

Welcome

The Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation offers nearly 14 miles of waterway to explore. Much of our wonderful waterway runs through tranquil Essex countryside, and is the perfect place to go for an afternoon cruise or take a walk.

Hop on board one of the Navigation's trip boats or visit one of the waterside tearooms for coffee and cake at Heybridge Basin or Paper Mill Lock. Whatever floats your boat, there's plenty to do. Spending time by the water is the fastest way to slow down, so perhaps just take a moment to sit back and enjoy our fantastic waterway.



Saving the Navigation

Essex Waterways Ltd. took over management of the navigation in 2005, to save it from closure. It is now more than ten years on and the waterway continues to go from strength to strength. Essex Waterways Ltd. is a voluntary led not-for-profit company. All income from the Navigation is reinvested to maintain and improve the towpaths, clear vegetation from the paths and water, as well as create facilities, repair locks and other navigation structures. The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation is a local treasure, which is worth defending for present and future generations to enjoy. Find out more about Essex Waterways and how you can help at www.essexwaterways.com.

Essex Waterways is a subsidiary company of The Inland Waterways Association, the charity that campaigns to protect and restore the country's 6,500 miles of inland waterways. Find out more about IWA and how you can support us at www.waterways.org.uk.




For further information please contact:

Lockkeeper at Heybridge Basin
Tel: 01621 853506 or 07712 079764

Navigation Manager
Tel: 07966 375351

www.essexwaterways.com

 You can also contact us on Facebook. Search for IWA Essex Waterway Ltd.

Photos: Roy Chandler & Rodger Tamblin
Essex Waterways Limited is a private limited company (registered in England no. 5545459) wholly owned by the The Inland Waterways Association (registered as a charity no. 212342).

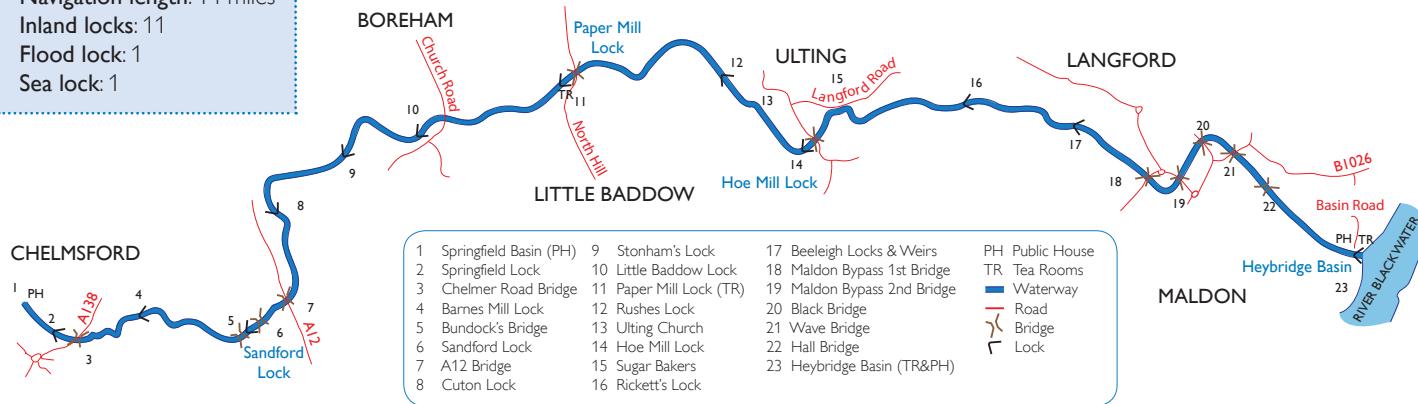
The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation

Visitor's Guide



The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation

Navigation length: 14 miles
Inland locks: 11
Flood lock: 1
Sea lock: 1



Boating

The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation runs through a largely unspoilt part of rural Essex. Moorings are available and are located at Springfield Basin, Sandford, Paper Mill, Hoe Mill, and Heybridge Basin.

All boats must be licensed by Essex Waterways Ltd and unless exempt, must be covered by at least third party insurance and a valid Boat Safety Certificate. For current charges please see our website www.essexwaterways.com and click on the boating section.



Maximum boat dimensions

Length: 17.85m
Width: 4.62m
Draft: 0.62m
Air draft: 1.9m
Lock dimensions: 18.46m x 4.92m

Heybridge Basin

Heybridge Basin is a popular place to moor, with showers and laundry facilities for boats visiting from the tidal Blackwater. Visiting boats are always welcome at Heybridge Basin. However, during the summer months it is advisable to book by phoning the lockkeeper, especially at weekends when Yacht Club rallies visit the basin.

The sea lock is 55 metres long by 7.5 metres wide. There are three sets of gates which means there are three lengths of lock that are operable: 55 metres, 33 metres and 17 metres. For current charges please see our website and click on the boating section.

River Trips

Explore the Navigation on a river trip. These are available at Sandford Lock, Paper Mill Lock and Heybridge Basin.

Blackwater Boats (Sandford Lock)
www.blackwater-boats.co.uk - 01206 853282 or 07802 514400

Paper Mill Lock Cruises (Paper Mill Lock)
www.papermilllock.co.uk - 01245 225520

Basin Pleasure Boats (Heybridge Basin)
www.basinpleasureboats.co.uk - 07835 657462

Canoeing

Individuals and groups are welcome to canoe the length of the navigation. A licence can be obtained through the website, or from the lockkeeper at Heybridge Basin or any of the residential caretakers based at Sandford Mill, Paper Mill, Hoe Mill and Heybridge moorings. The Navigation is not covered by the British Canoe Union licence scheme. Find out more and buy your licence online at www.waterways.org.uk/daycanoe

Walking

There are endless opportunities for circular routes to walk along the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation, with links to the Blackwater Rail Trail and coastal path at Heybridge Basin. Look out for kingfishers, grey wagtails, common terns, cuckoos, water voles (pictured above), otters, dragonflies and damselflies.

Fishing

Fishing is popular along the navigation, with species found including roach, bream, tench, chub, perch, pike, dace, barbel and carp to over 30lbs. Fishing rights are leased to Maldon Angling Society, with rights to Chelmsford Angling Association. For non-members, day tickets apply throughout the waterway, and are available from bailiffs on the bank, or local tackle shops, subject to the closed fishing season.