

Please check pub opening times before attempting this route. Check WhatPub <http://www.whatpub.com> for the latest information, or check directly with the pubs themselves:

Manningtree Station Buffet	(01206) 391114
Lion, Ardleigh	(01206) 230083
Wooden Fender, Ardleigh	(01206) 230466
Crown Inn, Ardleigh, Colchester	(01206) 231946
Balkerne Gate, Ardleigh, Colchester	(01206) 852932

The Crown Inn in Ardleigh is not near public transport. As noted earlier at the time of writing the hourly (on Saturday) 93/94 runs from by the Balkerne Gate back to the bus station near Colchester Town Railway station.

Please remember to score your beers and ciders via WhatPub:

<http://www.WhatPub.com>

Not a CAMRA member? Then why not join? More details at:

<http://www.camra.org.uk/>

Are you a local member? Keep up-to-date with what is happening in Tendring CAMRA by visiting our website:

<http://www.tendringcamra.org.uk>

Or follow us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/TendringCAMRA>

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For all RambAle routes visit <http://www.tendringcamra.org.uk/RambAle/>

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Tendring CAMRA RambAle route 12 Manningtree Station, Lawford to Crown, Ardleigh

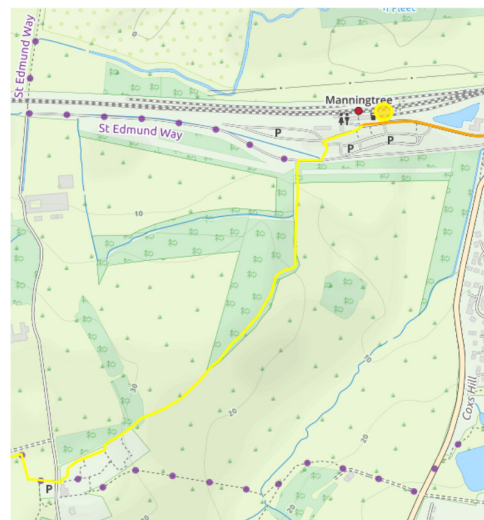
Start: Manningtree Station Buffet, Lawford

Finish: Crown, Ardleigh

Total Distance: 7.5 miles (8.1 miles to Balkerne Gate pub/bus stop)

Manningtree Station to Lion, Ardleigh

Distance: 4.4 miles (7.1km)



Turn right out of the station and down the slope to the open air car park. At the bottom of the slope there is a public footpath to your left. Take that for a short distance, then turn right on the track, then take the next footpath on the left up the hill.

Follow the path past the right hand side of St Mary's Church, Lawford and once you leave the churchyard cross to the far right hand corner of the car park to the next footpath. At this point you will be following the Essex Way signs (two poppies).

Follow this around the field edge until it reaches a track, then turn left onto the track until it reaches the road. Cross the road, then turn right inside the field boundary and follow the boundary until you reach a bridleway heading off to the left (still the Essex Way). Follow the Essex Way signs until after you cross the railway. The first lane you meet is Long Road East where you continue to follow the Essex Way (it is almost straight across, but the path on the other side of the lane is slightly to your right when you meet the lane).



