

## **Essex R&R 213km Brevet Permanent**

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This is an 'X' rated event with commercial controls and checkpoints which can be ridden at any time, started at any control location and ridden the correct way or in reverse.

Notify me by phone call, text, email or verbal arrangement before you set out on your ride.

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 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.

### **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.

Essex Highways have been top dressing the road surfaces recently, please take care if you see road works signs as there could be loose or accumulated chippings in the area.

## 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:** 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 Stock Post Office Stores in High Street can also be used, I noticed a coffee machine and fresh pastries when passing thru on a test ride. Note time of passing through (check for correct date & time if collecting a receipt, note if not correct), minimum £5 spend on card. 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 McCol's 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** on the right at the start of the quay is perfect for brunch and they have a stamp for your brevet. Alternatively, obtain a receipt from cafés in the High Street, Barclays ATM, One-Stop shop opposite the clock tower where there are Sheffield stands to secure bikes.

Public toilets on the quay opposite Barclays.

**Tillingham:** Control at the Londis/Post Office on the left as you pass through Tillingham - collect a stamp or receipt.

Toilets location is 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 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 in the picnic area, 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 opposite the main reception desk 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 Henny Swan beside the river?

You cross the River Stour when entering & leaving Sudbury if not controlling at The Cyclist.

**Sudbury:** A 'free' control. The **Cyclist Café** at the TLS will stamp your brevet, refreshments available here, including ice cream.

For alternative commercial control proceed to R@TLS to the town centre for shops/cafés/ATM.

**Finchingfield:** Not an official control but if you're quick enough to be there before closing time a receipt from a tea room or pub can be used in lieu of the Great Bardfield Co-Op.

**Great Bardfield:** At 179km and instruction '*In Gt Bardfield L @T no \$*' there is a Co-Op almost immediately on the left where you can acquire a receipt.

**Little Green, Compasses Inn:** Checkpoint control. The ACME spiritual home - collect a stamp during opening hours, a selfie is acceptable outside of opening hours.

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, don't forget to obtain Proof of Passage.

Either drop your completed brevet through my door or post within 14 days to:

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One last thing - have fun!!