

BC East Region Touring Event. Brightlingsea / Alresford to Rowhedge return on the River Colne. 29th July 2018 .



The River Colne makes its way through Colchester. Going through Rowhedge, Wivenhoe and Alresford, to join the River Blackwater as it passes East Mersea and Brightlingsea.

Using the tide we have a gentle day's paddle, starting at two locations, arriving at Rowhedge for a lunch stop and refreshments before our return to your starting point.

Being a Tidal paddle the conditions can change quickly, so it's important that all paddlers are suitably experienced, have the correct equipment, to be able to cope with this environment.

More info: <http://www.paddlepoints.net/PaddlePoints.aspx?PaddlePointId=1074>

We will paddle this open tranquil area past the Fingringhoe Nature reserve and through the Wivenhoe Tidal Barrier. For Sea Kayaks, if time permits, a trip up the Roman River to Fingringhoe Mill. Arriving at Rowhedge for Lunch. Here you will find a Café, Pub and Toilets. As the tide starts to Ebb we make our way back to our start location.

Note: There are two starting locations:

- **Sea Kayaks only. Batemans Tower Car Park, Promenade Way, Brightlingsea. CO7 0HH** Charge applies. Meet at 09:30hrs for 10:00hrs briefing, paddle to start at 10:30hrs. Trolleys will be useful for the short portage to waterfront. Subject to weather conditions on the day. Toilets, Café.
- **Touring Boats. (no playboats) Alresford Creek, Ford Lane, Alresford. CO7 8BB** Park on roadside, no charge. Meet at 10:15hrs for briefing, start at 11:00hrs. No facilities available and it can be a bit muddy on launching.

The paddle is organised by Tendring Canoe Club for clubs within the Region. Once on the water, Clubs will be responsible for their paddlers and will be expected to provide Leaders as if it was their own Club Trips.

Organising Club: Tendring Canoe Club: www.essexinfo.net/tcc

- Brightlingsea Trip; Contact:Harvey tomlinharv@talktalk.net 01255 674057
- Alresford Trip; Contact:Sandy sandy110862@hotmail.co.uk 01255 434394

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Distances:

- Brightlingsea: Approx. 10ml.
- Alresford: Approx. 5ml.

Access/Licencing: The River Colne is Tidal so no licenses required. Access is available from the riverside beach at both locations when the tide is high enough. Return timing is important to have sufficient water to land safely. Conditions may be a bit Muddy.

Parking:

- Brightlingsea: Car park in Promenade Way - £5.00. There is limited free roadside parking available, further from launch site.
- Alresford: Free Roadside Parking.

Changing/Toilets:

- Brightlingsea: Public Toilets in Car Park
- Alresford: No facilities
- Rowhedge: Toilets in Pub.

Hazards: The Colne is a Tidal River so there is limited access because of mudflats and saltings. Get out can be found at Wivenhoe on-route if necessary. The Sea Kayakers will pass a designated Ski Area where high speed craft may be seen. We will all pass through the Tidal Barrier at Wivenhoe. Care must be taken of the Current speeding up and other river users. Some larger commercial and fishing vessels may be encountered . The Sailing clubs may have racing fleets out, so Leaders must be aware and take any appropriate action to safeguard their paddlers.

Equipment: Please bring normal gear for a day out on the Water. Food is available at the Rowhedge Café and Pub however delays can happen, so a packed lunch is recommended.

Finish:

- Alresford paddlers should be off the water by 16:00hrs.
- Brightlingsea paddlers should be off the water by 17:00hrs.

Notes:

- This paddle is open to all Clubs in the East Region. Please inform the organiser in advance to confirm attendance and so they can keep you informed if conditions change etc.
- This can be quite a challenging paddle. Please ensure your paddlers are likely to be capable of the trip. Generally 2* Level, or 2 seasons paddling would be expected, but the ultimate decision lies with the attending clubs and their On Water leader(s).
- Touring Boats, Sea Boats, General Purpose Boats and Open Canoes are appropriate for this trip. Short play boats are not really appropriate and will be hard work to paddle this distance.