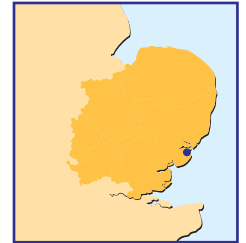


CYCLING DISCOVERY MAP



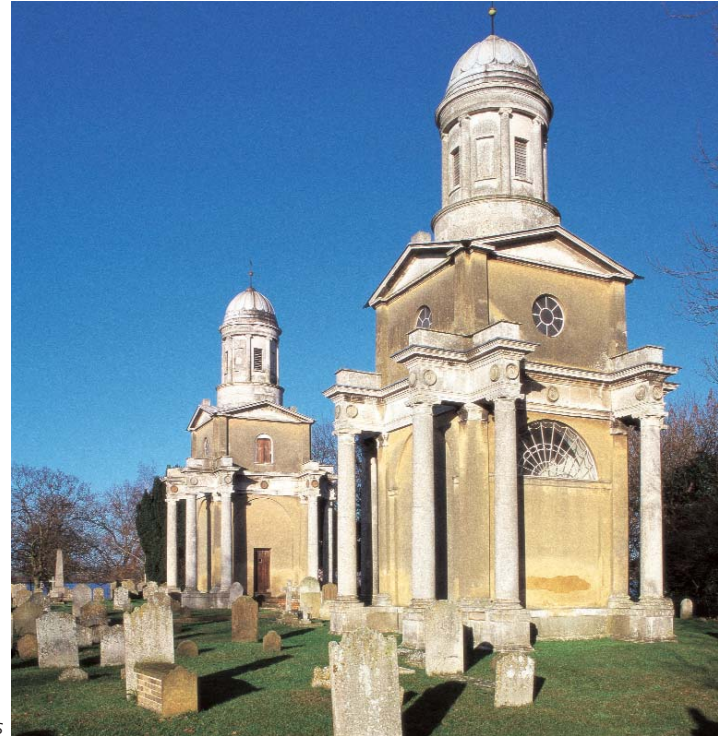
Starting point: *Harwich, Essex*

Distance: *26 miles/41 km (or with short cut 21 miles/34 km)*

Type of route: *Day ride - moderate, circular; on roads and cycle paths*

THE WITCHFINDER'S WAY

This cycle ride starts from the town of Harwich, famous for its seafaring history and heritage. From here the route heads through rolling countryside and picturesque villages, to the little port of Mistley, haunt of Matthew Hopkins - 'The Witchfinder General'. From 1645-1646, he was employed to hunt out the area's witches. The route returns to Harwich via the River Stour with its views and riverside hamlets. Along this route you can see Robert Adam's 18th C. towers, discover the bird life in a riverside coppiced wood and stroll atop the historic Ha'penny Pier.



Mistley Towers

Essential information

Starting point: Harwich - Iconfield Park, Parkeston. Located off A120, 1 1/2 miles south west of Harwich (Old Town).

Alternative starting point: Manningtree - 'Fiveways' Supermarket car park (Riverside Avenue East). Join the route by cycling eastwards along the B1352 to Mistley. Start from 'I Mistley'.

Car parking: Harwich - Iconfield Park, Parkeston (free).
Manningtree - 'Fiveways' Supermarket car park (free).

Nearest railway station: Harwich - Dovercourt (1 mile east of Iconfield Park);
Harwich Old Town (1 1/2 miles north east of Iconfield Park);
Parkeston Quay (1/2 mile north of Iconfield Park).
Manningtree - 1 1/2 miles west of Mistley along B1352.

Type of route: Day ride - moderate, circular; on roads and cycle paths.

Summary of route: Harwich (Iconfield Park, Parkeston) - Harwich (Old Town) - Dovercourt - Little Oakley - Great Oakley - Wix - Bradfield Heath - Mistley Heath - Mistley - Bradfield - Wrabness - Stour Estuary Nature Reserve - Ramsey - Harwich (Iconfield Park, Parkeston).

Distance: 26 miles/41 km.

Short cut: From Wix Abbey, north along unclassified road to T-j with B1352, 13/4 miles (3 km). Total route with short cut, 21 miles (34 km).

