



Tendring CAMRA RambAle route 10

Railway Tavern, Brightlingsea to Wivenhoe

Start: Railway Tavern, Brightlingsea
Finish: Black Buoy, Wivenhoe
Total Distance: 7.2 miles

Railway Tavern to Cherry Tree, Brightlingsea

Distance: 0.5 miles

Turn left out of the Railway Tavern, then take the next left into York Road. Take the first right into Eastern Avenue, follow that to the end, then turn left into Ladysmith Avenue. At the junction at the top of the hill turn right onto the main road (Church Road) with the chip shop to your left. The Cherry Tree is on the next junction.



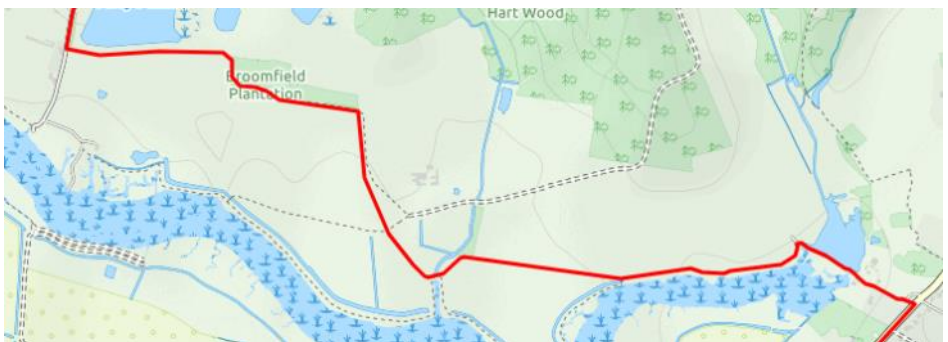
Cherry Tree, Brightlingsea to The Pointer, Alresford

Distance: 4.0 miles

Turn left out of the Cherry Tree and continue up the hill to where the road bends left and Batemans Road goes off to the right. Opposite is a footpath down the side of the school—cross the road and take this path through to Samsons Road. Turn left onto Samsons Road, passing Co-Op on the right (aside: when this route was tested they had Adnams Ghost Ship flavoured crisps, purchased en route to customer toilets).



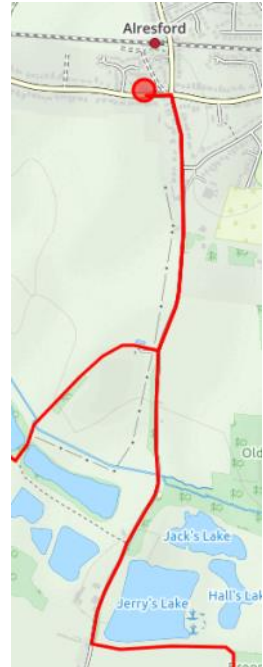
Follow Samsons Road to the end; just after Olde Forge on the left the road splits where it meets Church Road—on the right is a public footpath sign and a stile. Take this footpath across the fields, crossing another stile, going through a gate, and across another field (use the two trees as a guide to where the footpath exits the other side of the field—the two trees and the exit gate form a straight line). Exit the field and cross a footbridge and bear slightly left to come out in an area at the bottom of Brightlingsea Road (it used to look like a layby, but more recently has been blocked to prevent access). Follow the track roughly straight ahead and where it joins Brightlingsea Road head up the hill (to your right). You may need to cross the road a couple of times to stay on pavement. Watch out for Mill Cottage on your left which has a narrow footpath just after it which leads towards Thorrington Tide Mill.



After passing the mill pond watch out for the guidepost where the footpath turns quite sharply to the left along the edge of the field, continuing through a gate and along the side of Alresford Creek. At one point a footpath to the left is an option to continue walking creek-side, looping back to the path, but it

adds 300m to the total distance to walk.

The path curves around to the right and gets to a junction where a post suggests footpaths go left, back the way you came, or straight across the field; additionally a track goes right towards a farm. Head straight across the field initially, then follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your right. At the top of the field a gap in a fence will allow you to access the next section of footpath where you turn left, walking between a fence to the south (on your left) and Broomfield Plantation to the north (on your right). Follow this path past the plantation, where it will turn right then left, with a former quarry (now fishing lakes) now being to your right. Follow the path until it ends, dropping you onto Ford Lane, where you turn right. Take care on this section of the walk as it is on the road, so beware of traffic.



