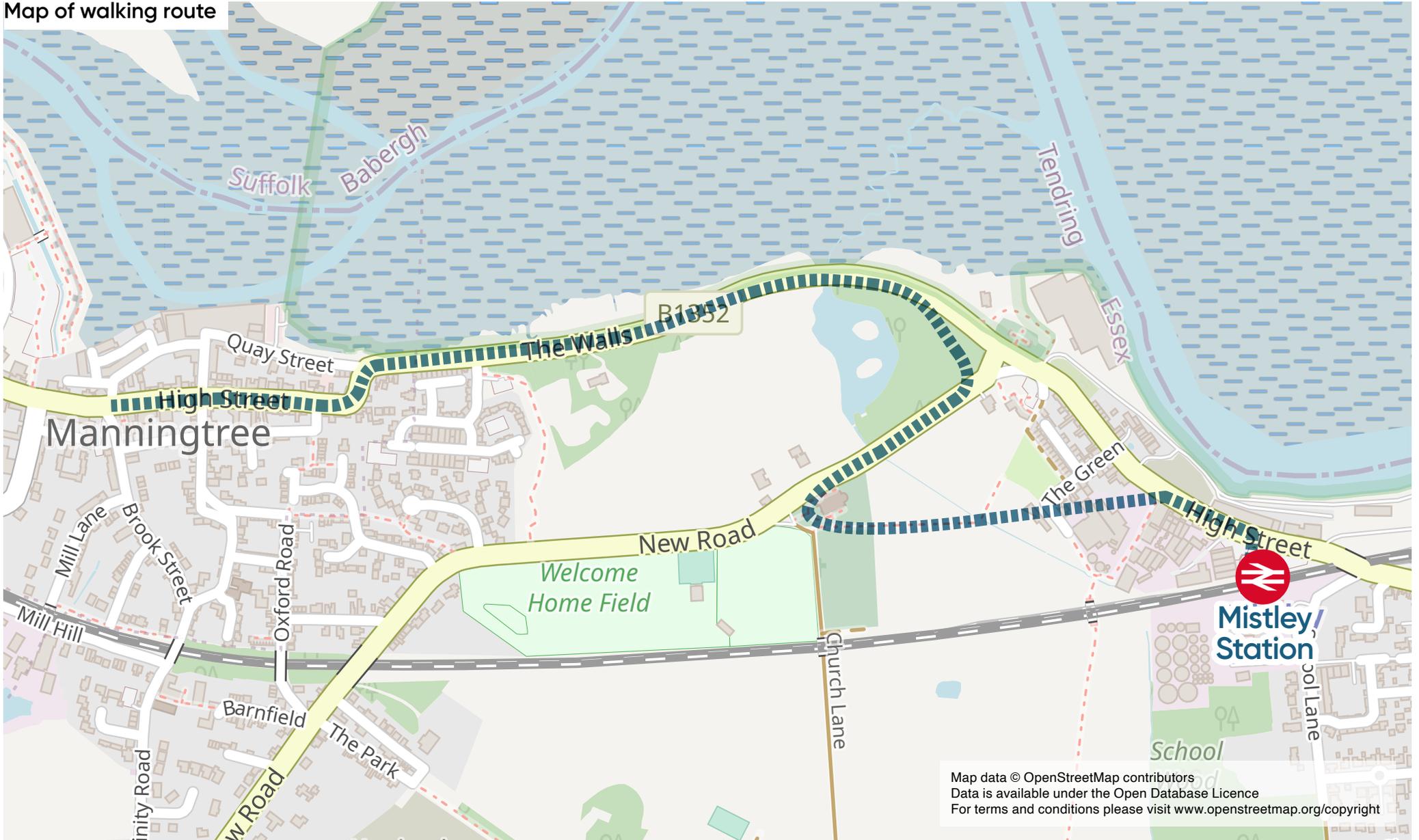


# 9 Mistley – Manningtree walk and return

Map of walking route



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A walk in this striking coastal town with stunning views of the River Stour, an area steeped in history. Mistley is the village where Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder General, was reputed to have lived and according to legend owning the Mistley Inn.

## Planning Your Walk

- This is an accessible walk with lots of seating areas.
- Approximately 2 miles depending on what areas you choose to explore.
- It is a walk on the level, without climbing or ascents (apart from the footpath at The Green. However when you are at The Thorn you can continue to Mistley Towers rather than take the footpath).
- Public toilets are in Manningtree. There are no toilets at Mistley Station.

## Directions

1. Walk out of Mistley Station and turn left down the hill. On your right you'll have amazing views of the River Stour and the banks beyond. The boundary line for Suffolk is half way across the estuary so you are in Essex looking across to Suffolk. If the tide is out you'll see an old wreck in the estuary.
2. As you walk down the hill you'll see the Edme Malt Extract works which has been in Mistley for many years and you'll smell the malt which changes depending on what they are brewing. You will notice the tall iconic tower with Edme on it.
3. You'll pass a public footpath sign on the left which goes straight through the Edme factory which you may want to explore, however for this walk continue walking until you get to The Thorn eatery on your left.
4. On the right you'll see a water fountain known as "the swan on the pond". If you cross over at this point you can walk down to the water front and admire the views.
5. Cross back across the road to The Thorn and turn left down The Green and on the side of The Thorn there is an information board about the Witchfinder General. Continue walking down The Green to the green on the right. Walk diagonally across the green and this will take you to the footpath which you walk down for about 10 minutes to St Mary and St Michael Church. On your left is Mistley Cricket Club where you'll see cricket being played on a Saturday afternoon or evening.
6. At the end of the footpath look back and you'll see the Edme tower behind you.
7. Turn right down the hill towards Mistley Towers English Heritage buildings, which have an information board in front of them.
8. After looking at the towers turn right and walk along The Walls with the River Stour on your right with lots of swans which is what Mistley is famous for. If you are a keen bird watcher there are lots of migratory birds.



9. On the left you'll see Mistley Farm Park. At the end of The Walls (about ½ mile) there's a small beach and when the tide is out you'll often see children paddling and playing in the sand.
10. You approach Manningtree Town just beyond the sea wall, follow the road as it bends to the left and you enter the town past The Crown pub which has a garden overlooking the estuary. The town has cafes and local shops. Meander through the town and when you come to the crossroads at South Street the choice is yours go left and explore the side streets or right back to the water front. Half a mile ahead is Manningtree train station.

11. At these crossroads look back and you'll see the Manningtree Ox high on the wall with a Shakespearian quote "that roasted Manningtree ox with a pudding in his belly."

12. Wander back to Mistley Station along the sea wall or take time to explore the footpaths around Manningtree and Mistley.

