

A VOYAGE OF REAL ALE DISCOVERY

FLITCH LINE



BRAINTREE - WITHAM



FIVE STATIONS - SIX MILES



RAIL ALE TRAIL



ALONG THE SCENIC
FLITCH LINE RAILWAY IN ESSEX

BRAINTREE - WITHAM

· FLITCH LINE ·

FIVE STATIONS

A voyage of Real Ale discovery on the historic Flitch Line which has been an integral part of the north Essex community it serves for more than 150 years.

Linking Braintree to Witham along a six-mile stretch of rail track, it is still a vital commuter link for the people who live near to it.

Running along the picturesque Brain Valley, it is also perfect for those looking to explore the outdoors – and is directly connected to two country walking trails and a railway museum. It also has many other attractions right on its doorstep; from popular shopping venues to historic sites, towns and villages.

Journey time along the entire stretch, which takes in White Notley and Cressing, is just 16 minutes. It is also well connected to London – which is just 60 minutes away by train via the Great Eastern mainline.

For those who want to explore the entire route on foot, the nine-mile John Ray Walk from Braintree to Witham celebrates the life and achievements of the famous botanist as it follows the course of the River Brain. Then there is the opportunity to return by train.

If you are a fan of real ale then this specially designed trail is definitely for you. The journey will take in several traditional pubs near various stations along the way. An excellent choice of well-served cask ales will be available at every stop. Look out also for Bishop Nick Brewery – a sixth generation family of brewers of real ale, open for off-sales; and the Moody Goose Brewery serving beer in the summer months.



Please note that some of the establishments listed in this guide have limited opening hours, please phone ahead to confirm opening times or check at Whatpub.com the official CAMRA pubs website for details.

www.whatpub.com



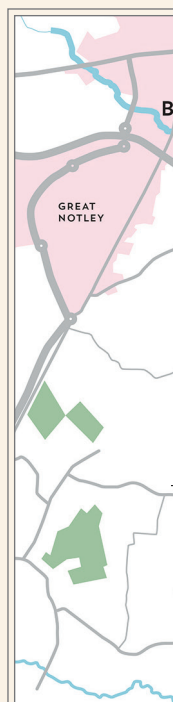
• TICKET INFORMATION •

A valid ticket is required for your journey on the Flitch Train Line. This can be purchased in advance or on board. A return ticket will allow you to disembark the train and re-join as long as you continue in the same direction of travel. Please note the Flitch Line is a single track meaning trains may be less frequent than at other larger stations and will travel in both directions from the same platform.

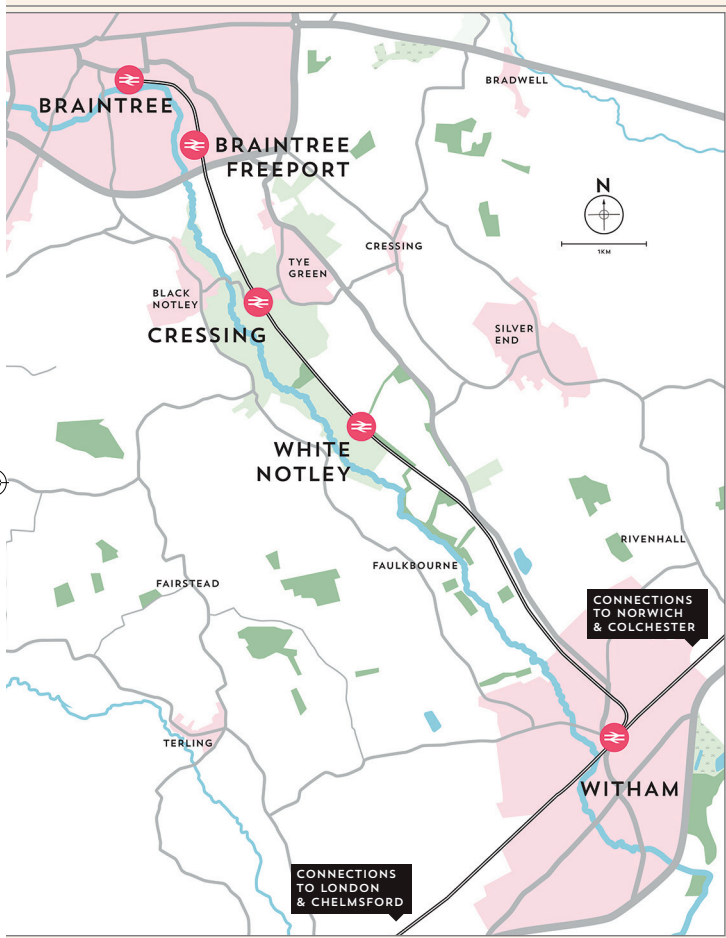
The Flitch Line and connecting services may be subject to engineering works and planned cancellations. It is vital you check for service disruptions, including for your return journey, before travelling.