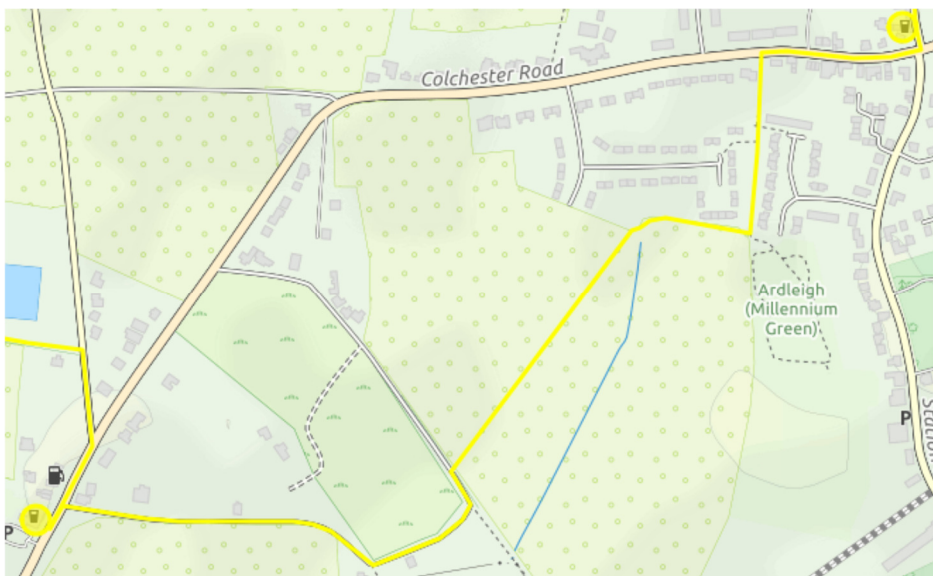
The next lane you reach is East Lane. Turn right on here, continuing to follow the Essex Way signs. The lane bends left, and after about 200m, where it turns quite sharply right, a footpath (and the Essex Way) continues straight ahead. This path comes out in Anchor Lane which leads to The Heath where the Essex Way turns right, but our route turns left. Follow The Heath to the crossroads and cross straight over into Coggeshall Road. At some point the pavement runs out, so proceed with care. Three quarters of a mile after the crossroads the lane bends very sharply left but a footpath continues straight on which you should take. Follow this footpath straight on until you reach The Street in Ardleigh, then turn left to reach the Lion.

The Lion to The Wooden Fender, Ardleigh

Distance: 0.9 miles (1.4km)

Turn right out of the Lion and right at the crossroads. After about 170m there is a footpath to take on the right, after Cypress Cottage (opposite block 10-16). Follow this footpath until it comes out near the Millennium Green, where you want to follow it to the right around a field edge. As you cross into the next field the footpath cuts diagonally across to the southwest (and should be signposted). This leads to a gap in the hedge into Green Lane. Turn left onto Green Lane, which will then loop around to the right and bring you out roughly opposite the Wooden Fender.

(Directions for the rest of the route are after the centre pages.)



The Wooden Fender, Ardleigh to The Crown, Ardleigh

Distance: 2.1 miles (3.5km)

Turn left out of The Wooden Fender, then left into Dead Lane. After about 100m there is a footpath to take on the left. Follow this footpath until just after a wooded area, where you will turn right onto another footpath which leads down to the reservoir. Turn right to reach Wick Lane, then turn left. After crossing the reservoir turn left into Lodge Lane. (During planning maps suggested continuing on Wick Lane for a while and taking a footpath to the left is marginally shorter, but during tests Wick Lane proved to be very busy with you needing to stand in the hedge frequently to avoid traffic, and the footpath wasn't really accessible—with a quarry across one end, and no obvious route across boot sale parking from the other. Lodge Lane, while pavement free, was much quieter and only about 100m longer and was much more pleasant to walk.)

Follow Lodge Lane until you reach Crown Lane North and turn right onto Crown Lane North. Follow the lane until you reach Old Ipswich Road then turn right to get to the Crown.

Option: The Crown to the Balkerne Gate, Ardleigh

Distance: 0.6 miles (950m)

For those wishing to get a train back via Colchester, the nearest bus stop in use is opposite the Balkerne Gate pub, where you can catch the Ipswich to Colchester bus, taking you to Colchester bus station, handy for Colchester Town Railway station. We advise you check the times of this bus before deciding whether to visit the pub while waiting or not.

To get to the Balkerne Gate, turn right out of The Crown and follow the road up to the roundabout over the A12. A footpath next to the roundabout exists to make crossing slightly easier, but while crossing watch out for traffic coming off the roundabout which isn't lights controlled. From the roundabout continue on Ipswich Road. The bus stop is on your left before the pub on your right.

An alternative bus stop with more choices for North Station is opposite Newcomen Way. After crossing the A12 also cross the Ipswich Road, then follow the footpath next to the A12 slip road that turns left into the industrial estate. Follow Newcomen Way across a roundabout to the end, turn left to find the Newcomen Way (adj) bus stop and cross over for (opp) - has a shelter. 1.3 miles/2.1km from the Crown.

The Crown, Ardleigh

It appears that the Crown at Ardleigh is not a listed building; checking their planning history only their latest advertising sign application was accompanied by a Listed Building application and that was withdrawn (and the advertising application was approved).

