

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).



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

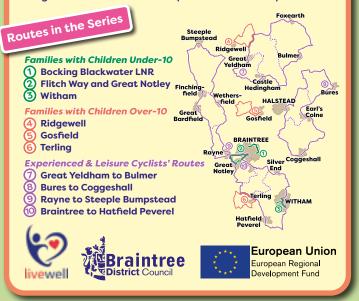
- There's only on-street parking in Ridgewell and we suggest you park considerately in Ashen Road where the ride starts. Head away from the village and at the small grassy triangle with a large tree, turn right at the T-junction signed "Tilbury Juxta Clare 2".
- Go past the farm complex and turn left 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 trafficfree 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.

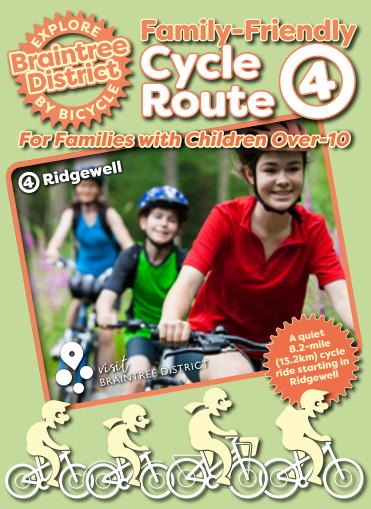


The representation on this map of a road, track, cyclepath or footpath is no evidence of the existence of a right of way. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, Braintree District Council, FourPoint Mapping Ltd, or OS cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.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