

Suggested route

THE DUTCH COTTAGE

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From the front of the station, walk up Crown Hill towards the town centre. You will pass the **Dutch Cottage**.

This Grade II listed octagonal building dates from the 18th century. Its name comes from the association of this type of house with 17th century Dutch immigrants.

The octagonal structure is rare but serves a useful purpose. It's strong and relatively easy to thatch. The occupant benefits from a view in all directions and, in a time when superstition was common, there are no corners where evil spirits can lurk!

► Tours, when possible, must be booked in advance through rochford.gov.uk/heritage-attractions/dutch-cottage



RAYLEIGH TOWN MUSEUM

Continue to the top of the hill where you will find the **Rayleigh Town Museum**, opposite and to the left (above Pizza Express).

► For opening times and details on the current exhibition visit rayleightownmuseum.co.uk

The town's long and rich history is evident. Listed buildings, a windmill and a castle mound are all still found within the town centre. Come visit Rayleigh and experience the old and the new which the town has to offer.

THE HISTORY OF RAYLEIGH

Rayleigh's origins pre date Saxon Times but it was the Saxons who gave the town its name. Rayleigh means a clearing of deer. Ray refers to Roe, a small female deer and Leigh refers to a small clearing. The town is listed in the domesday book of 1086.

By 1222 the forests around Rayleigh were royal hunting grounds. King Henry III was a recorded visitor. During Henry VIII's reign (1509-1547) deer were taken from Rayleigh to replenish herds in Greenwich Park.



We recommend you check the **opening times, access and facilities** of each venue before visiting.



Public toilets are available at the top of Crown Hill. Crown Hill is steep but has frequent bus services up to the High Street from outside the station (opposite side).

Welcome to RAYLEIGH Heritage walk

Rayleigh is a lovely historic town which is easy to access by train.

Follow our suggested route from the station and take in the many heritage attractions the town has to offer. Be sure to give yourself time to enjoy the retail and food establishments along the way.



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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

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Leave the museum, turn right and go along the High Street. Keep an eye out for the Heritage Trail plaques which reveal the stories of town centre buildings.

At the end of the High Street, in front of you is **Holy Trinity Church**. It is a delightful and airy thirteenth century, Grade II listed church. Hear about the restorations which will ensure the building remains at the heart of the community for another 640 years.