Terrain: Gently rolling. One or two moderate climbs on B1352 between Mistley and Ramsey. Lowest point - 10 feet (3 metres) at Wrabness. Highest point - 108 feet (33 metres) between Bradfield Heath and Wix.

Cycle repair: Dovercourt - H.S. Howlett and Son, 15-17 Kingsway (01255) 503599. Harwich - Harwich Radio and Cycle Supplies, 69 Church Street (01255) 502278.

Ordnance Survey map area: Landranger 169 - Ipswich & The Naze.

National Cycle Network links: Route 51. This ride follows the NCN between Harwich (Iconfield Park, Parkeston) and Stone's Green (nr. Wix).

Key to Symbols & Abbreviations

	Cycle Parking
	Places of Interest
	Refreshments
	Children Welcome
	Picnic Site
	Shop
	Toilets
	Tourist Information
	Caution/Take care
L	Left Turn
R	Right Turn
T-j	T-junction
SA	Straight Across/Ahead
X-roads	Cross roads
SP	Sign-posted
NS	Not Sign-posted

Harwich (Old Town)



Points of Interest (listed as you would find them along the route)

Please note: within this map there is only room to list basic details regarding opening times. In this respect, if you are planning to visit any of the places of interest on this route, we advise you to telephone in advance to confirm exact opening days and times. Refreshment establishments listed on this map are just a small selection of those available. For further information, please contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre.

- A Iconfield Park**, Parkeston (Harwich) - the nearby International Port began operations in the 1800's. Today it is one of the UK's leading multi-purpose freight and passenger ports. 🗺️
 🚶 Beside Tourist Information Centre.
 ✂️ **Morrisons Supermarket** (01255) 556383. 🚶
 🗺️ Morrisons Supermarket.
 🚶 Iconfield Park (01255) 506139. Open all year.
- B Harwich** (Old Town) - famous for its seafaring history and heritage. Narrow streets, historic buildings and museums. 🗺️
 🗺️ **Christopher Jones House** (Kings Head Street) - Master of The Mayflower, which sailed The Pilgrim Fathers to the New World in 1620. *Not open to the public.*
Electric Palace Cinema (Kings Quay Street) - built in 1911, this is the oldest, unaltered purpose-built cinema in Britain.
Ha'penny Pier (The Quay) - opened in 1853 to serve the first continental ferries. Now visitor centre with harbour views. Open May-Sept. Admission free. (01255) 503429.
Harwich Lifeboat Museum (off Wellington Road) - history of town's lifeboat service. Open May-Sept. Admission charge. (01255) 503429.
Harwich Maritime Museum (Harbour Crescent) - disused Low Lighthouse, with displays on Royal Navy and commercial shipping. Open May-Sept. Admission charge. (01255) 503429
Harwich Redoubt Fort (behind 29 Main Road) - large circular fort built 1808 to defend port. Open all year. Admission charge. (01255) 503429.
Radar Tower (Beacon Hill Fort, Barrack Lane) - one of the earliest radar installations in World War II. Open selected dates from May-Aug. Admission charge. (01255) 503429.
St. Nicholas Church (Church Street) - rebuilt in 1821. Memorials to Naval men and collection of 17th C. Dutch tiles.
Treadwheel Crane (Harwich Green) - 17th C. crane once used at the town's naval shipyard.
 ✂️ Wide selection throughout town
 🗺️ High Lighthouse (Main Road); The Quay (opposite Ferry Pier).
- C Dovercourt** - Edwardian-style resort with sandy beaches, boating lake and park. Views of the ships entering and leaving the port. Market - Fri. 🗺️
 ✂️ Wide selection throughout town.
 🗺️ Tennis Courts (Lower Marine Parade); The Cliff (Marine Parade).
- D Little Oakley** - beautiful views over the Walton Backwaters, made famous by the writings of Arthur Ransome.
 ✂️ **Ye Olde Cherry Tree** (01255) 880333. 🚶
- E Great Oakley** - 17-19th C. cottages front onto the High Street. 🗺️
 🗺️ **All Saints Church** - dates from 12th C. Tower with weather-boarded top.
 ✂️ **The Maybush Inn** (01255) 886183. 🚶
- F Wix** - St. Mary's Church overlooks the site of the former 12th C. abbey. The bell is housed in a wooden structure in the graveyard. It was built/donated by the local timber merchant. 🗺️
 ✂️ **The Waggon at Wix** (01255) 870279. 🚶
- G Bradfield Heath** - large scattered village. 🗺️
 ✂️ **The Village Maid** (01255) 870329. 🚶
- H Mistley Heath** - where 'Mistley' first evolved. The remains of its first church (St. Mary's) can be seen. Matthew Hopkins (The Witchfinder General) is said to be buried here.
- I Mistley** - small port dating back to the 14th C. Attractive riverside area. In the 18th C. there were plans (which came to nothing) to develop Mistley into a spa to rival Bath and Harrogate. 🗺️