For more information, including time tables, service disruptions and group discounts please visit:

WWW.GREATERANGLIA.CO.UK/TICKETS-FARES



HISTORIC TOWNS & VILLAGES



A VOYAGE OF REAL ALE DISCOVERY IN THE ESSEX COUNTRYSIDE

FIVE STATIONS • SIX MILES • NINE PUBS

FLITCH LINE

BRAINTREE

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.1



TURN OVER FOR MORE
BRAINTREE PUBS



Braintree is a thriving town, which has been a site of settlement since the Bronze Age, 4,000 years ago. The Warner Textile Archive in the centre of the town is definitely worth a visit. It holds a unique collection of more than 60,000 textiles, 10,000 paper designs and associated pattern books and photography. Other attractions include the Braintree District Museum.

• THE PICTURE PALACE •

5 MINUTE WALK

A 5 minute walk. This pub is the former Embassy cinema, built in the 1930s to replace The Picture Palace. This Wetherspoon pub has a long association with cinema. It all began in 1912, when The Picture Palace was built on the site of a sandpit and first opened its doors to the cinema-going public. As well as the delights of the silver screen, The Picture Palace also presented variety acts on its small stage. This Pub serves up to six Changing Beers. The standard Wetherspoon food offering is available.

FAIRFIELD ROAD
BRAINTREE
CM7 3HA
01376 550255



PLEASE STAMP HERE



FLITCH LINE

BRAINTREE

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.1

• THE KING WILLIAM IV •

24 MINUTE WALK

A 24 minute walk via the Flich Way. It is also accessible by bus (9 from Rail Station and 70 and 370 from Bus Interchange) and Digigo, an on-demand bus service (via Travelessex app.). It is a warm and friendly traditional free house serving an ever-changing range of up to four real ales, usually featuring Essex microbreweries. An interesting selection of ciders. There is a main bar and a small back bar. A large patio area with picnic tables and extensive gardens are used to host many events throughout the year including Beer Festivals and Musical Events. This is a traditional drinking pub that does not offer cooked meals. The Moody Goose Brewery is located in the grounds of the pub and at least one of their ales is usually available in the warmer months.

114 LONDON ROAD
BRAINTREE
CM77 7PU
07830 283033



PLEASE STAMP HERE

• THE EAGLE •

12 MINUTE WALK

A 12 minute walk. A friendly community pub with two rooms, a public bar with TV and dartboards, leading to the garden, and a quiet and comfortable saloon bar. Up to two changing guest beers.

192 COGGESHALL ROAD
BRAINTREE
CM7 9ER
01376 741272



PLEASE STAMP HERE



• YOU COULD ALSO TRY •

BISHOP NICK BREWERY

A sixth generation family of brewers of real ale,
open for off sales.