Continue straight on up the lane (including where Ford Lane forks right after the Old School House, so the road you are on becomes Church Road). You will pass the war memorial and ruins of St Peter's Church—after The Pointer the route will return to this point. When you reach the crossroads The Pointer will be visible to your left.

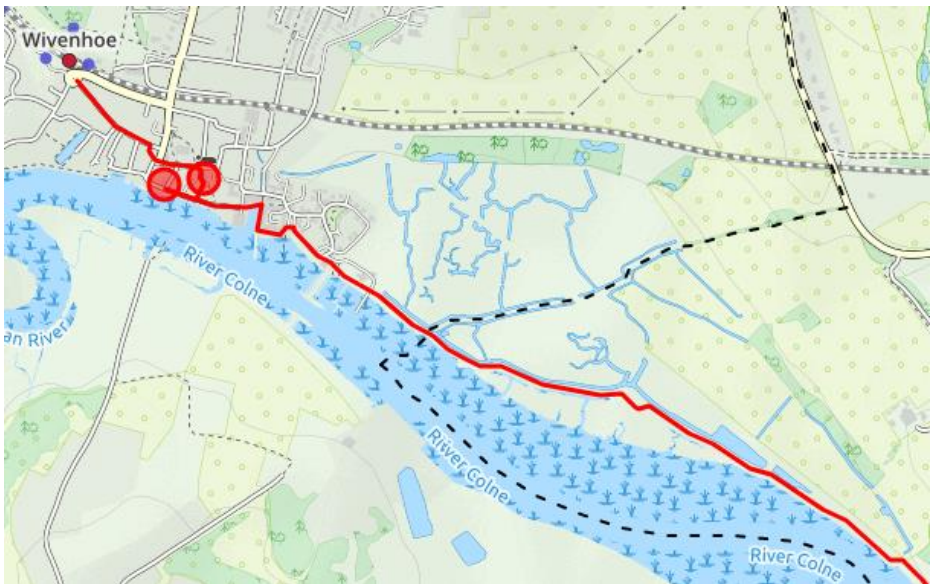
The Pointer Alresford to the Rose & Crown, Wivenhoe

Distance: 2.6 miles

After leaving The Pointer head back down Church Road, which becomes



Ford Lane, until you reach the turning on the right in front of the War Memorial. The ruins of the church will be to your left—the public footpath is straight ahead. Follow this path as it drops down the hill and passes between two lakes. The path will emerge onto a private quarry road which you will need to cross to join the bridleway that runs parallel to it, then turn right. After about 0.25 miles you will want to watch for a gate on the left to a footpath that goes to the right around the edge of a field, then drops down the hill alongside a wood. The path will enter the wood, then there will be a number of gentle steps down the slope, with stepping stones at the bottom which suggests the area may get boggy at damper times of the year. After the stepping stones the path joins the route of the former Brightlingsea branch railway line. Turn left to head towards Wivenhoe.



Follow this path until you reach Wivenhoe. You will pass through a couple of gates, one of which marks the district boundary and the other is just before Wivenhoe Yacht Club. You will pass a bollard as you pass the club and then emerge from the footpath next to the River Colne Barrier. Follow the path as near to the coast as you can remain, taking Pearl Walk around the new buildings near Wivenhoe Jetty, then turning left onto The Folly which becomes The Quay and leads directly to the Rose & Crown. While walking along The Quay watch out for Bethany Street on your right—you will be able to see the final stop at the top of the street.

Rose & Crown, Wivenhoe to Black Buoy, Wivenhoe

Distance: 0.1 miles

Head back along The Quay and up Bethany Street to get to the Black Buoy.

Black Buoy, Wivenhoe to Wivenhoe Railway Station

Distance : 0.25 miles

Turn right out of the Back Buoy up Black Buoy Hill to the crossroads, then turn left onto East Street. Follow East Street until you reach the High Street. As you pass Rose Lane on your left, look over your left shoulder to see the plaque marking where Joan Hickson once lived (then debate your favourite Miss Marple actress). Turn right onto High Street, then first left onto West Street. The railway station is at the end (with the Station Hotel pub opposite, if you have time before your train).

