Bradfield Footpath Walking Society

Bradfield Walks

A collection of six walks in and around the village of Bradfield, Essex on the southern shore of the beautiful Stour Estuary.

Essex County Council
Transportation &
Operational Services

Parish Paths Partnership

If you need this publication in a different format please contact Bradfield Footpaths Society at the following address:- The Cottage, Crow Hall Lane, Bradfield, Manningtree, Essex CO11 2XA

Bradfield is mentioned in the Doomsday Book its name meaning "Broad Field". The northern edge of the parish of Bradfield is bounded by the Stour Estuary whilst the southern tip of the Parish Boundary reaches as far as the A120 road at Horsley Cross. The two settlements of Bradfield Heath are fairly spread out and so are connected by a network of lanes and footpaths.

Bradfield is served by a village school, shop & post office, church, Methodist Chapel and Community Centre. The Strangers Home and Village Maid public houses are situated in the Parish whilst a number of other pubs are just outside. There is a campsite at the Strangers Home and other establishments provide bed & breakfast.

Many of the cherry and apple orchards that were once a feature of Bradfield have gone in recent years. Farming is mainly an arable rotation of potatoes, cereals and beet. Cattle will be seen, notably on Walk 3 at Ragmarsh Farm and on Walks 2 and 5 at Mistley Heath. Sheep will also be seen on some of the walks. Pheasants and partridges are bred for shooting and these will be seen especially on Walk 6 between Bradfield Heath and Little Bromley.

The Stour Estuary is recognised as being of international and national importance for nature conservation. The extensive mudflats and areas of saltmarsh provide feeding grounds and habitat for large numbers of wintering and passage waders, wildfowl and nationally scarce saltmarsh plants and invertebrate species. The Estuary is internationally important for redshank, black-tailed godwit and shelduck among others, with the number of birds regularly exceeding 30,000 during the winter months. Walk 3 is a superb way to see the Estuary at close range whilst Walks 2 and 4 give beautiful views across the Estuary into Suffolk.

There is no shortage of rabbits in Bradfield and these will be seen on most of the walks. Make sure that you do not trip up on a rabbit hole! Hares and foxes are not uncommon in Bradfield so keep your eyes open. A good place to see hares is in the fields on either side of the B1035 on Walk 6. Frogs, toads, hedgehogs and the harmless grass snakes inhabit many of the village gardens. You will be very lucky to see a badger on one of the walks as these are seldom seen but are known to be around at night.

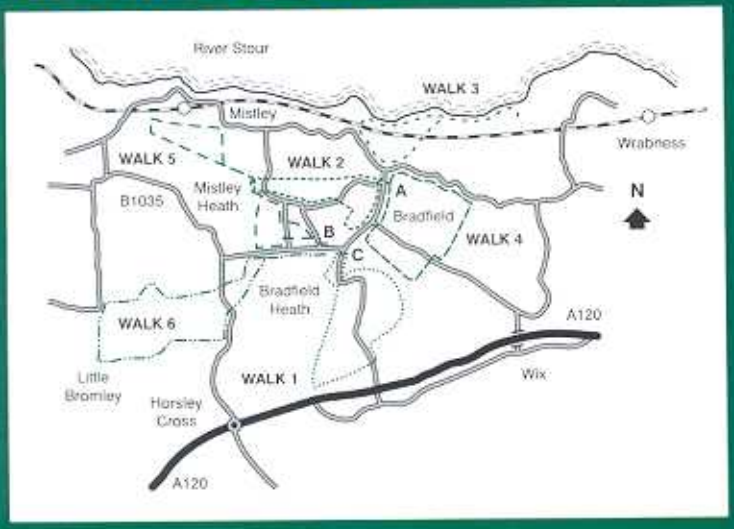
The Bradfield Footpath Walking Society

The aims of the Bradfield Footpath Walking society are "To walk, improve and preserve the footpaths in the Parish of Bradfield, Essex" The Society was founded in 1985 by villagers interested in the local rights of way. The Society has arranged walks for the public at least every month since its formation in 1985. Summer walks are held on Friday evenings and Winter walks are either on a Sunday afternoon or morning. Every one is most welcome to join us on our walks, details are given in the local press, at local libraries and on village notice boards.

The Parish Paths Partnership

The Bradfield Footpath Walking Society is a member of the Parish Paths Partnership which is a scheme funded by Essex County Council. The Partnership encourages parishes to take an active role in managing and promoting their local path network. The Society gratefully acknowledges the help that it has received form the Partnership to produce this guide to Bradfield Walks.

Bradfield Walks



Circular Walk No.1 - Goldenferry and Crossman's Farms

3 miles can be shortened to 2 miles. Start at bus shelter junction of Cansey Lane & Heath Road. ("C" on map above.)

Circular Walk No.2 - Bradfield to Mistley Heath

31/2 miles. Start Bradfield Community Centre. ("A" on map above.)

Circular Walk No.3 - Bradfield Shore and Nearby

23/4 miles or 4 miles to Wrabness Nature Reserve. Start Bradfield Community Centre. ("A" on map above.)

Circular Walk No.4 - Bradfield to Bluehouse Farm, Wix

3 miles. Start Bradfield Community Centre. ("A" on map above.)

Circular Walk No.5 - Bradfield to Furze Hill

5 miles. Start Bradfield Village Store & Post Office. ("B" on map above.)

Circular Walk No.6 - Bradfield to Little Bromley

6 miles. Start Bradfield Village Store & Post Office. ("B" on map above.)

All walks start in the village of Bradfield near Manningtree. These circular routes follow public rights of way. These are mainly public footpaths wiith a small amount of walking along roads and country lanes where necessary to complete the route. The walks are between 2 and 6 miles with a number of opportunities to shorten the walks if required.