33 EAST ST, BRAINTREE CM7 3JJ

Brewery Shop Open
Mondays to Saturdays 9am - 4:30pm



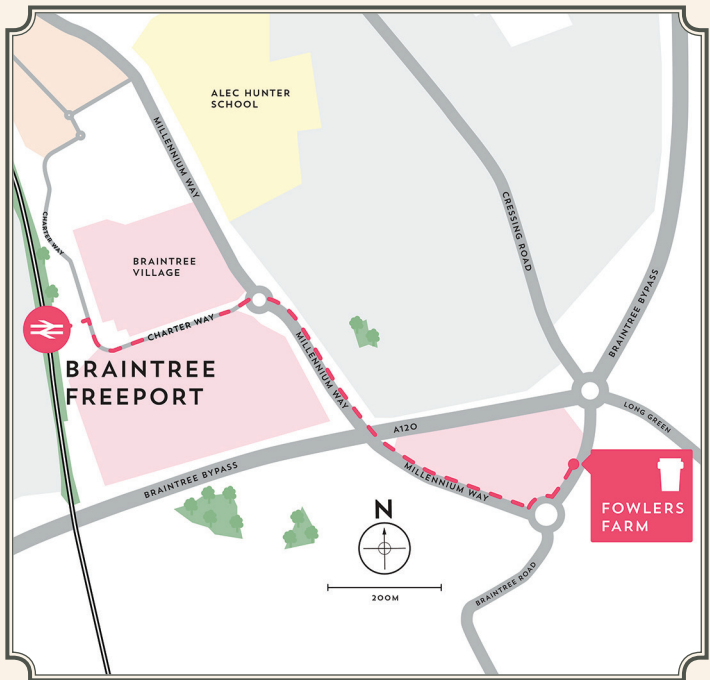
FLITCH LINE

· BRAINTREE FREEPORT ·

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.2

Braintree Village, a premium shopping outlet with more than 80 stores and lots of places to eat.



• FOWLERS FARM •

15 MINUTE WALK

A 15 minute walk. Originally a farmhouse, dating from the 16th century, this Vintage Inn is primarily a restaurant but also caters for those just drinking. Food served all day.

In addition to the comfortable interior, there is a patio area outside with dining tables and a garden that is more like a small park with pub benches and tables under the trees serving two Regular Beers Adnams Ghost Ship & Sharps Doombar.

CRESSING ROAD
BRAINTREE
CM77 8DJ
01376 551560



PLEASE STAMP HERE



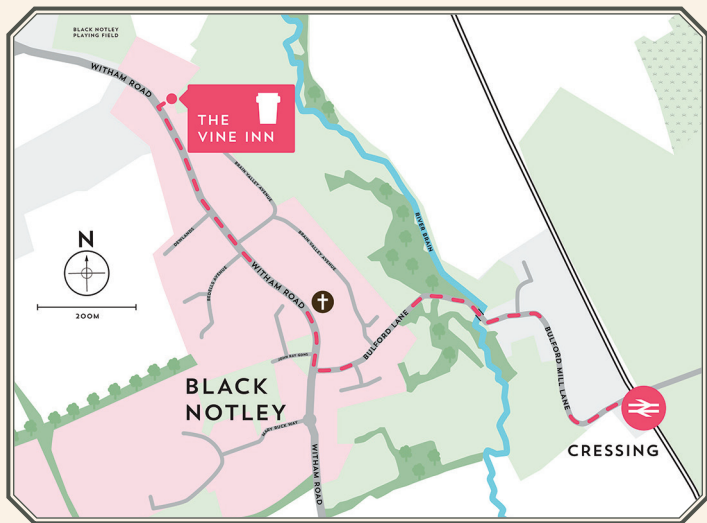
FLITCH LINE

CRESSING

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.3

Near to the village of Cressing is the 13th century Cressing Temple Barns. This ancient monument, which is now open to the public is among the earliest possessions of the Knights Templar in England. Its Grade I-Listed Barley and Wheat Barns and landscaped gardens are a real tourist pull.



• VINE INN •

18 MINUTE WALK

An 18 minute walk. A 16th century open-plan free house with a central bar, large area to the left and restaurant area to the right. There is also a small enclosed patio at the back, "The Gin Garden". Serves one Regular Beer from Bishop Nick and two changing locals. Good home cooked food, small plates, sandwiches basket meals and Sunday roasts. Vegetarian options available. Quiz night 2nd Thursday of the month. Closed Monday & Tuesdays.

