

# Colchester and Dedham routes

## Essex County Council's 'Cycle Essex' guide

### General Issues

- Without National Cycle Network-style waypoints to follow, people will find it extremely difficult to ride the Cycle Route 4 (or any of the contained routes) due to the scale of the map. The contained routes could form localised and waterproof inserts to aid navigation.
- Six (1–6) of the attractions are within 3 square miles (town centre) whilst three (7, 8, 13) of them are some distance away from the actual routes. If you were to remove the town centre and Dedham attractions, only 5 would remain over the 47 mile route.
- The only route south of Colchester is to Wivenhoe. There is at least one other attraction (Colchester Zoo) south, mile upon mile of countryside, and freshwater in Abberton reservoir.
- Cycle King is the only store listed for cycle repairs, and it isn't Cytech Accredited.
- Hundred Lane between Langham and Boxted is actually a bridleway and therefore should be filled green to indicate a traffic-free section.

### Dedham Specific

- Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum attraction (10) is not on a route despite being labelled as being in the Dedham centre (it is actually on the Castle Hill crossroads between the centre and Long Road).
- The "Public House" on Dedham Heath (formerly The Anchor Inn) is in fact no longer there (it was closed for sometime prior to being demolished well over a year ago).
- What appears to be as wide as the River Stour running through Dedham centre is in fact just a brook. I suspect the "network" of water around Dedham and Stratford St Mary is mostly just that (or dried up altogether).
- There are actually two Public Houses in the centre (The Marlborough Head and The Sun Inn).
- The accommodation and one place to eat are all under Milsom Hotels. There are alternatives: The Sun Inn has been noted for its food and drink in the national press; both The Sun Inn and The Marlborough Head offer accommodation. Another place is Dedham Hall which does food, accommodation, and art courses to boot.

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### Stanway to Town Centre

Church Lane signs are facing different (and wrong) directions on approach to Tollgate Road roundabout. Lamp post 04 (img 1), post SO6 (img 2) and the triangular sign across road (img 1).



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From Holly Road, route should go to Wooden Avenue traffic-free cycle path (img 3) which comes out after pathway leading from Meadow View Close. The map leads cyclists to Rye Close whereas it is actually Meadow View Close.



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The Wheatfield Road Route 1 sign (supposed to point to Meadow View Close) is facing the wrong direction on lamp post 12 and from only one way (img 4). Route 1 sign from pathway leading from Meadow View Close is concealed by tree (img 5, 6, 7). This is a NCN issue. If the guide is updated to include the Wooden Avenue section this becomes irrelevant.



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King George Field (Route 1) is a very narrow track (5–10cm; img 8), which rejoins the road right behind the gate pillar, restricting visibility (img 9). *Do these gates ever get locked?*



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Claremont Road Route 1 signs discontinued (img 10). Church Lane they reappear by way of a smaller sticker (large cycle sign to Prettygate points opposite direction).



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Church Lane/Beech Hill Route 1 sign large but entirely concealed by overgrown tree/bushes on lamp post 224 (img 11, 12). This is very dangerous for pedestrians as they have to cross the road here because pavement is on opposite sides of the road (and some distance apart), with visibility severely limited by same overgrown tree/bushes. (img 13)



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Beech hill to Lexden Park sign concealed and confusing (img 14). Lexden Road pathway has unsightly corrugated iron along most its length (despite a high-panelled fence behind it; img 15). Graffiti is rife along this stretch also.



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Other side of Lexden Park, Route 1 is pointing left (on the map this stops at the next junction), but the traffic-free route is straight ahead... is it actually a cycle path? (img 16, 17, 18)



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Creffield Road to Beaconsfield Road is a No Entry, and no alternative cycle path, so cyclist must dismount (img 19).



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Butt Road cycle path ends abruptly outside Artillery Barracks Folly (img 20). This path is only accessible by 11 steps (img 21). It is a dreadful path of loose and bumpy bricks (img 22). The sign at end of it is out of sight, around the corner (img 23).



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