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WELCOME... To the 'Wivenhoe Trail' which takes you from Colchester High Street to Wivenhoe High Street and Quay, by bike or on foot.

In the spirit of recycling, this guide uses some of the interesting art installations and wayfinding markers which already exist along the route to guide you.

This includes sculptures and wayfinding markers from the 'Town to Port' and 'Town to Sea' Walks, keep an eye out as you will pass more of these en route!

This beautiful urban and riverside walk, a favourite of locals, takes in some interesting sights via a route which follows the River Colne.

Join us along this flat and easy route, ideal for either walking or cycling, and enjoy a tasty pub lunch at the end of it!

Town To Sea Disks

Designed by: Andrew Rowe, David Mackie and Heather Parnell, 2007
Towntosea.pdf (visitcolchester.com)
Download original leaflet: www.visitcolchester.com/things-to-do/town-to-sea-trail-p1191841

Town To Port Boxes

Designed by: Dallas-Pierce-Quintero www.d-p-q.uk/projects/town-to-port/(colchester.gov.uk)
The installations were commissioned by Colchester Borough Council and part funded through the Interreg 4A Two Seas Transcoast project. Download original leaflet: www.colchester.gov.uk/port-trail-map

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CREDITS

Design, cartography, content collation and photography by Sara Hayes, The Public Art Company - www.thepublicartcompany.co.uk Further information and leaflets can be obtained from the Visitor Information Centre in Hollytrees Museum in Castle Park.
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1. FIRSTSITE DISK

Heading off from the **Visitor Information Centre** in **Hollytrees Museum** on Colchester's High St, we begin at **Firstsite**. Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021, this glittering golden building was designed by architect **Rafael Viñoly**.

It's free to enter to enjoy exhibitions, films and events. Relax in the café or browse quirky and stylish books and gifts in the shop.

TOWN TO SEA (EXCERPT)

A poem by Martin Newell

Here Queen Bess's own physician
William Gilbert's fame was won
England's earliest electrician
Colchester's magnetic son.



2. CLOTH DISK, EAST BRIDGE

Colchester was associated with the production of woollen textile fabrics between the 16th and 18th centuries. **Bourne Mill** was at various times the site for fulling woven woollen cloths (production of wool felts). These fabrics became so well known that they carried a trademarked seal of quality. The Colchester wool trade began to decline midway through the 18th century as it moved north to Yorkshire.



You may be able to spot a rare WWII crenelated wall, pictured above, on your right, just past the Cloth Disk.

3. COAL BOX

Pieces of imitation coal fill this wayfinder, located near the railway bridge to **Colchester Town Station**, and offers insight into the importance of coal and the railway industry in the former trading port.



4. THE MOORS BOX - (CUT THROUGH TO ST LEONARDS CHURCH)

Between East Hill and Hythe Hill, the Moors is a haven for wildlife and offers a quiet green link between the town centre and the Hythe. The wayfinder is at the junction with the footpath leading to **St Leonard's Church**.

The medieval door of this old port church still bears the holes made by troops to put muskets through during the English Civil War. Over the nave is an elegant sixteenth-century hammerbeam roof and the north aisle roof is even older.



5. WWII PILLBOX

'Pillboxes' were military bunkers built during World War II in 1940 and into 1941. They were built in strategic places near rivers, railways and road junctions, creating a network of defences across Great Britain. 28,000 pillboxes were built, and about a fifth still survive.

The construction was typically in concrete, sometimes with bricks externally which were used as shuttering during the construction. They came in different shapes and sizes; most common in hexagonal and octagonal shapes.

The largest number of pillboxes are found in the South-East of England closest to the threat of German invaders.



6. BOATS DISK & BRIDGE BOX - COMMUNITY BRIDGE

The old **Hythe Bridge** is closed to traffic and has been transformed into a new public space for the community. An information panel also reveals further information about the bridge and about Colchester's cloth trade.



7. DIESEL BOX

Adjacent to the entrance of the pedestrian bridge over the river, the wayfinder celebrates what was perhaps the most famous industry: the engineering and manufacturing of diesel engines. Original **Paxman** engine parts are displayed within the wayfinder.