105 THE STREET
BLACK NOTLEY
CM77 8LL
01376 324269



PLEASE STAMP HERE



FLITCH LINE

WHITE NOTLEY

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.4

White Notley lies equidistant between the towns of Witham and Braintree amongst arable farmland, four miles in each direction. White Notley is a quintessentially English village with a small primary school, public house, railway station, post office, village hall and a 10th century church. The village has a population of fewer than five hundred inhabitants. It is well placed for access to the long-distance walks of the John Ray walk and the Essex Way.





• THE CROSS KEYS •

6 MINUTE WALK

A 6 minute walk. A traditional beamed pub, Grade II listed, dating from the 1700s. Two wooden floored bars, one small and another medium sized, plus a separate area which is used as a restaurant or occasional function room. A varied selection of home cooked food, Pizza menu on Mondays 3pm - 8pm. Serves one regular beer Adnams Southwold and three changing beers often a Dark Pale & Golden. Some interesting historical artworks and photos on the walls with an intriguing comic history of the village on a frieze in the back corridor. Tastefully refurbished inside and out. Large Garden and Patio area with benches.

1 THE STREET
WHITE NOTLEY
CM8 1RQ
01376 583297



PLEASE STAMP HERE

FLITCH LINE

WITHAM

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.5

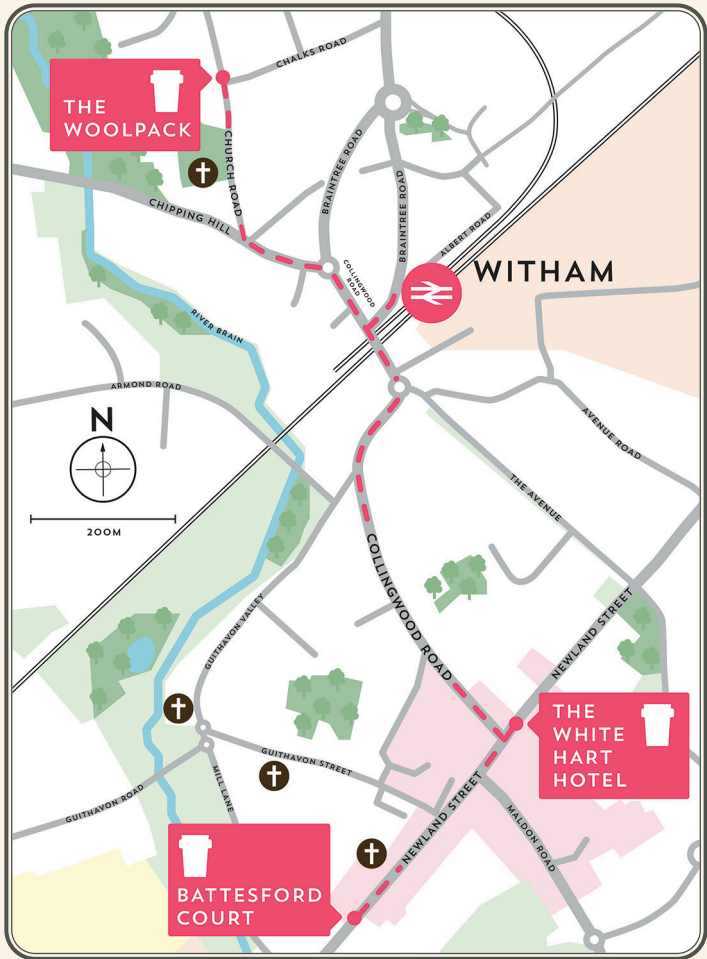
At the southern end of the line, Witham itself has plenty to capture the attention. The town centre boasts two shopping precincts and a range of restaurants and pubs.

One of its claims to fame is that it was home to the famous writer of detective fiction, playwright and theologian Dorothy L Sayers from 1930 until her death in 1957.

In fact, there is a bronze statue of her situated opposite her old house in Witham, which is indicated with a blue plaque.

