

## ABOUT THE WALK

In 2002 the Town Council created a lasting memorial walk for the Golden Jubilee which is accessible to all, including the disabled and people using pushchairs.

In the Diamond Jubilee year of 2012 the walk was updated to reflect the changes which had taken place over the intervening ten years. The complete walk will take you about two hours, but you might want to take your time along the way and rest on one of the 5 official Jubilee memorial benches or one of the many others which are identified on the map. There is also a picnic bench in the play area at Compass Gardens.

This has now been updated again for 2024 to celebrate our new King, Charles III.

**The following wildlife jottings are by courtesy of Essex Wildlife Trust and roughly follow the route on the reverse of this leaflet, commencing at the top end of Hullbridge Road marked with blue letters on the map.**

**A** The northern and older part of Hullbridge Road often has small parties of Goldfinches in the mature trees in summertime plus a few Greenfinches too. Grey Herons, probably from Hall Wood, North Fambridge, pass over en route to Woodham Fen and occasionally pause to perch on a rooftop. Watch out for small white herons which also fly over. These are Little Egrets: recent additions to the British breeding list and now more or less resident close to our town.

**B** Hullbridge and Inchbonnie Roads often have numbers of Collared Doves. Blackbirds and Robins are the most likely species to be found in town gardens, although reports of Green Woodpeckers all around South Woodham Ferrers are now frequent. Kestrels and Sparrow Hawks are often seen over the town. The number of butterflies varies from year to year, but Holly Blues and Gatekeepers plus the ubiquitous Large and Small Whites are perhaps the most common.

**C** The perky little Pied Wagtail is a resident in and around the Town Centre and frequently spotted in Queen Elizabeth II Square. Compass Gardens has many unusual plants and grasses and a rare over wintering Waxwing was recorded there. Saltcoats Ponds nearby and their adjacent reed beds, a designated S.S.I., are also worth investigating.

Heading towards the railway bridge the hedgerows on both sides of the road provide nesting sites for several small birds such as Robins, Dunnocks, Linnets and Whitethroats. Here in high summer several Swifts, (summer visitors from Central Africa), nest most years and rear numerous offspring.

**D** Lastly, the walk will take you past the Garden of Remembrance and along the Burnham Road. To the east the landscape is dominated by Bushy Hill with what was Marconi's radar demonstration and testing site on its summit until 2010s, when it was decommissioned.

On one memorable occasion no less than 13 species of butterflies were recorded here including a Purple Hairstreak and a Comma. Common Blues, Essex Skippers, Gatekeepers, and Meadow Browns are often abundant.

This is perhaps the best place to see Green Woodpeckers in South Woodham Ferrers; they may be found both inside and outside Marconi's boundary fence. Other birds' nest on the hill including Linnet, summer visiting Whitethroats and several species of the Tit family. During 1988 an Osprey was seen flying over the hill in the early evening.

As you complete the walk look for signs of the large numbers of Rooks and Jackdaws that assemble every spring to form a substantial nesting colony on the hill.

*We would like to thank all those involved in the production of this updated version and those past versions including Essex Wildlife, South Woodham Ferrers Local History Society, and local town councillors who undertook a walk in 2023 to survey for the update. Information correct at time of publication to the best of our knowledge.*

# JUBILEE WALK

Walk takes approx. 2 hours



**The Golden Jubilee walk was opened in May 2002 and a commemorative plaque may be found beside the seat at the top of Marsh Farm Road.**

**In the Diamond Jubilee year of 2012 the walk was revised to celebrate 60 years of Her Majesty's reign and redesigned in 2024 for our new King, Charles III.**

**A commemorative plaque can be found at the start of the walk on the corner of Hullbridge Road and the Burnham Road.**

## South Woodham Ferrers Town Council

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# THE JUBILEE WALK

**1. William Tabrums Copyhold** – once a range of old cottages including ‘Red Cottage Stores’. Now much altered and a private house.

**2. Plaque on garden wall** (visible, vegetation permitting) unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir John Ruggles-Brise, in 1977 to commemorate the Queen’s Silver Jubilee nr Brent Avene

**3. Village Hall** – Originally ‘The Smallholders Hall’ on this site opened in 1929 (as can be seen by two surviving foundation stones in the walls), it was replaced by the present hall in 1973. The playing field was given to the village by a local farmer and now contains children’s play areas and a ‘MUGA’ cage.

**4. King Edwards Road** – a survivor of the long straight ‘plotland’ roads laid out on the Champions Hall Estate in the 1890’s. It was an unmade road until as late as 1978.

**5. Village Grocers and Dairy Shop** – the flats on the corner of King Edwards Road occupy the former site of the town’s grocers and dairy shop. The site was developed in 2006.