ABOUT THIS WALK

A recycled walking trail from Colchester High Street to Wivenhoe High Street and Quay.

Trail Length: 4.2 miles / 6.78 km approx. St Leonard's detour 0.3 miles / 0.48 km

Start Point: Hollytrees Museum, Colchester High Street

End Point: Wivenhoe High Street & Quay

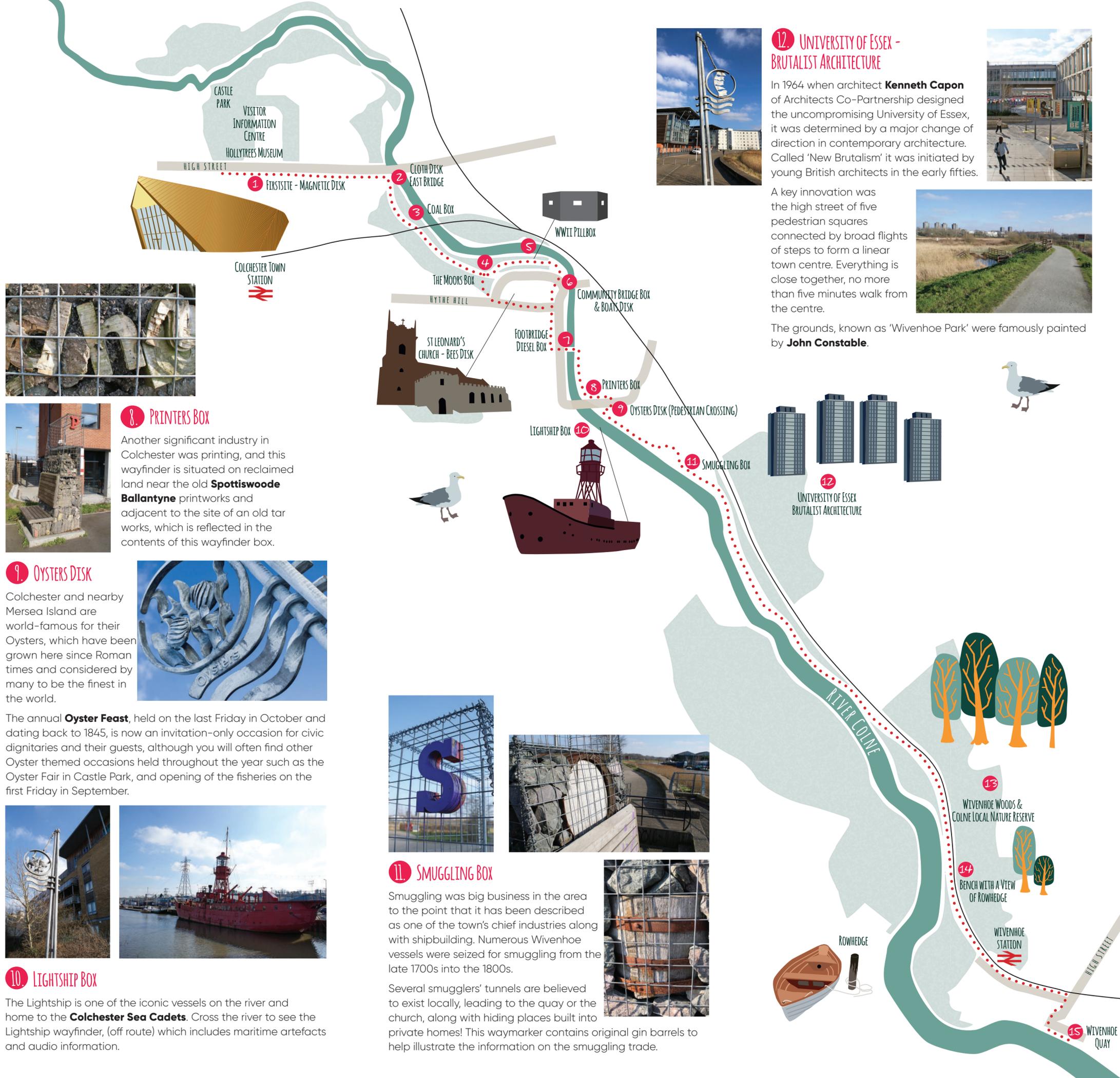
Walk Difficulty: Easy/Long

Terrain: Mainly off-road, pavements and stony substrate cycle track.