Despite this the pub is a Vintage Inn (in more ways than one). Their website includes what is presumably a quotation from somewhere:

After the siege of Colchester in 1648, Parliamentary soldiers came looking for John Wenlock, a loyalist who had long suffered for his support of Charles I. When they eventually found him, he was hauled to the Crown Inn, where he was brought before the rest of the troopers and their commander-in-chief who were lodged there.

Other websites suggest the pub may date back to the 1500s. If it isn't listed then it is likely that it has been so much altered so often over the centuries that there is nothing deemed worthy of listing.



The Crown, Ardleigh © Nigel Mullender 2009

Places of interest en route (pull out centre pages)

Lawford Church



Cc-by 2.0 Herry

Lawford (via Flickr)

St. Mary's Church in Lawford stands on Church Hill and is Grade I Listed. The oldest part of the church is the south wall of the Nave which dates to 1200 or earlier. The east window was damaged by a bomb in 1944. More details on [Wikipedia](#)

The Anchor Inn (demolished), Dedham Heath

Where the Essex Way reaches Anchor Lane in Dedham Heath, there used to be a pub called the Anchor Inn on the main road. This was sold in 2003, closed in 2004 and demolished in 2007 after a temporary listing from December 2004 was overturned by a planning inspector. More details and a photo at:

[Pubs History](#)

[Closed Pubs](#)

[Morning Advertiser](#)

[The Gazette](#)

St Mary's Church, Ardleigh



Parts of this Grade II listed church, opposite The Lion, date back to the 15th century. More details in [their listing entry](#).

The Lion, Ardleigh



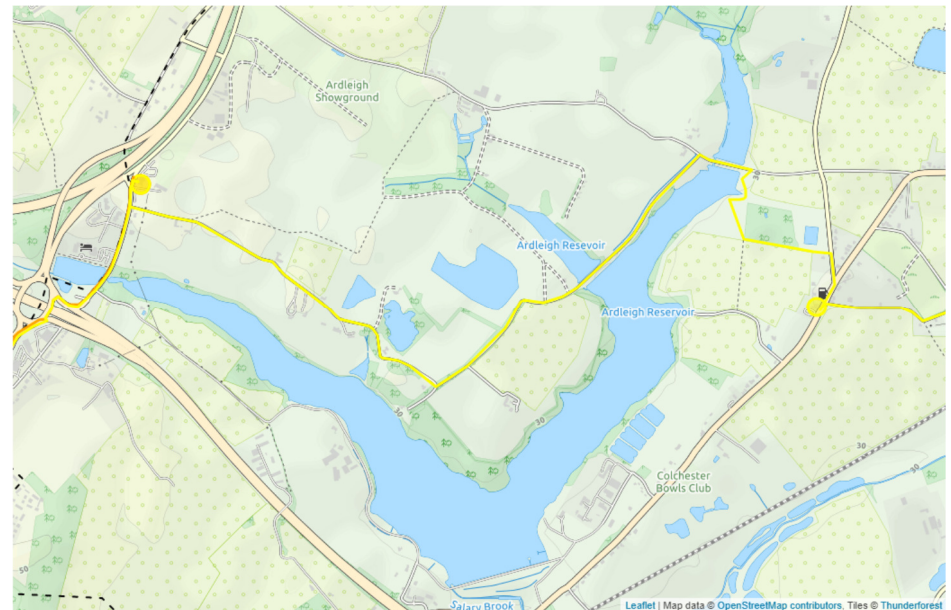
The Lion on 8th February 2014, CC By-SA 4.0 Ed Loach

Listed as 17th century or earlier with some later alterations, also at one point known as The Red Lion, this was also one of the earliest pubs in the Tendring district to feature in the Good Beer Guide, appearing every year from 1976 to 1981 (as the Red Lion from 1978 to 1980).

The church and the Lion are just two of the dozen or so listed buildings we pass as we pass through Ardleigh (one of which is a K6 telephone box). More details on all of them can be found at BritishListedBuildings.co.uk, including Cypress Cottage (18th century or earlier and a smithy until 1960) after which we follow a footpath away from the village centre.

Ardleigh Reservoir

Ardleigh Reservoir is a 120-acre (490,000 m², 49ha) lake near Colchester in Essex constructed in the valley of the Salary Brook. It supplies water both to Anglian Water and to Veolia Water East. The lake is also used for recreational activities including sailing and angling. Both game and coarse fish are present including pike and zander. It is also home to the University of Essex Rowing Club.



Ardleigh Reservoir