Those wishing to stride out can enjoy the Witham Town River Walk which takes in the Whetmead Nature Reserve – 10 hectares of beautiful meadow, woodland and lagoons, which is home to a variety of bird and insect species.





TURN OVER FOR
WITHAM PUBS



FLITCH LINE

WITHAM

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.5

• THE WOOLPACK •

6 MINUTE WALK

A 6 minute walk. A traditional local pub. It is the only regular outlet for The Witham Brewery, which is now based in Coggeshall. Set in the conservation area, the building probably dates from the 15th century. It has two rooms with low wooden beams and a real log fire during the winter. Regular beers served, Witham No Name and GK IPA and up to two guest beers usually from the local area. Most of the beers are served under gravity. Note the extensive collection of glass soda syphon bottles.

7 CHURCH STREET
WITHAM
CM8 2JP

01376 511195



PLEASE STAMP HERE



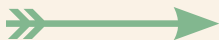
• THE WHITE HART HOTEL •

7 MINUTE WALK

A 7 minute walk. Situated on the main street, this is a large, many-roomed, busy, hotel. Up to seven beers are served. Four to five beers are served on gravity in a separate cask ale bar with a temperature-controlled cabinet behind the bar. Note the self-tilting stillage.

A number of beer festivals are held annually.

NEWLAND STREET
WITHAM
CM8 2AF
01376 512245



PLEASE STAMP HERE



• DON'T FORGET •

THERE'S ONE MORE WITHAM PUB
'BATTESFORD COURT' ON NEXT PAGE



FLITCH LINE

WITHAM

RAIL ALE TRAIL

STOP
No.5

• BATTESFORD COURT •

10 MINUTE WALK

A 10 minute walk. A large Wetherspoon conversion of a former hotel of the same name. The 16th century building was previously the courthouse of the manor of Battesford. It has distinct areas with wood panelling and oak beams. There is a family area. Up to five regional beers are served including something local, usually from Bishop Nick or Wibblers, plus up to two ciders and perries, usually from Westons and Gwynt Y Ddraig. The standard Wetherspoon food offering is available.

100-102 NEWLAND STREET
WITHAM
CM8 1AH
01376 504080



PLEASE STAMP HERE





**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

WHAT IS CAMRA?

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights.

Chelmsford & Mid-Essex CAMRA is a large and active branch who enjoy a variety of social events and trips throughout the UK. We hold Summer & Winter Beer & Cider Festivals and encourage members to support our branch pubs and breweries with fun local ale trails and regular rural runarounds.

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.chelmsford.camra.org.uk

CAMRA Members are encouraged to score their beers as these data are used for our selection for the CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

PLEASE SCORE USING:

Whatpub.com
or Camra's Good Beer Guide App.



ESSEX & SOUTH SUFFOLK COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP (ESSCRP)

We were formed in 1998, with the aim of promoting and encouraging rail travel for residents and business users of the communities along our six branch lines, by way of regeneration, tourism, leisure and community development projects, to enable the communities to increase their economic, social and environmental welfare. The lines in the Partnership are: The Crouch Valley Line, The Mayflower Line, The Gainsborough Line, The Sunshine Coast Line, The Flitch Line and the Southend Line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.esscrp.org.uk

facebook.com/esscrp

twitter.com/esscrp

[Instagram @essexsuffolkcrp](https://www.instagram.com/essexsuffolkcrp)

Working with Greater Anglia (GA) one of our key objectives is social inclusion and community engagement. This has become very successful through GA's Station Adoption Initiative. If you would like to volunteer see contact opposite.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
IMPROVE THE LOOK OF
YOUR LOCAL STATION?

If you have a spare hour or so a week and are
keen to use your green fingers please contact us

info@esscrp.org.uk

07735 216593

THE FLITCH LINE RAIL ALE TRAIL
IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



ENJOY RESPONSIBLY!

A VOYAGE OF REAL ALE DISCOVERY

2023
EDITION



ALONG THE SCENIC
FLITCH LINE RAILWAY IN ESSEX