**6. Accountants’ Offices** – occupy the building used as South Woodham’s first Post Office.

**7. ‘The Railway’** - originally ‘The Railway Hotel’, then ‘The Ferrers Arms’; was built soon after the railway opened. It provided stabling for horses in the early years.

**8. Railway Workers’ Cottages** – three pairs of cottages were built to a standard pattern used on the Southminster branch line. They were constructed as part of the railway contract in 1889.

**9. Railway Station** – opened in 1889 by the Great Eastern Railway Company as ‘Woodham Ferris’ being renamed to the current name in 2007. It once had an impressive station with turntable, goods yard, cattle pens, signal box and footbridge. During WW2, it was home to the local Home Guard.

**10. Evangelical Church** - the present building opened in 1984, replacing the Assembly Mission Hall that opened on this site in 1931.

**11. Champions Manor Hall** – The site of South Woodham’s first school (opened in 1929) and a former church (opened in 1930). The site is now owned by South Woodham Ferrers Town Council and houses the Town Council’s offices, as well as providing community facilities and a public Bowling Green.

**12. Women’s Institute Hall** - The properties 109-115 Hullbridge Road occupy the former site of the town’s Women’s Institute Hall built in 1927, with a new hall, built behind the current housing.

**13. Millennium Bench** – The bench situated just East of our walking route was installed in 2000 to celebrate the millennium and formed part of the celebrations.

**14. Orchard Stores** – 190 Hullbridge Road, now a private residence, was previously ‘Orchard Stores’ and formerly ‘Cash Stores’ it dates from the early 20th century.

**15. Hullbridge Road** - was South Woodham’s main road prior to the development of the new town. The wide variety of building styles, reflect more than a century of development and redevelopment. Hullbridge Road led, at various times, to a bridge, ferry, and ford across the River Crouch to Hullbridge.

About halfway down this part of Hullbridge Road you can see a footpath from Hullbridge Road to Finchland View follows the alignment of Top Barn Lane, one of the old plotland roads on the former Champions Hall Estate. At the end of Hullbridge Road take the footpath through to Bulbecks Walk; bear left, and on the right there’s another footpath through to Inchbonnie Road. Cross the road and you’ll see...

**16. Commemorative Plaque** – the Jubilee Walk was originally opened at this point on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2002, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The walk was revised in 2012 to commemorate Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee. It’s worth noting that Marsh Farm Road leads down to Marsh Farm Country Park, and to the riverside. We continue north towards the Town Centre.

**17. Inchbonnie Road** - which takes its name from the former Inchbonnie Farm through which it passes - the wide verge on this part of Inchbonnie Road (north to Clements Green Lane) provides easement for a major water main through the town, laid in the 1920’s from Langford, near Maldon, to Southend on Sea.

Continue to the roundabout crossing over at the junction, turning right and then across the Zebra crossing to:

