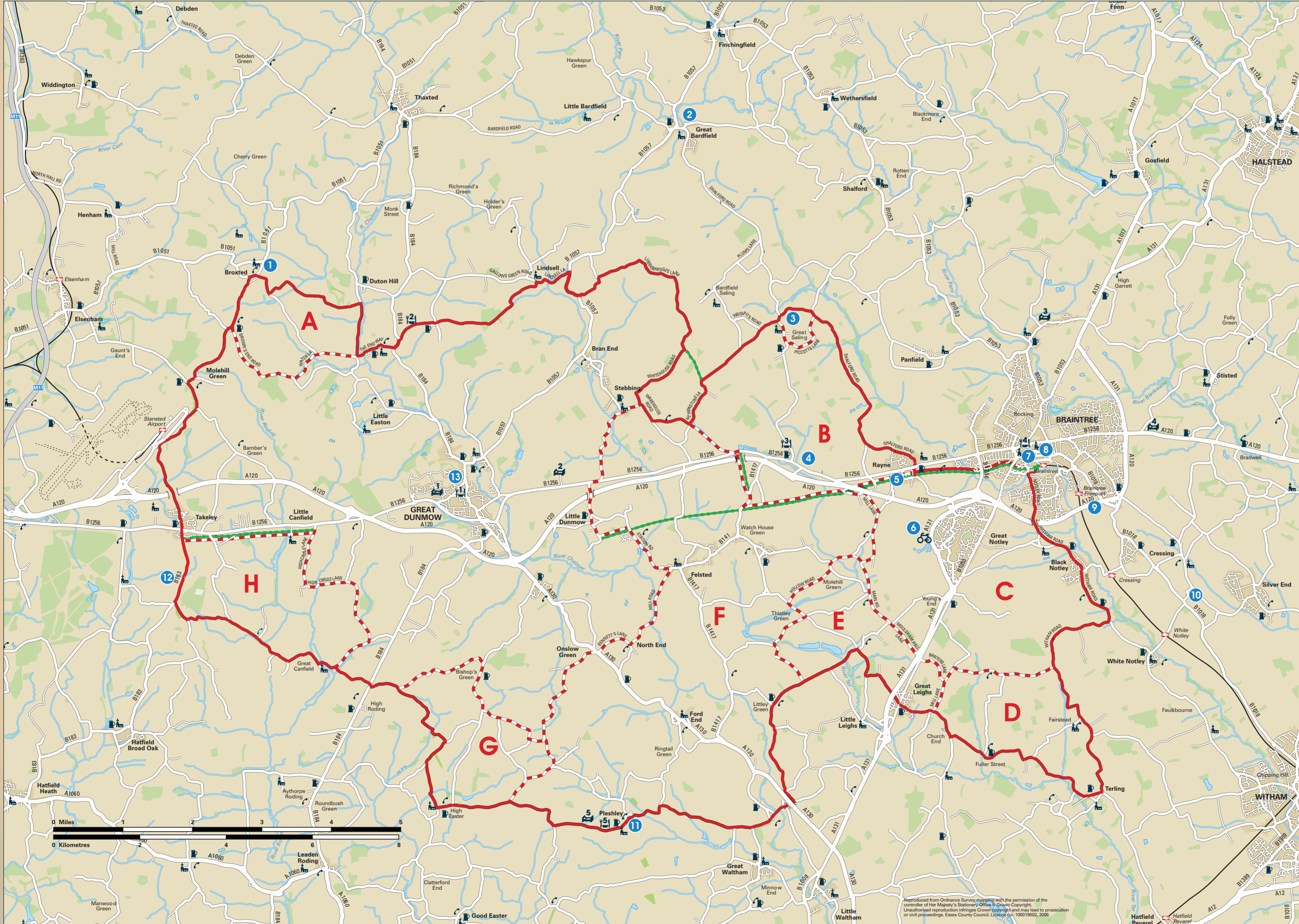


Designer shopping and country living

Braintree and Great Dunmow routes

Total distance of main route is 87km/54miles



Short rides

- A 9.5km/5.9miles
- B 32.8km/20.5miles
- C 8.9km/5.5miles
- D 23.5km/14.7miles
- E 20km/12.5miles
- F 12.8km/8miles
- G 13.8km/8.6miles
- H 32.4km/20.2miles
- I 12.6km/7.9miles
- J 14km/8.8miles

