houses.
- Go up the slight slope, follow a sharp left-hand bend and emerge onto open fields with big views all around. This high, flat area used to be RAF Ridgewell - an important World War II air base used by the RAF and US Air Force. Turn right at the next T-junction opposite the black gate and follow this road (which used to be one of the perimeter tracks of the airfield) to the outskirts of Tilbury Juxta Clare.
- Before you reach the next T-junction opposite the war memorial cross, you may wish to make a very short detour down the gravel track on your right to view the isolated church.
- At the T-junction (opposite the war memorial cross), turn left onto this slightly busier road and follow it all the way to Ovington.
- Pass through the village of Ovington, and turn left at the white house with a duck pond (signposted "Clare").
- Follow this straight road which starts flat, but soon turns into a downhill. *Caution: don't go too fast down this hill, not least because there is a T-junction at the bottom.* Turn left here signed "Ashen 2".
- Climb this gentle hill then keep straight ahead signed "Ashen, Ridgewell". At the grassy triangle keep right signposted "Ridgewell" and pass through the village of Ashen with its fine thatched cottages. As you leave Ashen, bear left at the next grassy triangle signposted "Ridgewell" and follow the road back to Ridgewell.

Quiz Points answers: 1) Allies Farm, 2) Park Farm, 3) Holly, 4) A wind turbine, 5) Green.



Explore Braintree District By Bicycle. This is one in a series of 10 new cycle routes aimed at encouraging people to explore the Braintree District by bike. There are three short traffic-free rides for families with children aged under 10, three on quiet roads for those with children aged over 10, and four longer-distance routes for experienced leisure cyclists.

Routes in the Series

Families with Children Under-10

- 1 Bocking Blackwater LNR
- 2 Fritch Way and Great Notley
- 3 Witham

Families with Children Over-10

- 4 Ridgewell
- 5 Gosfield
- 6 Terling

Experienced & Leisure Cyclists' Routes

- 7 Great Yeldham to Bulmer
- 8 Bures to Coggeshall
- 9 Rayne to Steeple Bumpstead
- 10 Braintree to Hatfield Peverel



The representation on this map of a road, track, cyclepath or footpath is no evidence of the existence of a right of way. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, Braintree District Council, FourPoint Mapping Ltd, or OS cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that this cycle route is safe and achievable by adults and children with a reasonable level of fitness. However, all outdoor activities involve a degree of risk. To the extent permitted by law, Braintree District Council accepts no responsibility for any accidents or injury resulting from following these routes. Walking and cycling routes change over time. Weather conditions may also affect path surfaces. Please use your own judgement when using the routes based upon the weather and the ability, experience and confidence levels of those in your group.

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Family-Friendly Cycle Route 4

For Families with Children Over-10



4 Ridgewell

A quiet 8.2-mile (13.2km) cycle ride starting in Ridgewell



Download the GPX trail from:
visitbraintreedistrict.co.uk/cycling