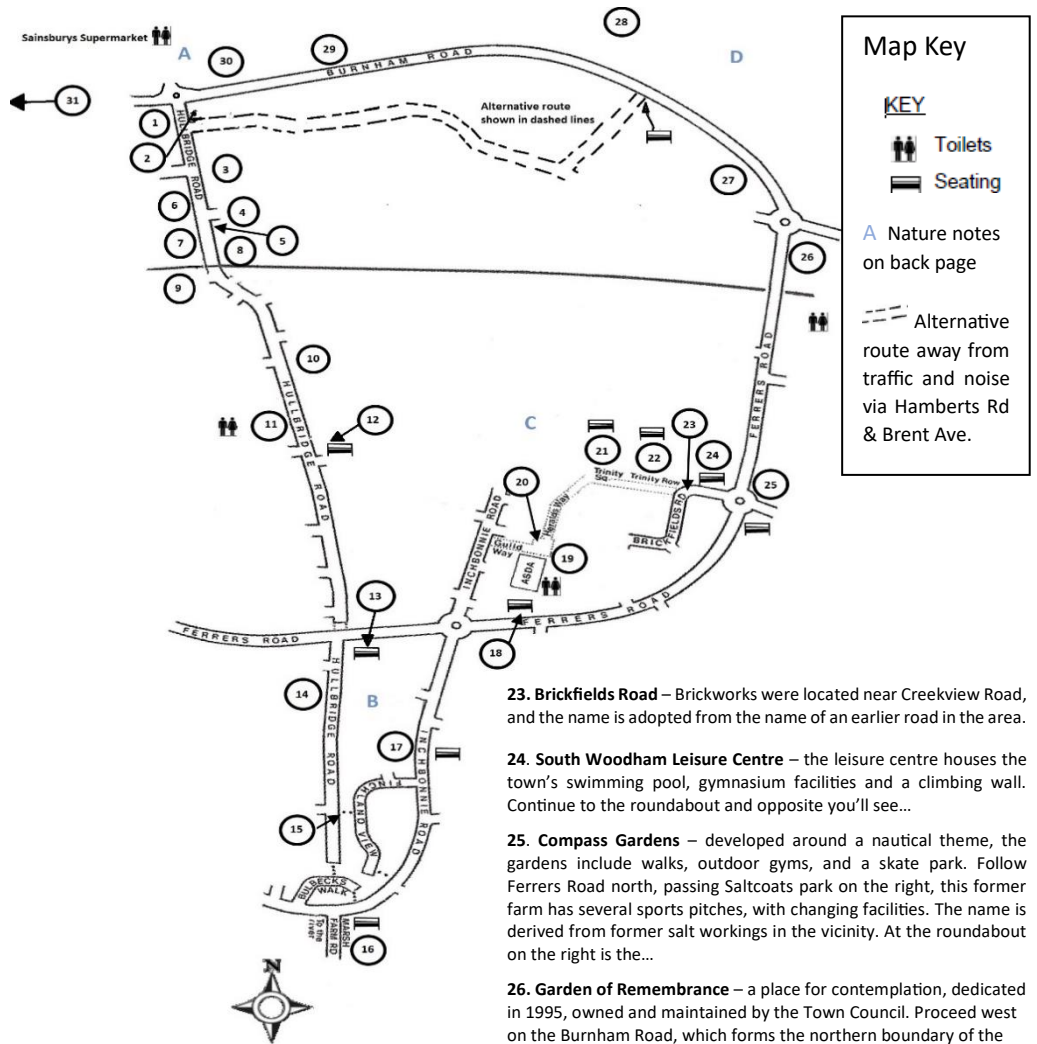
**19. Millennium Place** – opened in the year 2000, it features the Town Sign and the town’s Remembrance Memorial. Look out for our ‘Happy to Chat’, bench. Take the path through the car park, and past the main entrance to Asda.

**19. Archway** – the Archway bears a plaque unveiled in 1981 when Her Majesty formally opened the Town Centre. This leads through to...

**20. Queen Elizabeth II Square** – the heart of the town centre, with the bandstand, operated by the Town Council. The first phase of the town centre opened in 1978, it features traditional styles and external materials reflecting those found in historic Essex towns. Walk North up the pedestrianized Heralds Way - which leads to...

**21. Trinity Square** – which was extensively remodelled in 2010. Trinity Square and is the location of the Church of the Holy Trinity and the...

**22. William De Ferrers Centre**, which incorporates the town’s library and secondary school. The centre was opened in 1982 and is named after a member of the Ferrers family Head east along Trinity Row, we come to...



**23. Brickfields Road** – Brickworks were located near Creekview Road, and the name is adopted from the name of an earlier road in the area.

**24. South Woodham Leisure Centre** – the leisure centre houses the town’s swimming pool, gymnasium facilities and a climbing wall. Continue to the roundabout and opposite you’ll see...

**25. Compass Gardens** – developed around a nautical theme, the gardens include walks, outdoor gyms, and a skate park. Follow Ferrers Road north, passing Saltcoats park on the right, this former farm has several sports pitches, with changing facilities. The name is derived from former salt workings in the vicinity. At the roundabout on the right is the...

**26. Garden of Remembrance** – a place for contemplation, dedicated in 1995, owned and maintained by the Town Council. Proceed west on the Burnham Road, which forms the northern boundary of the town. After a hundred yards or so you encounter, set back from the road, on the left is the ...

**27. Embankment** – of the former branch line from South Woodham Ferrers to Maldon. The line was opened in 1889, passenger traffic ceased in 1939, and goods traffic ceased in 1953. To the north is...

**28. Bushy Hill (known locally as ‘Radar Hill’)** – after being used as a firing range during WW2, the hilltop site was acquired by Marconi in 1954 to study new RADAR techniques and the operational uses of RADAR remaining in use until decommissioning in 2018. It’s a popular spot for tobogganing when it snows. After about 800 yards you encounter, on the right...

**29. Hamberts Farm** – origins of the farmhouse can be traced back to the early 1700’s. Further on the right is...

**30. A White Cottage** – The cottage on the right was designed in 1901 by noted Chelmsford Architect Frederick Chancellor. He was Chelmsford’s first Mayor (a position he held for seven terms) and designed many of our county town’s public buildings. A short walk beyond the cottage brings you back to the start of the walk.

**31. More to explore** – Walking west you will come to our Fen on the left with acres of land to explore and lots of wildlife to see.