

ASPARAGUS & STRAWBERRIES 414Km BRM

Organised by Audax Club Mid-Essex - return completed cards to:

Grant Huggins, 76 Bryony Close, Witham, Essex, CM8 2XF

Event phone number: 07831 133258

Starting from Manningtree Station CO11 2LH

09:00 Saturday 6th June 2026

This edition of the A&S reverts to a BRM event so you need to complete the 414km in 27 hours, no time credit for late starts you still need to finish by the event close. There will be instant certification from when I am at Arrivée on the Sunday.

Brevets will be handed out in the Station Buffet or close to start time in the car park. The start will be from the station car park top level.

E-brevet is also available with event number 26-901.

The Manningtree Station Buffet opens at 8am Saturday for breakfast rolls and drinks, Sunday opening from 6am, hot breakfast available soon after opening, to midday especially for A&S riders. If you are full value and arrive after the Station Buffet has closed I'll be in the car park until 2pm (or until all riders are accounted for).

Since 2023 there is a slight route change after Sible Hedingham visiting Great Maplestead to avoid poor road surface on Toldish Hall Road, please update your GPX and route sheet if downloaded before the 2023 A&S event.

At the time of writing in mid-May there are no planned engineering works on the railway to cause bus replacement services, but do check for yourself if planning to use the train.

If arriving by car **be aware of height restriction** at the car park, if you have a bike on the roof continue past the first car park bearing left at the turning circle at the station pedestrian entrance.

The station car park ticketing system is next to the bus shelters; please ensure you buy the correct amount of parking time at the pay stations. Details can be found at this link:

<https://www.ncp.co.uk/find-a-car-park/car-parks/manningtree-station-g-anglia/>

This is an **'x' rated event** for experienced riders, using commercial controls. Riders need to be self-sufficient and prepared for inclement weather, mechanical problems and should carry plenty of food and drink, **especially for the long night/early morning sections.**

Fast riders might take a relaxed approach, enjoying the excellent cafes, booking accommodation at Barton Mills/Mildenhall/Newmarket for a few hours, otherwise risk arriving back at Manningtree when nothing is open for proof-of-passage, other than ATMs!

Slower riders should note that Wells closes early and could take advantage of the feeding options, Indian takeaway option in Melton Constable 20km before then.

At the start, facilities are limited to toilets to the left of the station building, accessible from the street, however the Station Buffet opens at 08:00 for breakfast.

It is essential you check your till receipts have the correct location, time and date in order to validate your ride!! Controls are 'free', ie any proof of passage with **correct time, date and place** is acceptable.

I'll be at Arrivée from about 6:30am at the Station Buffet. If you arrive earlier please control in the town and post your brevet to me at **76 Bryony Close, Witham Essex, CM8 2XF**.

CONTROLS:

IXWORTH 50km: This will be a stamp control, there are convenience stores for food and drink. Water bottle top-up should be available at the control.

Toilets appear to be no longer available in the car park.

HALESWORTH 107km: [The Angel Pub, several cafes, shops, ATMs, toilets]

Via Reedham Ferry [£1 for bike plus rider – **if arriving as a group please have one collect the individual cash fares while waiting to pay the ferryman to save time on the crossing.** Card payments are now also accepted] to:

ACLE 150km: 2 cafes, Co-op: L at T by church, toilets on L before village sign in centre.

*Melton Constable, 20km before Wells has a Co-op open to 10pm and a takeaway with a bus shelter at the top of the village, recommended to stop here if you are likely to arrive after 21:00 at Wells needing hot food.

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA 218km: Co-Op on outskirts approaching town, closes 22:00
The Quay: chippies close at 21:00/21:30, Golden Fleece pub, public toilets. More options in the Town Centre. **Control closes Sunday 00:14.**

The Shell fuel garage at Fakenham on next stage closes at midnight.

Ali's Kebabs and Pizza in Brandon open until 01:00.

BARTON MILLS 297km: Shell garage with shop. McDonalds is open 24 hours for inside dining. **Stock up here for the next two stages.**

*There is also a 24-hour BP garage on the approach to Newmarket town centre.

*Audax Hotels [bus shelters] aplenty in Balsham after Newmarket.

SAFFRON WALDEN 344km: ATMs for early birds – make sure you are carrying enough food. Costcutter opens 06:00

['Corner Café' – on R in Sible Hedingham at 373km opens 08:00 – a life-saver for 'full-value' riders! Or garage opposite]

MANNINGTREE 414km: Dave at the Station Buffet has said they will be open at 6am Sunday, cooking breakfast rolls a few minutes after opening. Alternatively obtain receipt from Manningtree or at the Lawford Garage on the mini-roundabout on the A137.

Arrivée Control closes 13:57