Attractions along this route

- 1 Broxted Church
- 2 Great Bardfield Museum Visitor Centre
- 3 Saling Hall Garden
- 4 Blake House Craft Centre
- 5 The Flitch Way
- 6 Great Notley Country Park & Discovery Centre
- 7 Braintree District Museum
- 8 Warner Textile Archive Gallery
- 9 Freeport
- 10 Crossing Temple
- 11 Pleshey Castle
- 12 Hatfield Forest
- 13 Great Dunmow Maltings and Museum

Accommodation

for details see overleaf

- 1 Harwood Guest House
- 2 Homelye Farm
- 3 Fennes View
- 4 Ballaglass
- 5 Bury Farm

Places to eat

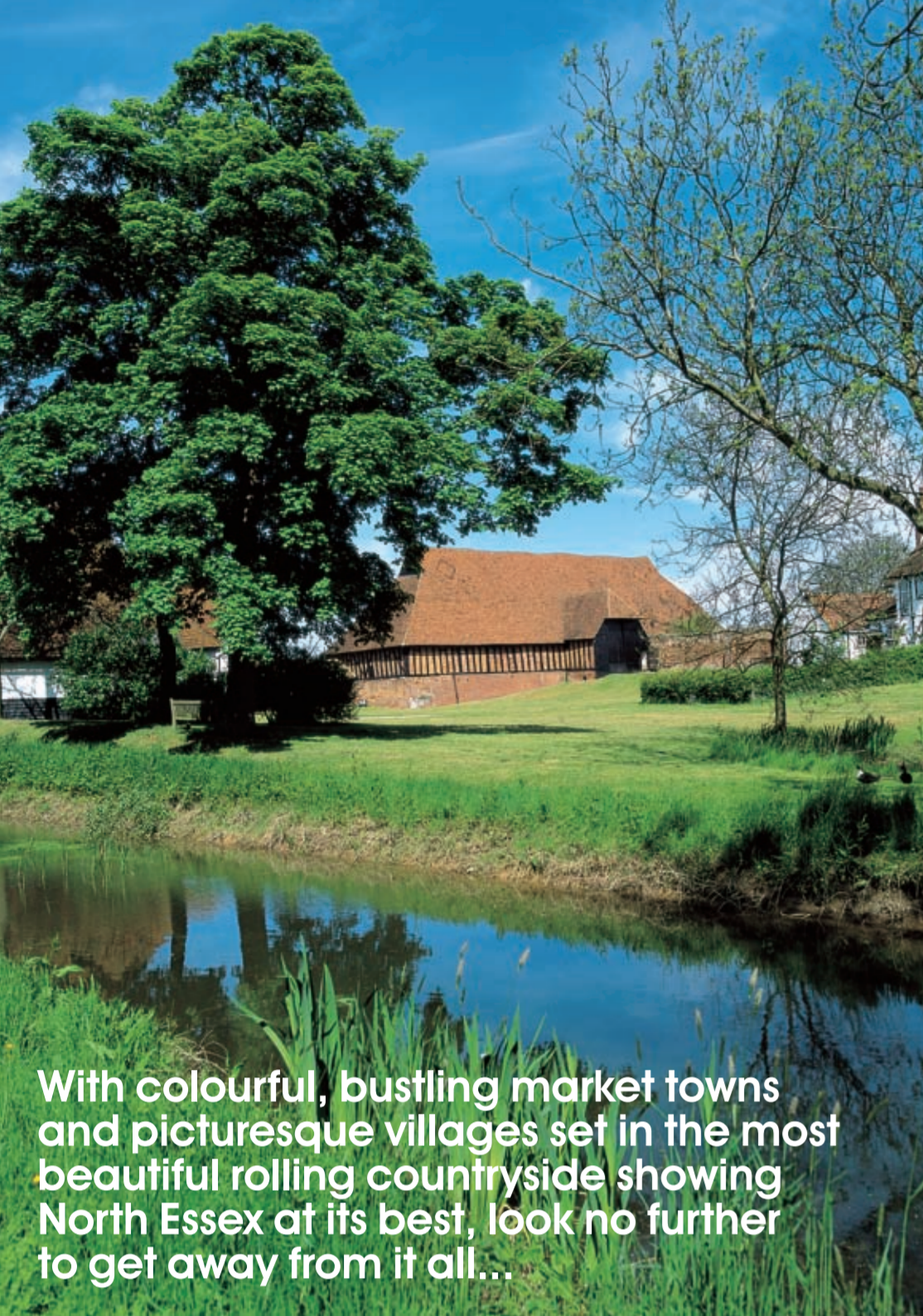
- 1 Starr Restaurant
Tel: 01371 874321
www.the-starr.co.uk
- 2 The Green Man Restaurant
Tel: 01371 852285
www.thegreenmanrestaurant.com
- 3 Timbers Restaurant
Tel: 01376 552553
www.timbersrestaurant.co.uk
- 4 La Piazza
Tel: 01376 342593
www.piazzarestaurant.co.uk
- 5 White Horse
Tel: 01245 237281
www.thewhitehorsepleshey.co.uk

