

1. Leaving the Prince of Wales car park, turn left past the pub and in 50 yards, turn left onto the signed footpath. The path goes through the rear pub garden; follow the signs, coming to a metal gate. Go through the gate, onto the fenced path. Go over a stile, coming to a junction of paths. Take the path opposite. The path now gradually ascends along the right-hand edge of a large field. Follow the field boundary as it bends left and right, admiring the views to your left of the Crouch Valley. 1/2 mile after entering the field, look out for a small gap in the hedge with a signed footpath (this is about 100 yards before you reach a large gap in the hedge, where you are at the end of the Stow Maries Aerodrome airstrip) – the footpath is easy to miss! Turn right onto this footpath, go over a stile and head along the left-hand edge of a field, with good views of the World War I Aerodrome to your left.

2. After 1/3 mile, you will reach a crossroad of paths. Turn right here to take the grassy path going across the middle of a large field. Follow the path to a hedge gap and footbridge, just to the right of a farm track. Cross this bridge to follow the left edge of two fields. Go through a gap in the hedge, then take the path at a 45° angle, to the right. Mount a new fence to continue on the path. Keeping in the same direction, walk to the far left corner of this meadow, coming to a road (Hackmans Lane). Turn left onto the road and walk about 200 metres to a footpath signpost. Turn right there and head gently uphill. There are spectacular views to the north and east as you crest the top of the hill; Danbury, Maldon and the Blackwater Estuary can be seen. Carry on to a plank bridge, cross it to walk along the left edge of a field. Head gently downhill, the path becoming enclosed by fences after a while. Keep ahead on the path to come to a kissing gate by a road.

3. Go through the gate, turning left onto the road. Walk along the road for 400 yards (ignore a footpath to the right after 150 yards). When you have passed the last house on your right, look out for a gap in the high hedge. Go through the gap, and across the playing fields, heading for the children's playground, with the church on the hill ahead of you. Go over the small footbridge and stile and head uphill on the left hand edge of a field in the direction of the church.

The Prince of Wales is an attractive 17th century weatherboarded pub which always features an excellent range of beers. There are three cosy drinking areas, all with open fires, and an old baker's oven is used to cook legendary pizzas on Thursday evenings in the winter. All food is prepared and cooked in house.

Stow Maries was built in 1916 to house the Royal Flying Corps, which would later become the RAF. It is probably the only intact First World War aerodrome in the world, as all the rest were demolished or replaced by larger buildings in the Second World War. One of the station's busiest days was 7 July 1917, when 22 Gotha bombers headed for London. The airfield closed in 1919, and only reopened as a museum in 2010 following a sympathetic restoration project, which won it a special English Heritage award.

At the top of the hill, go over the stile and head left along the path (known as Rigby's Path). This brings you out into the churchyard. Walk up to the gravel path by the church's main entrance; turn right along this path go through the metal gate and then turn left onto the road, by the Bell pub.