Access: Dual use cycle and walking footpaths. Containing no steps or kissing gates to impede your route if you are on wheels!

WALK TIPS This route takes in some open spaces and can be a real sun trap on hot summer days! We recommend you take with you a bottle of water and weather appropriate clothes (hat, rain coat etc.) There are some seats to rest along the route, so it's ideal to take a picnic.

Return to Colchester by Public Transport
Had a hearty lunch and don't fancy the walk home? If you would like to return to Colchester by other means there's an hourly train service back to Colchester Town Station from Wivenhoe, or the 61 and 62 buses provide a regular service. Please check timetables before you set off or contact vic@colchester.gov.uk for info and to check services.



8. PRINTERS BOX
 Another significant industry in Colchester was printing, and this wayfinder is situated on reclaimed land near the old **Spottiswoode Ballantyne** printworks and adjacent to the site of an old tar works, which is reflected in the contents of this wayfinder box.



9. OYSTERS DISK
 Colchester and nearby Mersea Island are world-famous for their Oysters, which have been grown here since Roman times and considered by many to be the finest in the world.

The annual **Oyster Feast**, held on the last Friday in October and dating back to 1845, is now an invitation-only occasion for civic dignitaries and their guests, although you will often find other Oyster themed occasions held throughout the year such as the Oyster Fair in Castle Park, and opening of the fisheries on the first Friday in September.



10. LIGHTSHIP BOX
 The Lightship is one of the iconic vessels on the river and home to the **Colchester Sea Cadets**. Cross the river to see the Lightship wayfinder, (off route) which includes maritime artefacts and audio information.



11. SMUGGLING BOX
 Smuggling was big business in the area to the point that it has been described as one of the town's chief industries along with shipbuilding. Numerous Wivenhoe vessels were seized for smuggling from the late 1700s into the 1800s.

Several smugglers' tunnels are believed to exist locally, leading to the quay or the church, along with hiding places built into private homes! This waymarker contains original gin barrels to help illustrate the information on the smuggling trade.



12. UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX - BRUTALIST ARCHITECTURE
 In 1964 when architect **Kenneth Capon** of Architects Co-Partnership designed the uncompromising University of Essex, it was determined by a major change of direction in contemporary architecture. Called 'New Brutalism' it was initiated by young British architects in the early fifties.

A key innovation was the high street of five pedestrian squares connected by broad flights of steps to form a linear town centre. Everything is close together, no more than five minutes walk from the centre.

The grounds, known as 'Wivenhoe Park' were famously painted by **John Constable**.



13. WIVENHOE WOODS & COLNE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE
 The Colne Local Nature Reserve lies on the north side of the river Colne, between Essex University and Wivenhoe. This eighty-five acre reserve consists of a mixture of habitats; **'Wivenhoe Woods'** is a mixed coppice and secondary woodland, **'Ferry Marsh'** is a former grazing marsh and **'Lower Lodge Farm'** is mainly scrub and grassland.

14. BENCH WITH A VIEW OF ROWHEDGE
 Sit a while and admire the view across the river to **Rowhedge**. With a number of facilities including two public houses, The Anchor and Ye Old Albion, a village hall, the Church of Saint Lawrence and Rowhedge Woods Nature Reserve.

The history of Rowhedge village is inextricably linked to the River Colne, with boat building within the village dating back to the 19th century.



15. WIVENHOE QUAY
 Wivenhoe's **High Street** has a collection of independent businesses and eateries, whilst a number of attractive pubs are dotted throughout the town.

Do as many of the locals do, relax and people-watch on **Wivenhoe Quay** in the summer. Try a locally brewed beer from one of the charming public houses, and choose from fish and chips, a pub lunch or lunch from the deli!

You can also find the **Sentinel Art Gallery**, by the town car park, and the 126 year old **Nottage Museum** on the quay side.