- 🗺️ **Mistley Place Park** (New Road) - over 2,000 rescued animals and birds. Woodland and lakeside walks. Open all year. Admission charge. (01206) 396483. ✂️ 🗺️
Mistley Quay Workshops (High Street) - houses various artists and craftspeople. Showroom open all year. Admission free. (01206) 393884. ✂️
The Mistley Thorn (High Street) - stands on the site of an earlier pub which was used as offices by Matthew Hopkins, the unsuccessful lawyer who brought a reign of terror (1645-1646) to the area as 'The Witchfinder General'.
Mistley Towers (High Street) - two towers designed by Robert Adam in 1776. English Heritage. Open all year. Admission free. (01206) 393884 (for keys).
Swan Fountain (High Street) - designed by Robert Adam, as part of the failed spa scheme. The town is famous for its flock of swans.
 ✂️ Wide selection throughout town.



Manningtree

- J Just off the route** - Manningtree (1/2 mile west of Mistley along B1352). Attractive riverside town, once a flourishing port, haunt of smugglers. Matthew Hopkins hung some of his victims on the green, and his ghost is said to haunt the town. Market - Wed and Sat. 🗺️
 🗺️ **Manningtree and District Local History Museum** (High Street) - artefacts, maps and books. Open all year. Admission free. (01206) 392747.
 ✂️ Wide selection throughout town.
 🗺️ Market site (Brook Street).
- K Bradfield** - small village. The apt sign for the Strangers Home Inn shows a cuckoo, renowned for making its home in other birds' nests.
 🗺️ **St. Lawrence's Church** - dates back to 13th C. Contains memorial to Mr Edwin Harris Dunning, the first officer to land an aircraft onto the deck of a moving ship in 1917.
 ✂️ **The Strangers Home Inn** (01255) 870304. 🚶
- L Wrabness** - small village set on banks of River Stour, offering fine views. 🗺️
 🗺️ **All Saints Church** - built 12-15th C. The tower burnt down many years ago, hence the bell is kept in the wooden cage (17/18th C.) in the churchyard.
- M RSPB Stour Estuary Nature Reserve** - woodland, salt marsh and mudflat habitats. Famed for wildfowl in winter. Open all year. Admission free. (01473) 328006.
- N Ramsey** - attractive village grouped around the side of a hill. Dominated by its windmill, built in 1842, and the tallest surviving one in Essex.
 ✂️ **The Castle Inn** (01255) 880203. 🚶

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

STARTING POINT: Harwich (Iconfield Park, Parkeston).

A Iconfield Park, Parkeston (Harwich) - the nearby International Port is one of the UK's leading. 🚲 🏠 🗺️ 📶 📶

1 Follow the road out of Iconfield Park. As you approach the roundabout with the A120, join the cycle/pedestrian path on the R. This runs between the two large roundabouts. At the end of this path, turn L to reach the 'Toucan crossing' over the A120. On the other side, go onto Parkeston Road (A136), SP 'North Sea Cycle Route'.

2 After 35 yards, turn L onto the off-road path, following the 'North Sea Cycle Route' signs to Dovercourt railway station. There are excellent views over Harwich harbour, the port of Felixstowe and Shotley.

