

Chelmer Canal Trust

Registered Charity No 1086112

Heybridge Basin Walk



Starts at Heybridge Basin, and is in three sections, so you can do as little, or as much as you want!
*** the first section is a smaller, family-friendly section!**

It highlights some of the history of the canal, and has an option to finish with a walk along the sea wall.

Getting here:

You can reach Heybridge Basin by car from the B1026 Goldhanger Road,
(or put CM9 4RP into your SatNav).

Car park:

Heybridge Basin - Daisy Meadow car park (free)

Section One - Heybridge Basin to Heybridge (Bentalls Shopping Centre)

(Distance approx. 1 mile, allow 30-40 mins)

There are toilets, shops and a supermarket at Bentalls Shopping Centre, Heybridge but you will need to climb steps at Wave Bridge to get to them.

Start

Daisy Meadow car park - walk up the path at the canal end of the car park, turn left and walk to the lock and The Old Ship public house. You will get fine views of the Blackwater estuary and Northey Island.

Retrace your steps and continue following the towpath towards Heybridge (Bentalls Shopping Centre).

Keep on the towpath, you will pass some new houses and bridge,
(the path between Heybridge and "The Basin" is a straight mile).

Did you know...

The towpath passes the canal gate of the cemetery where many "Basiners" ended their final canal journey. The roads were so poor in those days that the coffin and the funeral party travelled together in a barge!



Walk as far as the bridge, you will pass a school on your right.

Did you know...

Wave Bridge – In the summer of 1940 a double row of holes were drilled in each pier of Wave Bridge to house explosive charges to destroy the bridge in the event of a German invasion. These holes are still visible.



You have finished Section One!

You are at Heybridge! You will find toilets, shops and a supermarket at Bentalls Shopping Centre. You will need to go under Wave Bridge, climb the steps, and turn left to get to them.

You can return to Heybridge Basin by the same route, but another option is to walk along the sea wall footpath!

Heybridge to Heybridge Basin (along the sea wall footpath)

(Distance approx. 1.5 miles, allow 50-60 mins)

Walk back along the towpath towards Heybridge Basin until you get to the bridge by the new houses.

Cross over the bridge, turn left and follow the path beside the new houses. You will have the new houses on your right and the canal on your left. At the junction turn right towards the road. (You should be in Northey View).

Stay on the left hand side of the road. On your left you will pass old gravel pits, they have been turned into a nature reserve which is a haven for many kinds of birds.

Follow the road until you get to the bend, take the track on your left, and go towards the gate. You can either go through the gate into the reserve, or walk up the bank to the sea wall footpath.

From the sea wall, on your left you can see across the gravel pits, and to your right there is a fine view of Maldon.



As you continue along the path, depending on the season, you may see common tern, oystercatchers, redshanks, shelducks, swifts and swallows. During the winter the estuary is alive with overwintering birds, including hundreds of Brent geese.

Further around the sea wall you get fine views of the Blackwater estuary and Northey Island. If you are lucky you might see a Thames Barge in full sail.



Cross at the lock and you are back at Heybridge Basin.