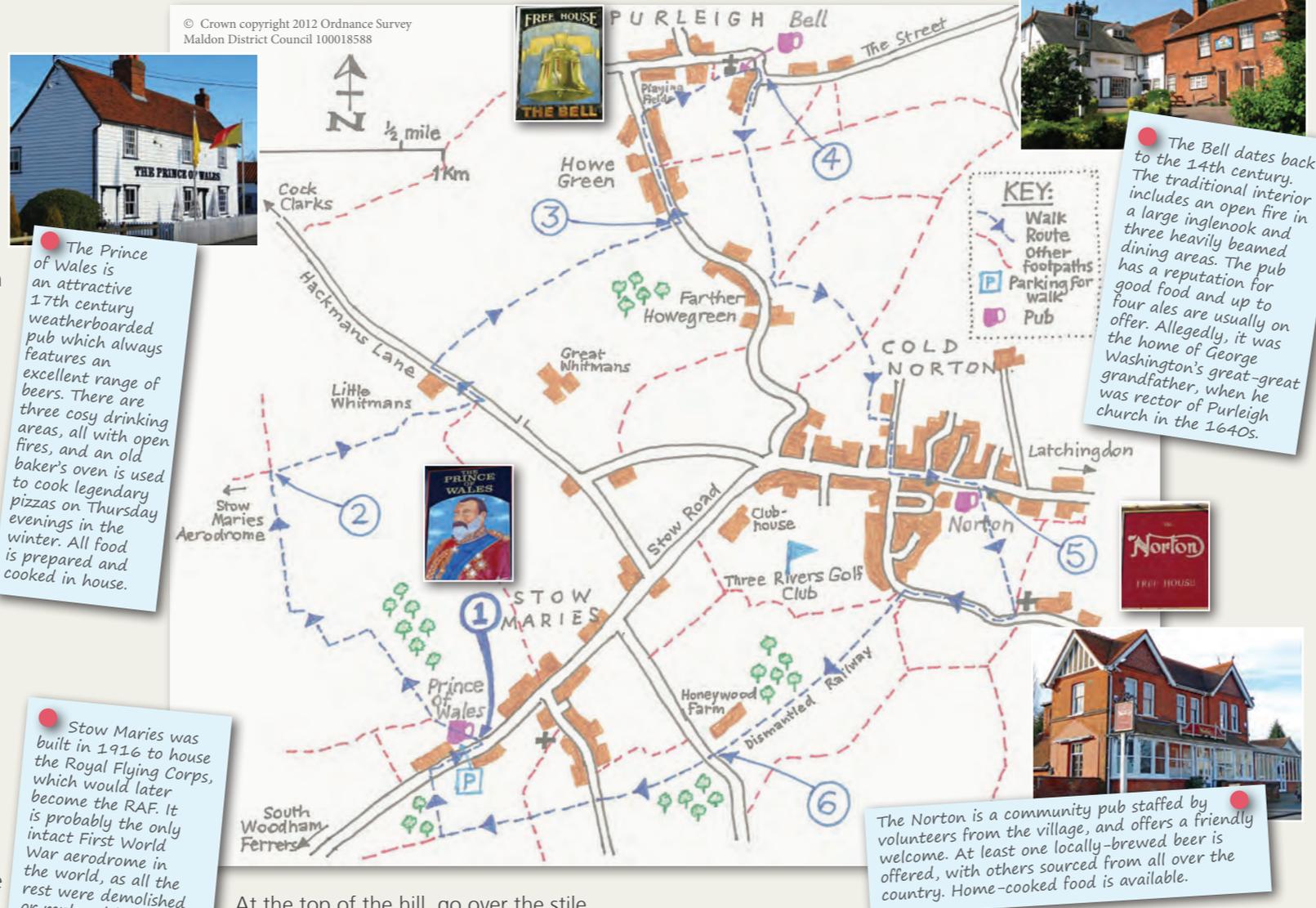
4. After visiting the pub, turn right out of the car park entrance to head southwards along Church Hill. After

passing Purleigh Hall in 150 yards, go ahead over a stile, continuing over the field in the same direction to reach a gap in the hedge. Go over another stile, heading across the middle of a large field on a well-defined path in the same general direction (ignoring the crossing footpath). After crossing the field, go over the footbridge and take the path heading through trees. On reaching the common at Farther Howegreen, turn left around the edge of the common. After 30 yards, turn left through hedge gap (between posts) and head onto path along right-hand edge of the field. Continue into the next field, taking the

well-defined path through the middle of the field. On reaching the edge of this field, cross over the track to go through the kissing gate opposite. Head across this field to a gate in an electrified fence (in the same general direction as before). Go through this gate, then head for the left-hand corner of the field to go through a kissing gate, continuing along the fenced path. Go through another gate, crossing a raised wooden walkway over boggy ground. At the end of this walkway, turn left along the path between fences. At the end of this path, turn right onto an unmade lane (Cherry Blossom Lane). On reaching the main road through Cold Norton village (Latchingdon Road), turn left and cross over; in 350 yards, you will reach the Norton pub.

5. After visiting the pub, continue along Latchingdon Road, crossing over the road bridge (which goes over the dismantled railway). 80 yards after the bridge, turn right onto the signed footpath; follow the fenced path. Continue ahead (ignoring a footpath to your left), cross over a footbridge and follow the fenced path between fields. Go through the gate to enter Cold Norton churchyard; continue ahead, exiting the churchyard onto the lane. Turn right onto the lane, which initially goes uphill, then soon heads steeply downhill. After 1/2 mile (just before the houses), turn left and descend onto the signed footpath, which follows the route of the dismantled railway track to meet a lane.

6. Cross the lane, and ascend the signed path opposite to resume your route along the dismantled railway. Continue along this bridleway for 1/2 mile, ignoring all tracks left and right (many of these are for access to the Three Rivers Golf Course); the path goes through the Stow Maries Nature Reserve. You will eventually reach a short section of the track which is bordered by high wooden fences; 250 yards after this section, look carefully for a footpath sign to the right. Descend to take this path, crossing a footbridge and then following the left-hand edge of a field. On reaching the main road, cross carefully and turn right along the path for 200 yards to reach the Prince of Wales, the starting point of the walk.



The Bell dates back to the 14th century. The traditional interior includes an open fire in a large inglenook and three heavily beamed dining areas. The pub has a reputation for good food and up to four ales are usually on offer. Allegedly, it was the home of George Washington's great-great grandfather, when he was rector of Purleigh church in the 1640s.

