

Essex R&R 215km Brevet Randonneur event

Start time: 08:00 Saturday 15th August, 15 hours 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 Ringo managed bays.

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

Pizza & cake and drinks at the finish.

This is an 'X' rated event with commercial controls and checkpoints.

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; GPX tracks are available to download and use at your own risk.

Proof of Passage at controls is required in the form of info question answers, controller stamps or shop/café/ATM receipts with the correct time, date and place recorded.

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 August so the weather is likely to be hot still, however, 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 leaving you cross the River Brain for the first time, you'll be back across it much later! At the foot of The Mighty North Hill is the River Chelmer – your first crossing of it for the day.

Stock: Info 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 for a coffee machine and fresh pastries. 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 below.

Burnham-on-Crouch: A 'free' control. The Co-op Five Ways and McColls newsagents ARE NOT valid control points, you must travel at least as far as the Tesco Express on Station Road to control. However, you'll be missing out if you don't go down to the quay! The Dairy Cabin has been a favourite in previous years but may be busy.
Obtain a receipt from cafés in the High Street, One-Stop shop opposite the clock tower where there are Sheffield stands to secure bikes.
Public toilets on the quay.

Tillingham: Info Control on the right as you pass through Tillingham.
Toilets in the recreation ground car park, noted on the route sheet.

After leaving Tillingham and turning West again you have views of the River Blackwater to the right.

Maldon: NOT a control but may be the right time and place for you to stop for some lunch if you don't want to push on the Abberton. The Rose & Crown Wetherspoon 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 entrance or in the picnic area at the rear, 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, ideal for lunch if not already taken in Maldon. There is a water fountain to the left of the café till for bidon top ups.

You may get caught at the TLS in Ford Street where you cross the River Colne.
Views down to the Stour valley before descending to follow the River Stour, maybe a quick refreshment at the Lamarsh Lion for spectacular views over the vally?

You cross the River Stour when entering & leaving Sudbury.

Sudbury: A 'free' control. 200m before the TLS go off-road to a bridle path on the right to Waitrose or continue to R@TLS to the town centre for shops/café/ATM.

Great Bardfield: Info Control. At 184.4km and instruction '*In Gt Bardfield L @T no \$*' there is a Co-Op almost immediately on the left if you need a refreshment stop.

Little Green, Compasses Inn: Checkpoint control. The ACME spiritual home - collect a stamp at the bar.

Soon after leaving The Compasses you cross the River Ter and when back in Witham the last one of the day is the River Brain as you cross the narrow bridge just before Arrivée.