Wivenhoe Railway Station to Co-Op, Wivenhoe

Distance: 0.5 miles

For those travelling to Brightlingsea by train to Wivenhoe then bus to Brightlingsea it will be necessary to walk from the station to the Co-Op to catch the bus (on the same side as the Co-Op). The easiest way is to come out of the station, turn left along Station Road parallel to the tracks, then left onto High Street, following High Street until you reach Co-Op. For a more scenic route you can exit the station on the opposite side, taking a footpath that starts near the footbridge, which then turns up some steps that leads to the end of Clifton Terrace. Head straight on through King George V Playing Field, following the path straight across until it reaches De Vere Lane. Turn right on De Vere Lane and follow it to the High Street, then turn left onto High Street to get to Co-Op.

Thorrington Tide Mill

Thorrington Mill was built in 1831, though there has been a mill at the head of Alesford Creek since the 17th century, and it is now a Grade II* listed building. It is one of the few remaining tide mills in the UK. A tide mill is a water mill that is driven by tidal rise and fall. A dam with a sluice is created across a suitable tidal inlet, or a section of river estuary is made into a

reservoir. As the tide comes in, it enters the mill pond through a one way gate, and this gate closes automatically when the tide begins to fall. When the tide is low enough, the stored water can be released to turn a water wheel. Thorington Mill is recorded as having had very high-quality



millstones, imported from France, which would have produced the finest grade white flour. Although much of the mill's flour may have been used locally, small vessels such as barges could dock at the landing place next to the mill to take goods for export. The mill continued working until 1926.

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Colne River Barrier, Wivenhoe

The Colne River Barrier is a tidal defence barrier. Planned in the late 1980s, construction started in Autumn 1991 and completion was late in 1993. Construction works cost £14.5 million. It is meant to protect parts of Colchester, Wivenhoe and Rowhedge, vulnerable to tidal surges from the North Sea. Before the barrier was built, riverside homes had concrete walls in front of them with slots, where emergency wooden slats could be inserted to keep water out. The

Environment Agency operates the barrier using two giant lock gates to manage water levels. Hydraulic cylinders are used to close the gates most of the way, before the pressure of the water takes over and shuts them completely,



View towards Colne River Barrier from Wivenhoe, by Ed Loach, May 2017

locking them until the water recedes. The gates are kept open most of the time, but are closed when there is a particularly high tide. When the barrier was built, its designers looked at tide timings and estimated it would have to be shut about 12 times a year but it has often closed at least 20 times a year and in one year as many as 70 times. The gates were refurbished in about 2013. The barrier is 130 metres wide with a navigation opening 30 metres wide, with 10 side sluices on the Wivenhoe side and three on the Fingringhoe side.

Saint Peter's Church, Alresford

St Peter's was built in about 1320 by Anfrey de Staunton who held the Manor of Alresford. It possibly replaced an earlier Norman church but was much altered during the mid 1800s when, at various times, the chancel arch was enlarged, a south aisle added, and the shingled turret replaced. St Peter's was destroyed by fire on the morning of Saturday, 2nd October 1971 and now just a shell remains under the care of Essex County Council. The exact cause of the fire remains unknown. As the church was given Grade II listed status in 1966 the ruins still remain. A church to replace it was built in Alresford town a few years later, opening on Palm Sunday in 1976. Rumours persist that the church has been used for several decades for white witchcraft rituals, and ghost hunters are reported to have performed vigils here. The Essex Ghost Hunters website states "Whilst the haunted history isn't clear, the ruins are a big attraction for paranormal teams. The ruins are said to be used for witchcraft. Paranormal teams have reported on a lot of spirits



present, most happy for people to explore, but others not so pleasant".

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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:

Railway Tavern, Brightlingsea	None
Cherry Tree, Brightlingsea	(01206) 615322
The Pointer, Alresford	(01206) 824378
Rose & Crown, Wivenhoe	(01206) 826371
Black Buoy, Wivenhoe	(01206) 822425
Station Hotel, Wivenhoe	(01206) 822991

For Brightlingsea it is necessary to get there by bus. If you are travelling from further afield then a return ticket to Wivenhoe and a single ticket bus ride from outside the Co-Op in Wivenhoe on the 62 or 87 will get you to Brightlingsea. Directions from Wivenhoe Station to the Co-Op, and from the Black Buoy back to the station are included within these pages.

Please remember to score your beers and ciders via WhatPub:

<http://www.WhatPub.com>

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<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>

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