

A Little Essex R&R 106km Brevet Populaire event

Start time: 09:00 Saturday 13th September 2025, 8hours 50 minutes to complete.

From: The Labour Hall, Collingwood Rd, Witham CM8 2EE. Event phone: 07831 133258

There is plenty of free parking available at the hall, please **park in the white bays** around the edge of the car park and avoid using the yellow NCP managed bays.

A basic breakfast will be available from 07:00, consisting cereal bars, bananas, tea, coffee & squash. Please arrive in plenty of time if you would like breakfast.

Pizza & cake and drinks at the finish.

I hope you will take the time to enjoy the scenery and café opportunities of A Little Essex Rivers & Reservoirs, you have plenty of time and after all it's not a race!

This is an 'X' rated event with commercial controls, one manned checkpoint and 1 info control. You need to be self-sufficient on the road, there is no rescue service but contact the event phone number if in trouble. If this is your first experience of Audax note that the route is not signed - you will need to follow the route sheet instructions; A GPX track is available to download and use at your own risk.

Proof of Passage at controls is required in the form of shop/café/ATM receipts with the correct time, date and place recorded. The Dandelion & Burdock café in Stock is an excellent place for your mid-ride break! If they are too busy, or you prefer, there is a Budgens store.

While there are some sections of the route that can be made more direct the instructions provided will keep you on nicer and quieter roads.

The event is in September so the weather could be variable, if it is or has been wet recently mudguards are recommended as a courtesy to other riders and cafés or pubs you may visit. On the road hazards are highlighted on the route sheet, particularly beware of sand and gravel washed on to the road by any recent rain.

Note

There are lots of junctions either without finger post direction signs or broken if they were once there. Please use the intermediate distances on the route sheet to determine the next turn point if there is no \$ indicated, and take note of road names where provided.

Controls and R&R crossed and visited

Soon after setting out you cross the River Brain.

At the foot of The Mighty North Hill is the River Chelmer – your first crossing of it for the day.

Danbury: Info control. There is a question on the brevet with the answer near the double mini roundabout.

Stock: A ‘free’ control. The Dandelion and Burdock Coffee Shop at 20 The Square offer a sit down rest stop with breakfast and cake on the menu. The Budgen shop next to the Zebra crossing in High Street can also be used, there is a coffee machine and fresh pastries (check for correct date & time if collecting a receipt, note if not correct). Deals convenience store at the end of Mill Rd is available too.

Cycle past the Hanningfield Reservoir for your first reservoir of the day.

Views across to the River Crouch on the right as you pass South Woodham Ferrers.

Cold Norton: A ‘free’ control. The Londis convenience store is on the right soon after crossing the old railway bridge with traffic light control, a fully stocked shop with coffee machine. Alternatives are the BP garage and DJ Stores in Latchingdon a little further down the road off route. Ensure your receipt has location and correct date & time.

Maldon: NOT a control but may be the right time and place for you to stop for some lunch. The Rose & Crown Wetherspoons with beer garden at rear almost directly opposite the L@T in Maldon High Street, quick enough service for a 45 minute pit stop. Also plenty of cafés and other pubs in the High Street.

You cross the River Chelmer at the bottom of Market Hill and the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation in Heybridge.

Cycle past Abberton Reservoir for your second reservoir with better views to be enjoyed at the visitor centre control.

Abberton Reservoir Visitor Centre: Checkpoint control. Follow AUK signs to the checkpoint controller for a stamp, with good weather this will be at the visitor centre entrance, in not so good weather possibly in the café.

There is a café in the visitor centre which is recommended for a light meal and cake. There is a water fountain to the left of the café till for bidon top ups.

Tiptree: NOT a control but an opportunity to visit the Wilkins Jam Factory tea shop for a cream tea to top up those carbs for the last bit to Witham. Turn left at the give way cross roads in central Tiptree and it’s soon on the right.

At the bottom of the quick descent in Little Braxted, take care as there is hidden sharp right bend with gravel on the road, is the River Blackwater for your last watery crossing of the day.