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

Key

- Cycle Route 2
- - - Short rides
- Traffic-free section
- Place of worship
- Telephone in rural area
- Public House
- National Rail
- Accommodation
- Restaurants
- Cycle Hire

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With colourful, bustling market towns and picturesque villages set in the most beautiful rolling countryside showing North Essex at its best, look no further to get away from it all...



Great Dunmow

The name Dunmow has evolved and originally meant a "fortified hill" home of a tribe of ancient Britons and many prehistoric artefacts have been found in and around the town. Today, Great Dunmow retains the atmosphere of a prosperous market town whilst keeping its old charm that exudes from many historic buildings such as the 'Old Town Hall' of 1578 and the 'Clock House' of 1586 as well as the newly restored 'Maltings' in Mill Lane.

Steeped in history, Great Dunmow is the contemporary setting for the Dunmow Flitch Trials. This ceremony dates from 1104 when the Lord of the Manor of Little Dunmow, Robert Fitzwalter, began the award of a flitch of bacon 'to whoever does not repent of his marriage nor quarrel, differ or dispute

with his wife within a year and a day after the marriage'. The custom lapsed on the dissolution of the monasteries, was briefly revived in the 18th century and became a firmly established event after 1885. Held every four years on a leap year, the winning couple is paraded through the town on a special chair and then awarded their "flitch" or side of bacon with much celebration. The original 'bacon chair' can be viewed in Little Dunmow parish church. The parish church of St Mary dates mainly from the 14th and 15th centuries and is situated on the banks of the River Chelmer. Also along the banks is the recreation ground which provides a very pleasant green oasis away from the hustle and bustle of the High Street.

Attractions along the route:

1. Broxted Church

The church dates from the early English period with a north aisle added about two hundred years later. The oak pulpit is 300 years old, as is the fine processional cross. Roman tiles can be seen built into the walls. There are also two remarkable windows, dedicated in January 1993, commemorating the captivity and the release of the Beirut hostages.

2. 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

3. Saling Hall Garden

Twelve acre garden, including walled garden dated 1698. Ponds, water garden and many rare trees, Saling Hall is an author's garden, a family garden, a romantic tree-lover's garden, evolved over 30 years of trial and error. Above all, it is a garden of moods. Somewhere in it you will find a reflection of your own. Tel: 01371 850243 www.salinghall.com

4. Blake House Craft Centre

One of the county's prettiest craft centres, Blake House has a host of individual and specialist shops set in listed and restored farm buildings in the glorious Essex countryside. Numerous events take place throughout the season. There is also a tea room/restaurant. Tel: 01376 344123 www.blakehousecraftcentre.co.uk



5. The Flitch Way

Rayne Station Centre exhibition and the Flitch Way, offers fifteen miles of former railway for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. Pick up a trail guide at the centre. Tel: 01376 347134 www.essex.gov.uk/countryparks

6. Great Notley Country Park & Discovery Centre

The Centre provides a refreshing new look at the way we live. Set in a 100 acre country park providing beautiful walks around lakes, meadows and woods. Café and gift shop. Tel: 01376 347134 www.essex.gov.uk/countryparks

7. Braintree District Museum

This award winning museum is based in the converted Courtauld School and has displays from Crittall steel windows to Warners royal silks, Castle Hedingham pottery to Edward Bawden prints. The museum tells the fascinating story of a hidden artistic and industrial heritage. Visit the frequently changing exhibitions, a Victorian school room, John Ray natural history gallery, café, craft and gift shop. Tel: 01376 325266 www.enjoybraintree.co.uk

Braintree

Braintree has a long and fascinating history – emerging from a Bronze Age valley settlement as an important and flourishing market town located at the crossroads of two Roman roads.

