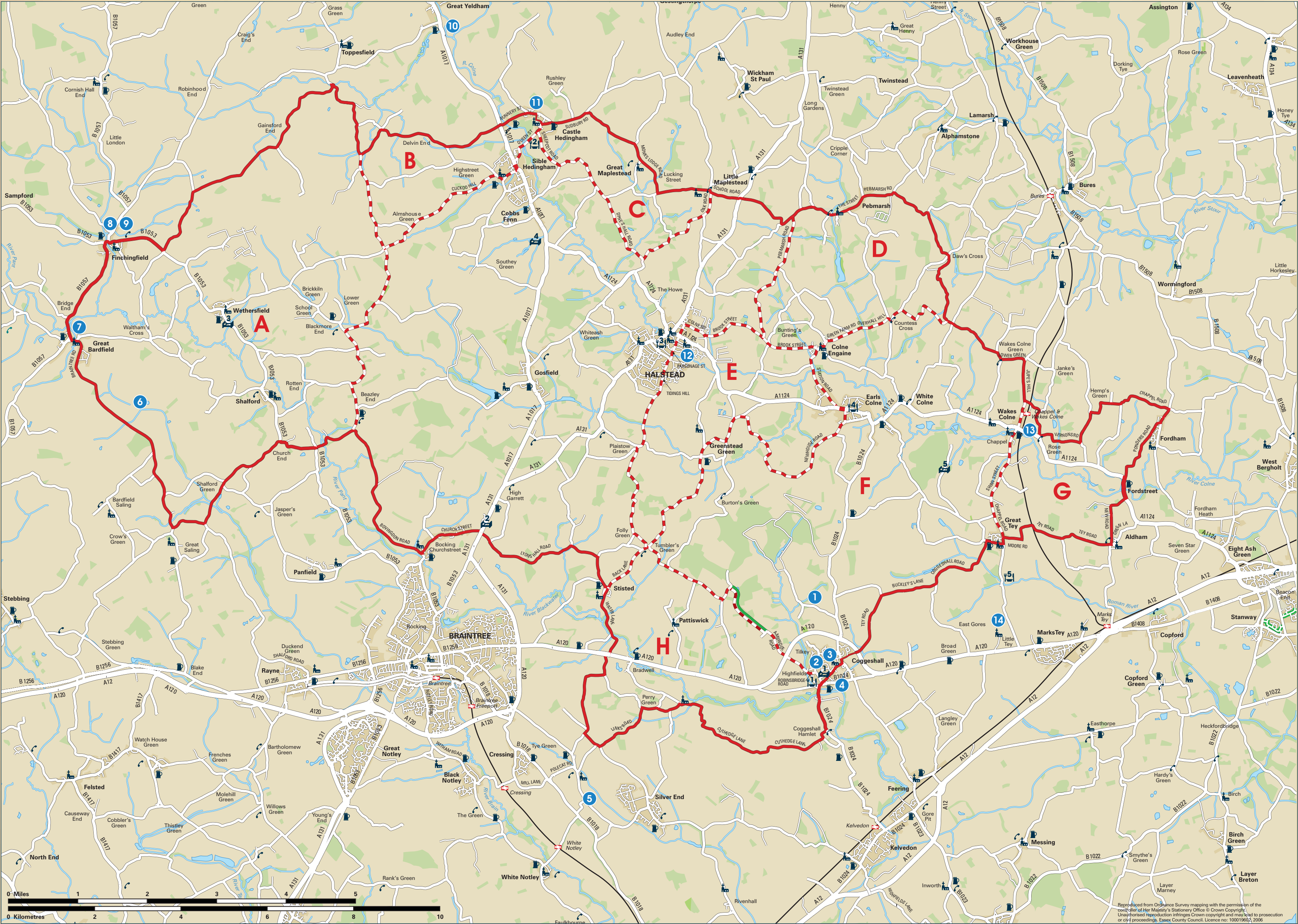


Picture-perfect villages

Coggeshall, Finchingfield and the Hedinghams routes

Total distance of main route is 87km/54miles



Short rides

- A 30.6km/19.1miles
- B 12.7km/7.9miles
- C 12.2km/7.6miles
- D 14.7km/9.2miles
- E 19.8km/12.3miles
- F 33.7km/21.1miles
- G 11.6km/7.2miles
- H 19.7km/12.3miles

Attractions along this route

- 1 Marks Hall Estate
- 2 Paycocke's House
- 3 Coggeshall Grange Barn
- 4 Coggeshall Museum & Heritage Centre
- 5 Cressing Temple
- 6 Bardfield Vineyard
- 7 Great Bardfield Museum
- 8 Finchingfield Antiques Centre
- 9 Finchingfield Windmill
- 10 Colne Valley Railway
- 11 Hedingham Castle
- 12 Townsford Mill Antiques Centre
- 13 East Anglian Railway Museum
- 14 St James the Less Church

Accommodation

for details see overleaf

- 1 The White Hart Hotel
- 2 Hare and Hounds
- 3 Brook Farm
- 4 Brickwall Farm
- 5 Greenlands Farm

Places to eat

- 1 Baumann's Brasserie
Tel: 01376 561453
www.baumannsbrasserie.co.uk
- 2 The Bell Inn
Tel: 01787 460350
www.hedinghambell.co.uk
- 3 Dickens Restaurant Café Bar
Tel: 01787 273080
www.dickensrestaurant.com
- 4 de Vere Arms
Tel: 01787 223353
www.deverearms.com/restaurant.php
- 5 The Barn Brasserie
Tel: 01206 212345
www.thebarnbrasserie.co.uk

This map is intended as a guide only. Please refer to relevant OS Explorer maps for specific details.

