

## Points of interest

### Beeleigh Falls and Abbey

Home to a series of water falls, locks and weirs, Beeleigh Falls is located at the junction of the River Chelmer and River Blackwater and offers great views of the area. Next to the falls are the remains of Beeleigh Mill which can be seen on foot, and Beeleigh Abbey, who open their beautiful gardens to the public throughout the year.



### Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation

This vital water-link was designed by famous canal architect, John Rennie and opened in 1797. It was last used commercially in the early 1970s, but now is the home of recreational river craft. The Navigation spans 14 miles (and 13 locks) through the heart of rural Essex, and connects the city of Chelmsford with the Blackwater Estuary in Maldon

### Heybridge Basin

At the eastern end of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation, the basin began in 1796 when local businessmen, Richard Tovee and Thomas Malden, bought and developed the area. Since then, the basin has seen a granary, rope-makers, and boat-builders come and go. Nowadays, it is home to cruises, tea rooms and great pubs.



### Blackwater Estuary and Gravel Pits

The Blackwater Estuary and flooded gravel pits (now a nature reserve) are a haven for many bird species. Depending on the season, you can see common tern, oystercatchers, redshanks, godwits, shelducks, swifts and swallows. During the winter the estuary is alive with overwintering birds, including thousands of Brent geese.

## Refreshments

The Muddy Duck	01621 858704	<a href="http://muddyduckmaldon.co.uk">muddyduckmaldon.co.uk</a>
The Jolly Sailor	01621 854210	<a href="http://thejollysailorheybridgebasin.co.uk">thejollysailorheybridgebasin.co.uk</a>
The Lock Tea Room	01621 854466	<a href="http://treetree.com/locations">treetree.com/locations</a>

More locations available at [visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink](http://visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/food-and-drink)

## BEELEIGH FALLS & HEYBRIDGE BASIN

### Coastal Walk

A waterside walk around Maldon, taking in the scenic Beeleigh Falls, Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation, and locks at Heybridge Basin.



Some uneven or muddy areas, walking boots recommended.



3 hours 15 minutes



7.25 miles



Heybridge Basin

## How to get here



Butt Lane Car Park, CM9 5HD



Buses 31, 331, 332, 288, 75, 73, 95, 95A



Explorer 183 | Grid ref: TL 852 070



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## Discover the Maldon District