► For more information visit parishofrayleigh.org.uk

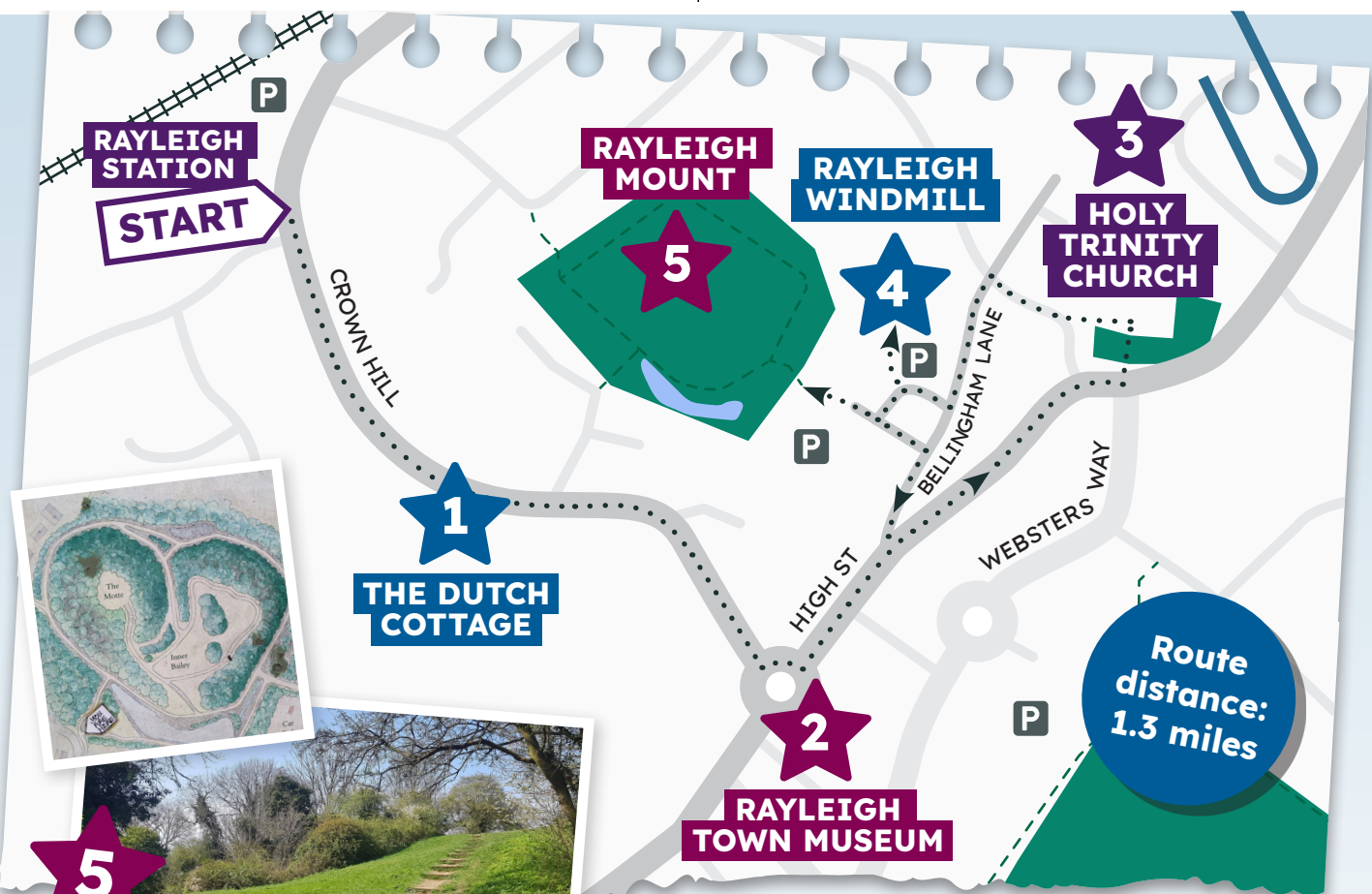


4
RAYLEIGH WINDMILL

Leave via Church Street (the exit beside the clock tower). Continue to the junction with Bellingham Lane.

Turn left towards **Rayleigh Windmill**. This Grade II listed building is over 200 years old and said to have been built around 1809. It is 20.27 metres tall and sits 60 metres above sea level.

► For more information and opening times visit rochford.gov.uk/leisure-and-tourism/visit-rochford-district/heritage-attractions/rayleigh-windmill



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THE DUTCH COTTAGE



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RAYLEIGH MOUNT

Walk around the car park to find the **Mill Garden** - a tranquil formal garden, and beside the Mill Arts and Events centre is the entrance to **Rayleigh Mount**.

As an early Norman Castle, the mount was built using timber on top of a motte (earth mound). Its purpose was defensive, spotting and protecting against invading armies marching on London.

The medieval castle remained for 300 years until the 17th century when the site became a farm. As the town grew, the steepness of the motte protected it from development.

The mount was given to the National Trust in 1923. Today it is a five-acre haven for wildlife in the centre of the town.

► For more information visit nationaltrust.org.uk/rayleigh-mount

Having walked around the Mount, return to the car park. Walk to the car park entrance and turn right. Follow Bellingham Lane back to the High Street where the tour finishes.

Back to the station

Bear right and go along the High Street to the roundabout. Turn right, heading down Crown Hill to the station. Visit greateranglia.co.uk for ticket and travel information.