The Norton is a community pub staffed by volunteers from the village, and offers a friendly welcome. At least one locally-brewed beer is offered, with others sourced from all over the country. Home-cooked food is available.

What is CAMRA?

The Campaign for Real Ale is an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights.

Maldon & Dengie CAMRA is one of the smallest national branches; small we might be, but we pack a big punch! Our aim is to encourage our local breweries to supply good ale, for landlords to keep it and sell it that way and for pub-goers to make good use of their locals and drink fine ale.

Why not find out more?



[maldonanddengiecamra.org.uk/](http://maldonanddengiecamra.org.uk/)

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This walk was kindly developed by  
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to cover printing costs

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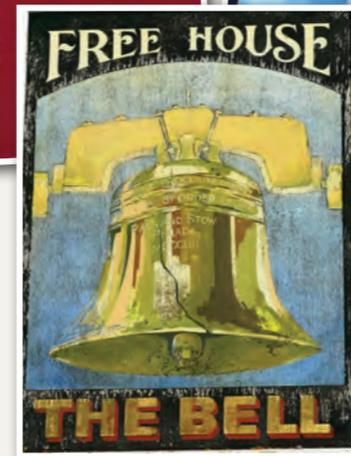
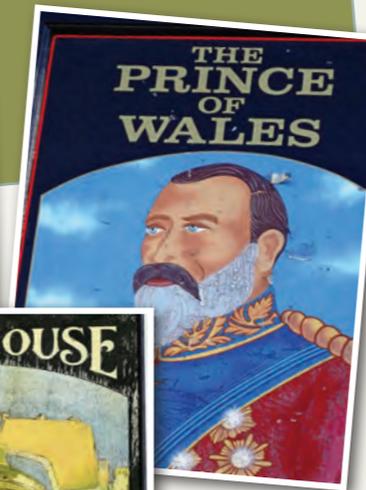
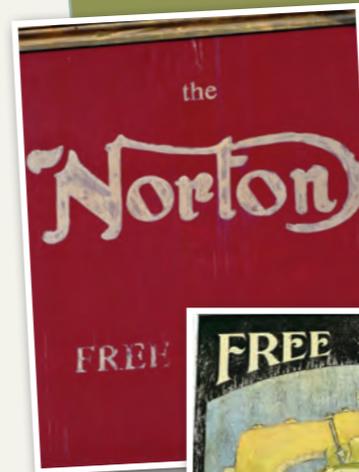


MALDON DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Useful web links

It's About Maldon (Old Railways)  
[www.itsaboutmaldon.co.uk/railway](http://www.itsaboutmaldon.co.uk/railway)  
Essex Wildlife Trust  
[www.essexwt.org.uk](http://www.essexwt.org.uk)  
Stow Maries Aerodrome  
[www.stowmaries.com](http://www.stowmaries.com)  
Prince of Wales, Stow Maries  
[www.prince-stowmaries.net](http://www.prince-stowmaries.net)  
The Bell, Purleigh  
[www.purleighbell.co.uk](http://www.purleighbell.co.uk)  
The Norton Free House  
[www.savethenorton.org](http://www.savethenorton.org)

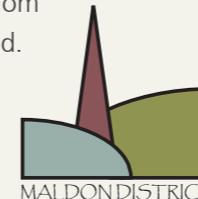
WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT  
CIRCULAR COUNTRYSIDE WALK  
*Three Dengie Pubs*



If you like far-reaching views, attractive countryside, dismantled railway tracks and village pubs, this is the walk for you! The walk allows you to sample three superb examples of village pubs on the Dengie Peninsula (the pubs have varying opening times – check with them beforehand for details). All three of the pubs visited on the walk offer an excellent range of beers (often from local breweries) and all serve food.



[visitmaldondistrict.co.uk](http://visitmaldondistrict.co.uk)



Part of this countryside trail follows a dismantled railway track that was once the Maldon West to Woodham Ferrers line, opened in 1889. This line linked with the newly constructed London Liverpool Street to Southend Victoria line which had opened the same year. During the Second World War the passenger services on the Maldon line were withdrawn as an economy measure and never reinstated. Following the war, the line continued to be used for goods traffic but with nationalisation, completely closed in 1953.

Distance:  
6.6 miles (10.6 km) circular walk

Time taken  
(without pub stops!): 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours

Location for start of walk:  
Stow Maries - 7 miles south-west of Maldon; B1018 south from Maldon, then right to Cold Norton and on to Stow Maries

OS Landranger Map:  
Sheet 168 (Colchester)

OS Grid Reference: TQ 830 993

Parking:  
Prince of Wales car park – but please ask pub's permission first (CM3 6SA)

Public Transport:  
D5 buses from Burnham-on-Crouch or South Woodham Ferrers (no direct service from Maldon, and no buses Sundays or bank holidays – infrequent service on Saturdays)