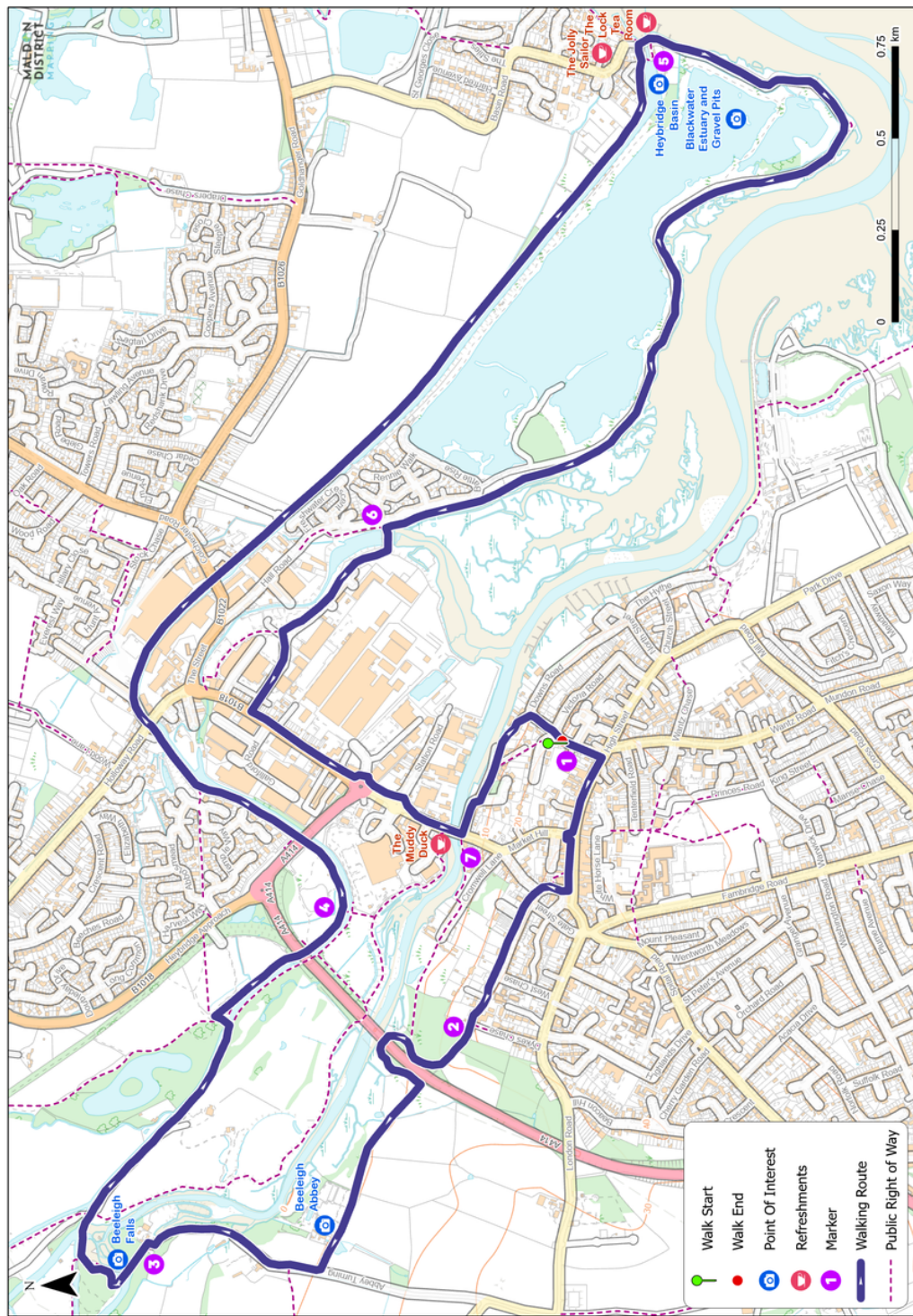


[visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/walks](http://visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/walks)



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## Route

1. Walk towards the **High Street** via **Wenlock Way**, and turn right towards **Market Hill**. Continue up the **High Street**, passing the many **shops and historic buildings** on route. At the **church**, turn right onto **Silver Street**, passing the **Blue Boar** on your left. Follow the road round, and where the **road ends**, keep going along the **track** and bear left along a parallel **fenced path**. After 50 yards you arrive at the **Leech Memorial Garden** on the left.
2. Continue along the **footpath** as it heads **downhill** and turn right onto a **tarmac path**, which heads to the **River Chelmer**. By the **river**, the path crosses under the **road bridge** and up through trees to a **T-junction**. Turn right and walk along the path through the trees, keeping left to emerge onto a **gravel path** with **Beeleigh Abbey** on the right. Continue to the end of the path and turn right onto the **road (Abbey Turning)**.
3. Follow the road until you reach the remains of **Beeleigh Mill**. Continue along the path and look out for the **kissing gate** ahead, go through the gate and head for **Beeleigh Falls**. Cross the long **wooden footbridge**, then take the path to the right, which goes around the edge of the **weir**. Once you reach the **tow path** by the **canal and lock gates**, turn right and follow the tow path for ½ mile to the **brick bridge** over the canal by **Maldon Golf Club**. Cross the **bridge** and turn right onto the **tow path**.
4. Continue on the **tow path** for just over 2 miles, until you reach **Heybridge Basin**. On the way, you will pass a **Tesco's supermarket**, the **A414 bypass**, **historic waterside buildings**, and lots of **recreational vessels**.
5. At **Heybridge Basin**, turn right and cross over the **lock gates** to continue along the **seawall footpath**, taking in the views of **Northey Island**, **Gravel Pits**, **Maldon**, and **Promenade Park**. Continue on the path until you reach a **junction** of paths.
6. Turn left here; after 75 yards, turn right, where the path runs alongside the **industrial estate**. Follow this **grassy path** for 400 yards until it comes out onto **Bates Road**. Walk along **Bates Road** for 250 yards, then turn left onto the **B1018 (The Causeway)**. Follow the **B1018** over the two **roundabouts**, then cross over the **River Chelmer** at **Fullbridge**.
7. Immediately after crossing the **river**, turn left onto **Anchorage Hill** and **Chandlers Quay**. Continue along this **road** until you meet a **paved footpath** heading **uphill** on the right. Take this **footpath** back to **Butt Lane** and turn left, then right to arrive back at the **car park**.