

Essex 3R's 106km Brevet Populaire event

Start time: 10:00 Saturday 1st November 2025, 9 hours 10 minutes to complete.

From: The Battersford Court, Wetherspoons pub, Newland Street, Witham.

Event phone: 07831 133258

There is car parking at the Labour Hall in Collingwood Road, CM8 2EE, near the train station, please park considerately in the white bays around the edge of the car park. A £1 donation will be collected for all day parking which represents excellent value for money for parking in Witham. The Labour Hall is less than 5 minutes ride to the Battersford Court, join directions with R from car park

Directions from the train station and car park:

L from booking office side of station

L@T at bus stop

L@T over railway bridge

R@mrbt, pass Labour Hall on RHS / R from car park if using Labour Hall car park

R@TLS, IMM SO TLS

Battersford Court, Wetherspoon pub, on RHS at Zebra crossing

Access the beer garden at the rear using side road for bike parking & back door to the pub.

Being a Wetherspoon pub there is breakfast served from 8am and plenty of refreshment opportunities when you finish.

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

This is an 'X' rated event with 1 commercial control and 3 info controls. 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.

There are 3 info controls where an answer to the question on your brevet is needed.

Proof of Passage at the Stock control is required in the form of shop/café receipt. In Stock the Dandelion & Burdock café stop taking food orders until 2:30 and close at 3pm, or control at the Budgens next to the Zebra crossing.

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 November so the weather may be autumnal, 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.

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

At the bottom of the climb in Little Braxted is the River Blackwater for your first watery crossing of the day

Layer De La Haye: Info control on the finger post sign at the cross road near the war memorial. It is not necessary to go to the Abberton Reservoir Visitor Center but there is a café in there which is recommended for a light meal and cake. There is a water fountain opposite the main reception desk for bidon top ups.

Cycle past Abberton Reservoir for your first reservoir.

You cross the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation in Heybridge and the River Chelmer at the bottom of Market Hill just before you climb it.

Maldon: NOT a control but may be the right time and place for you to stop for some lunch, especially if on an ECE. The Rose & Crown Wetherspoon with beer garden at rear is quick enough service for a 45 minute pit stop. Also plenty of cafés and other pubs in the High Street.

Cold Norton: Info control at the Londis convenience store. The Londis store has a coffee machine and hot & cold takeaway food.

Views across to the River Crouch on the left as you approach Woodham Ferrers.

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

Stock: A 'free' control. The Dandelion and Burdock Coffee Shop at 20 The Square offer a sit down rest stop with light meals, sandwiches and cake on the menu. Last food orders at 2:30. The Stock Budgens store in the High Street can also be used to make a purchase for your receipt, I noticed a coffee machine there.

Danbury: Info control at the double mini roundabout. The Tea on the Green on the green at Eves Corner is open until 4pm. Alternatively, there is a Co-Op 100m to the left from the double mini roundabout, noted on the route sheet.

Returning to Maldon is the River Chelmer – your 2nd crossing of it for the day.

Approaching Arrivee you cross your last water of the day - the River Brain.