Key

- Cycle Route 3
- Short rides
- Traffic-free section
- Place of worship
- Telephone in rural area
- Public House
- National Rail
- Accommodation
- Restaurants

There is plenty to see and do including the medieval barns of the Knights Templar, jousting knights at a Norman Keep, steam railways, magnificent houses with stunning gardens and listed windmills.



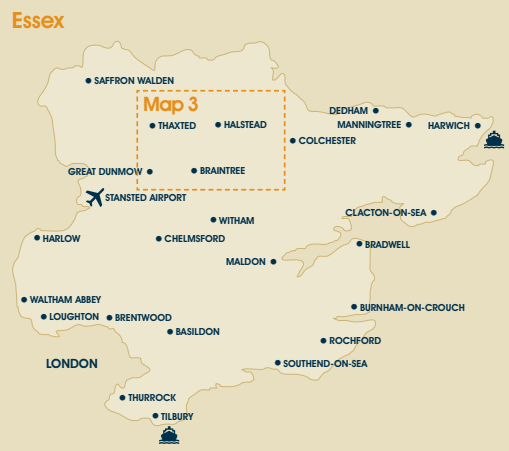
Getting to Braintree

Arriving by Road

Travel on the M11 if travelling from London or the south. Exit at junction 8 and take the A120. Alternatively take the A12 from the M25, exit at Chelmsford and take the A131 or continue towards Colchester and take the B1389 to Witham and the B1018 to Braintree. If travelling from the north arrive via the M11 taking the A120 from junction 8. For detailed travel information call 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk

Arriving by Train

Braintree is served by a regular service by National Express East Anglia www.nationalexpress-eastanglia.com tel: 0845 600 7245 directly from London Liverpool Street.



Accommodation

1 The White Hart Hotel

★★★ Hotel
Market End, Coggeshall CO6 1NH
Tel: 01376 561654
www.whitehart-coggeshall.com

2 Hare and Hounds

★★★★ Inn
104 High Garrett, Braintree, CM7 5NT
Tel: 01376 324430
www.hare-and-hounds.com

3 Brook Farm

★★★★ Farm
Braintree Road, Wethersfield, CM7 4BX
Tel: 01371 850284

4 Brickwall Farm

★★★★ Self Catering
Queen Street, Sible Hedingham, CO9 3RH
Tel: 01787 460329
www.brickwallfarm.co.uk

5 Greenlands Farm

★★★★ Silver Award – B&B
Lamberts Lane, Earls Colne, CO6 2LE
Tel: 01787 224895
www.greenlandsfarm.co.uk

Tourist information

Braintree Tourist Information Centre

Town Hall Centre, Market Place, Braintree CM7 3YG
Telephone 01376 550066
tic@braintree.gov.uk
www.enjoybraintreedistrict.co.uk



Essex County Council

www.visitessex.com



Finchingfield

A textbook example of the traditional English village, Finchingfield is described as the 'most photographed village in England.' Finchingfield has won awards for its traditional picturesque setting. The combination of duck pond, village green, hump-backed bridge and pub, overlooked by colour-washed cottages, a windmill and a medieval church, give it an unbeatable series of views, which are often found on calendars, chocolate boxes, tea towels, postcards and jigsaws.



Castle Hedingham

Castle Hedingham's 'real' history begins with the Normans. The village was granted to one of William, duke of Normandy's lords, one Aubrey de Vere. Although he and his descendants built a number of castles at various locations in their extensive lands, they chose Hedingham as their primary seat; by around 1140 the third Aubrey de Vere had built the stone keep that has been superbly preserved to this day.



5. Cressing Temple

Cressing Temple was home to the elite warrior monks, The Knights Templar, founded in 1119 to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land. They were granted the Cressing site in 1137 and it became the largest and most important estate in Essex. The Templars' were extremely powerful and acquired vast wealth, so it was here at Cressing they commissioned two of the most spectacular surviving medieval timber barns in Europe.
Tel: 01376 584903
www.cressingtemple.org.uk

6. Bardfield Vineyard

Once in the ownership of Anne of Cleves, the present vineyard was planted in 1990. As the soil and climate are similar to those of Alsace, grape varieties of that region have been planted, which are capable of producing very fruity, aromatic wines of high quality. Tour the vineyard and walled garden, taste the wines and eat in the beautiful 17th century farmhouse.
Tel: 01371 810776
www.thegreatlodgeexperience.com