The 14th century woollen cloth trade brought prosperity to the area leaving a legacy of fine architecture and listed buildings whilst the 18th century heralded the arrival of silk weaving and the famous Huguenot name of Courtauld. Generations of this generous family not only provided the increasing population with work and housing but also donated many public buildings including the magnificent former Town Hall. The grand central tower with striking clock dominates the Market Square, whilst inside murals by Maurice Greiffenhagen depict scenes of Braintree's history. A bronze fountain of a young boy with shell and fish, designed by John Hodge,

standing alongside St Michael's Church was yet another gift to the people of Braintree. By the mid 19th century the opening of a railway line offered the opportunity to transport bulk materials, which led to the establishment of large engineering firms such as Crittall's Metal Window Company and Lake & Elliot iron foundry. A full story of Braintree's diverse industrial heritage and history is told at the District Museum in the town centre.

In 1199 King John granted the town a charter to hold a weekly market. Today the market is held twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the streets abound with colourful stalls and friendly faces. Discerning shoppers are attracted to the town throughout the year by the traditional and specialist smaller shops while bargain hunters are well served by the discounted designer village on the outskirts of the town at Freeport.



8. Warner Textile Archive Gallery

This nationally important archive is a unique record of the history of textile manufacture since the 18th century and includes examples of woven and printed fabric produced by Warner's as well as examples produced by other companies. Tel: 01376 316780 https://www.warnertextilearchive.co.uk/

9. Braintree Village

Braintree Shopping Village has over 70 shops selling designer clothes, kitchenware, china, children's toys, CD's and videos at up to 50% off High Street prices. In addition there are ten restaurants and a licensed bar. https://braintree-village.com/

10. 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. In 1308, mistrusted because of their power, they were accused of blasphemy, heresy, idolatry, devil worship and witchcraft and many were arrested and tortured. Tel: 01376 584903 www.cressingtemple.org.uk

11. Pleshey Castle

An 11th century motte and bailey castle with extensive outer walls surrounding the town. It was dismantled in 1158 but was then rebuilt at the end of the 12th century. Most of the castle was pulled down for building material in 1629, leaving just the large fifty foot high motte surrounded by a deep ditch and an outer bailey. Viewing by appointment only. Please ring 01245 360239 at least 2 days in advance. Charge £2.00 per person.



12. Hatfield Forest

The forest is a rare surviving example of a Medieval Royal Hunting Forest, owned by the National Trust. It has wonderful ancient pollarded trees, two ornamental lakes and there are miles of excellent walks and nature trail. Fishing is available on the lake. The Shell House is restored and open to visitors on most days throughout the summer and at weekends for the rest of the year. The forest is designated as site of special scientific interest and National Nature Reserve. Tel: 01279 870678 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

13. Great Dunmow Maltings and Museum

The Maltings date from c1560. A superb restored example of architecture and building techniques, uniquely retaining infrastructure used to produce malt. The museum, housed within the Maltings tells the local history and has changing displays illustrating the history of Dunmow from Roman times to the present day including the Dunmow Flitch. Tel: 01371 878979 www.greatdunmowmaltings.co.uk

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.

Arriving by Train

Braintree is served by a regular service by Greater Anglia www.greateranglia.co.uk directly from London Liverpool Street.



Accommodation

1 Harwood Guest House

★★★★ Guest House
52 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow, CM6 1DN
Tel: 01371 874627
www.harwoodguesthouse.com

2 Homelye Farm

★★★★ Guest Accommodation
Homelye Chase, Braintree Road,
Great Dunmow, CM6 3AW
Tel: 01371 872127
www.homelyefarm.co.uk

3 Fennes View

★★★★ B&B
131 Church Street, Bocking, Braintree, CM7 5LF
Tel: 01376 326080

4 Ballaglass

★★★★ Self Catering
Coggeshall Road, Stisted, Braintree, CM77 8AB
Tel: 01376 331409
http://uk.geocities.com/ballaglass@btinternet.com/

5 Bury Farm

★★★★ B&B
Bury Road, Pleshey, CM3 1HB
Tel: 01245 237234
www.buryfarmcottage.co.uk



2

Designer shopping and country living



Braintree and Great Dunmow

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