

LOCAL HISTORY

Hullbridge started as a small hamlet with a few cottages, surrounded by farmland, clustered round an Inn on the riverside. It was here that pilgrims crossed the river on their way to Canterbury.

Signs of the old causeway can still be seen at low tide but the bridge said to have spanned the river from circa 1240 to Cromwell's time, no remains are left to be seen.

In later years a ferry-man would row children across the river from Woodham Ferrers to the Old School House in Hullbridge (still standing in Ferry Road).

Incidentally, Jock, the last of the ferry-men was a stand-in for Johnny Weismuller, the first Tarzan of the movies.

In 1923, High Elms Farm was sold and divided into building plots and from this development the village of Hullbridge grew, but the footpaths that criss-crossed the fields can still be traced in the alleyways and passages between the houses of today.

The developers took the line of the original hedgerows to build the roadways, which explains why the majority of the roads in the village today are straight and at right angles to each other.

Before gas and electricity arrived, barges unloaded coal at the wharf near the existing slipway and this was stored in a barn where the Smugglers Den stands today.


Fresh water was supplied by wells, one of which was under the car park of The Anchor public house and another under the cherry tree on the corner of Pooles Lane, hence the bungalow nearby is called Wells Cottage.


The attractive Anchor Cottages are said to be about four hundred years old and as all old buildings, rumoured to be haunted.

A brickworks on the site of the Tower Caravan Park made four million bricks and thousands of tiles each year and the terrace of houses nearby were built to house the workers.

The circular brickwork in the Rose Garden at the northern end of Ferry Road is the head of a vertical shaft 54 feet deep and at the bottom a brick and steel lined tunnel seven feet in diameter crosses under the river. It was constructed in 1926 to house a water main so that fresh water from the River Chelmer could be pumped across country to a rapidly expanding Southend.

Kendal Park is a Local Nature Reserve formed from ancient scrubland, which has a short but delightful walk alongside the River Crouch.

HULLBRIDGE

FOOTPATHS



FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep dogs under proper control
- Keep to the paths across farmland
- Avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls
- Leave no litter - take it home
- Safeguard water supplies
- Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees
- Go carefully on country roads
- Respect the life of the countryside

If you need this publication in a different format please contact
Hullbridge Parish Council - 01702 232038

HULLBRIDGE FOOTPATHS

Footpath 1

One of our prettier paths. Starts at Pevensey Gardens, off Lower Road and joins Central Avenue through a path at the end of the houses on the right hand side. Continue down Central Avenue to the end, then across a large field with good views across the golf course. Cross FP3 and through Blounts Wood up to the railway line. In spring the wood is a mass of bluebells and wild anemones.

Footpath 2

Quite a short path, through pretty shrub-land and copses. Begin off the Hullbridge Road near Ferndale Road. Follow the path between and behind the houses, up a gravel drive, bearing left at the Scout hut, then through a wooded area to come out by the railway line.



Footpath 3

Starts at the water pumping station off the Hullbridge Road, going across the golf course. Cross FP1 by Blounts Wood and continue to Murrells Hall at the end of FP4.

Footpath 4

Begins at the top of Blountswood Road off Lower Road at the village boundary, down to Murrells Hall. A very pretty leafy lane which is also a bridleway. It can get very muddy in the winter. Continues over a stile to left and over a small meadow to the railway line.



Footpath 5

Starts in Burnham Road between the houses, over a stile and continues right along the edge of a meadow. Cross over Long Lane (FP6) into a field. Go over a stile into a small meadow, over second stile and follow the path to Lower Road.

Footpath 6

From Lower Road follow the track to Cracknells Farm from where there are good views across the River Crouch to South Woodham Ferrers. Continue downhill to Pooles Lane.

Footpath 7

Quite a short path going through Malyons Farm off Ferry Road out of the parish onwards to Pickerells Farm.

Footpath 8

Probably the best walked path in Hullbridge along the river bank. Very attractive, especially at high tide. It runs from the Rawreth/Hullbridge boundary in the west, through Kendal Park, past the Anchor public house and yacht clubs to Brandy Hole. From here the path should link up with Footpath 9, but the sea has breached it in two places, so it is no longer passable.

Footpath 9

Leave Lower Road by The Dome public house going north over water meadows and dykes, but again this has been breached by the sea.

Footpath 10

A ford crossing the river at low tide by The Anchor public house to South Woodham Ferrers.

Footpath 12

Runs from the junction of Burnham Road and Keswick Avenue besides fields and hedgerows to Pooles Lane. Cross the recreation ground opposite, and you can reach the river.

Hullbridge/Hockley Centenary Walk

This is a walk which has red way-markers. It commences from The Rose Garden by the riverside at the end of Ferry Road and connects with footpaths in Hockley.

A separate leaflet is available.

HULLBRIDGE PARISH KEY TO FOOTPATH MAP

- A FREE car park and toilets
- B Smugglers Den club
- C Indian restaurant
- D The Anchor Public House
- E Up River Yacht Club
- F Hullbridge Community Centre
- G Recreation Ground
- H Hullbridge Yacht Club
- J Brandy Hole Yacht Club
- K T Junction Tea Rooms
- L Riviera Café and Bistro
- M Ferry Fisheries
- N Fairways Cafe

- PUBLIC FOOTPATH - - - - -
- PUBLIC FOOTPATH + + + + + (BREACHED NOT ACCESSIBLE)

EXPLORE THE PARISH AND ENJOY YOUR WALKING!

Acknowledgements

This map has been produced with contributions from the following:

Hullbridge Parish Council
Footpaths' Committee
Mr. Len Warren



Essex County Council
Transportation &
Operational Services

This publication is supported by the Parish Paths Partnership which is an initiative funded by Essex County Council