7. Great Bardfield Museum

19th century village lock-up and 16th century charity cottage housing agricultural and domestic artefacts from 19th and 20th centuries, plus rural crafts such as straw-plaiting and corn-dollies. Cage situated in Bridge Street.
Tel: 01371 810572

8. Finchingfield Antiques Centre

An ever changing selection of antiques and collectables presented by 45 different dealers all under one roof, from 16th century period oak to art deco furniture, pictures, porcelain, wall clocks, long case clocks, silver, books and jewellery.
Tel: 01371 810258
www.anticueclockandwatchrepairs.co.uk

9. Finchingfield Windmill

A small post mill, dated 1755. It has 4 spring sails (without shutters), a tailpole and one pair of millstones. It is not working, because of its location among trees and cottages, but is opened once a month in the summer by the Finchingfield Society.
Tel: 07887 662177

10. Colne Valley Railway

A preserved heritage railway and museum housing the largest and most comprehensive collection of historic railway vehicles and locomotives in Essex. Steam and diesel operated rides in a most pleasant part of the upper Colne Valley. Special events all year round include a 'Day out with Thomas' and 'Santa Specials'.
Tel: 01787 461174
www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk



Later in history, when industrialisation started, straw weaving and hop growing became important to local employers and Edward Bingham produced pottery from his workshops in what is now Pottery Lane. His work isn't always to everyone's taste but has become extremely collectable. Today the winding lanes of this medieval village are lined with timber-framed buildings and elegant Georgian houses, where through small streets and squares, you will catch occasional glimpses of the impressive castle.



11. Hedingham Castle

England's finest and best-preserved Norman Keep besieged by King John, visited by King Henry VII, VIII and Queen Elizabeth I, with views of the magnificent hall from the 'Minstrels Gallery' above, a Tudor bridge, a charming dovecote and ornamental lake in the grounds. History is made fun with medieval festivals and jousting tournaments.
Tel: 01787 460261
www.hedinghamcastle.co.uk

12. Townsford Mill Antiques Centre

Over 75 dealers displaying antiques and collectables on two floors of an impressive weather-boarded watermill, which became one of Courtauld's first silk weaving factories in 1826..
Tel: 01787 474451



Halstead

Halstead lies seven miles to the north of Braintree and is an attractive, traditional market town with a wealth of shops, restaurants and interesting walks. The town developed from pre-historic origins and a Roman settlement that included a villa complex. Wool and weaving provided the mainstay of business over the centuries. The surviving Townsford Mill built in 1788 and straddling the River Colne, is a picturesque reminder of the town's industrial past and is now one of the largest antiques centres in Essex - the perfect location for shopping and lunching.

Earls Colne

Earls Colne nestles in the Colne Valley, and is named after the River Colne, which flows through the valley below. The village has been inhabited throughout pre-history and flint arrowheads have been found in the area, showing that Stone Age people lived in the valley long before anyone else. Earls Colne was later closely associated with the de Vere family who became the Earls of Oxford. In the 19th century the Hunt family developed the Atlas Works in Earls Colne as a manufacturer of agricultural machinery. Of the four Colne villages, this is the largest, with a selection of shops situated on the High Street. Earls Colne has won awards for the 'Best Kept Village' and 'Village of the Year'.

13. East Anglian Railway Museum

A working museum representing 100 years of railway engineering and architecture in East Anglia. Working signal boxes, restoration shed, locomotives, passenger and freight vehicles, small exhibits museum. Regular Steam days and special events all year, including the Chappel Beer Festival.
Tel: 01206 242524
www.earm.co.uk

14. St James the Less Church

Small Norman village church with 12th/13th century wall paintings of national importance.
Tel: 01206 866317
www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



Attractions along the route:

1. Marks Hall Estate

Enjoy the estate that includes the largest surviving ancient woodlands in Essex, ornamental lakes, walled gardens, cascades and mature avenues of oaks, limes and horse chestnuts. On the last Saturday of each month Marks Hall hosts the very popular Farmers' Market.
Tel: 01376 563796
www.markshall.org.uk

2. Paycocke's House

A merchant's house which dates from around 1500 and contains unusually rich panelling and wood carving. Coggeshall was famous for its lace, examples of which are displayed inside the house. There is also a very attractive cottage garden.
Tel: 01376 561305
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

3. Coggeshall Grange Barn

A National Trust property, this magnificent timber-framed barn, dating from the 13th century, was constructed for the monks of the nearby Cistercian Abbey. Exhibition of history and collection of farm wagons and carts.
Tel: 01376 562226
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

4. Coggeshall Museum & Heritage Centre

This Museum and Heritage Centre displays local history including Coggeshall lace, supplemented by exhibitions relating to the past of this historic wool town. There is an authentic working wool loom. Town tours can also be organised with a local historian.
Tel: 01376 563003
www.geocities.com/coggeshallmuseum

3

Picture-perfect villages



Coggeshall, Finchingfield and the Hedinghams

www.visitessex.com



Essex County Council