3 From the railway station, turn R onto Kingsway. Then at the traffic lights (X-roads with the High Street), turn L to Harwich. ⚠️

B Harwich (Old Town) - seafaring history and heritage. 🏠 🏠 🗺️ 📶 📶

4 Once you have explored Harwich, retrace your route back along Main Road/High Street.

5 At the X-roads with Kingsway, turn L, following signs for the National Cycle Network Route 51 (Colchester). This brings you onto the Marine Parade in Dovercourt. ⚠️

C Dovercourt - Edwardian-style resort. 🏠 🏠 🗺️ 📶 📶

6 Follow the route (National Cycle Network Route 51 signs) along Marine Parade, Lower Marine Parade, Wick Lane and Low Road. There are various seafront amenities and attractions.

7 At the mini-roundabout, turn L onto Oakley Road. ⚠️

D Little Oakley - views over the Walton Backwaters. 🏠 🏠



Great Oakley

8 Turn R (with the pub in front of you) onto Rectory Road, SP 'Wrabness'. ⚠️

9 Turn L, SP 'Great Oakley'.

10 Turn R back onto the B1414 (NS). ⚠️

E Great Oakley - 17-19th C. cottages. 🏠 🏠 🗺️ 📶 📶

11 Turn R, SP 'Wix and Little Bentley' (cycle sign). ⚠️

12 Turn L, SP 'Stones Green, Tendring and Little Bentley' (cycle sign). This tiny lane passes the church, then heads back into the countryside.

13 Turn R, SP 'Little Bentley 2 1/2' (cycle sign).

14 Follow the main road around to the R towards Wix. Do not follow the National Cycle Network Route 51 signs which goes SA.

15 At the X-roads, go SA onto Bradfield Road, SP 'Bradfield and Mistley'. ⚠️

F Wix - church overlooks former abbey. 🏠 🏠



The River Stour

G Bradfield Heath - large village. 🏠 🏠

16 Beside the Village Maid pub, turn L, SP 'Colchester and Tendring'.

17 Turn R onto Straight Road, SP 'Mistley Heath'.

H Mistley Heath - where 'Mistley' first evolved.

18 Turn L onto Harwich Road (B1352), SP 'Manningtree 1 3/4, Colchester 10 3/4'. ⚠️

I Mistley - small picturesque port. 🏠 🏠 🗺️ 📶 📶

J Just off the route - Manningtree (continue along the B1352 for 1/2 mile) Attractive riverside town. 🏠 🏠 🗺️ 📶 📶

19 Retrace your route back along the B1352, this time continuing SA to Bradfield. ⚠️

K Bradfield - small village. 🏠 🏠

20 Turn L, remaining on the B1352, SP 'Wrabness, Dovercourt and Harwich'. ⚠️

21 Turn L along Wheatsheaf Lane, SP 'Wrabness Storage Depot'.

L Wrabness - fine views over river. 🏠 🏠

22 Cross over the railway bridge, then turn L (NS).

23 Turn L back onto the B1352, SP 'Ramsey and Harwich'. ⚠️

M RSPB Stour Estuary Nature Reserve - coppiced woodland and estuary habitats. 🏠 🏠

N Ramsey - dominated by its windmill, built 1842. 🏠 🏠

24 Just before the busy roundabout with the A120, dismount from your cycle and walk along the pavement to your L. This brings you to a safe point to cross. On the other side, you can resume cycling along the B1352, SP 'Clacton B1414, B1352 and Dovercourt'. ⚠️

25 At the roundabout, go SA onto Main Road, SP 'Dovercourt and Harwich'. Continue straight over the next two mini roundabouts. ⚠️

26 At the mini roundabout, turn L onto Parkeston Road, SP 'Parkeston (A136)'. Now retrace your route back to Iconfield Park (using the 'Toucan crossing' at the A120 roundabout).

Short cut (1 3/4 miles). Total route with short cut - 21 miles.
1/4 mile after the X-roads at Wix, turn R along Spinnel's Lane, SP 'Wrabness'. This takes you north for 1 1/4 miles to the T-j with the B1352, where you turn R, SP 'Wrabness, Dovercourt and Harwich'. Follow this road for just over a 1/4 mile.

Please now continue from 'direction no. 21'.



The Map shown in this route provides just a general outline - In this respect, we recommend that you purchase the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map which covers the area. Ordnance Survey map area: Landranger 169 - Ipswich & The Naze. 'Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown copyright (2006). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017282'.

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