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Geographical
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Rivers, railways and radios

A self-guided walk around Chelmsford



Explore one of Britain's newest cities
Find out about its Roman and medieval heritage
Meet the city's most famous residents
Discover how its high tech manufacturing changed the world

www.discoveringbritain.org

the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





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Cover image: Detail from the Marconi statue © Rory Walsh

Rivers, railways and radios

Discover Chelmsford's journey from market town to modern city

Welcome to Walk the World! This walk in Chelmsford is one of 20 in different parts of the UK.

Each walk explores how the 206 participating nations in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been part of the UK's history for many centuries.

Along the routes you will discover evidence of how different countries have shaped our towns and cities.



Chelmsford High Street
Courtesy of www.ouldukphotos.com

In March 2012 Chelmsford became one of Britain's newest cities but there has been a major settlement here for two millennia. The county town of Essex has been the site of a Roman trading post, medieval market and Victorian industrial centre. This walk around modern Chelmsford explores how the city has reinvented itself several times and adapted to changing circumstances.

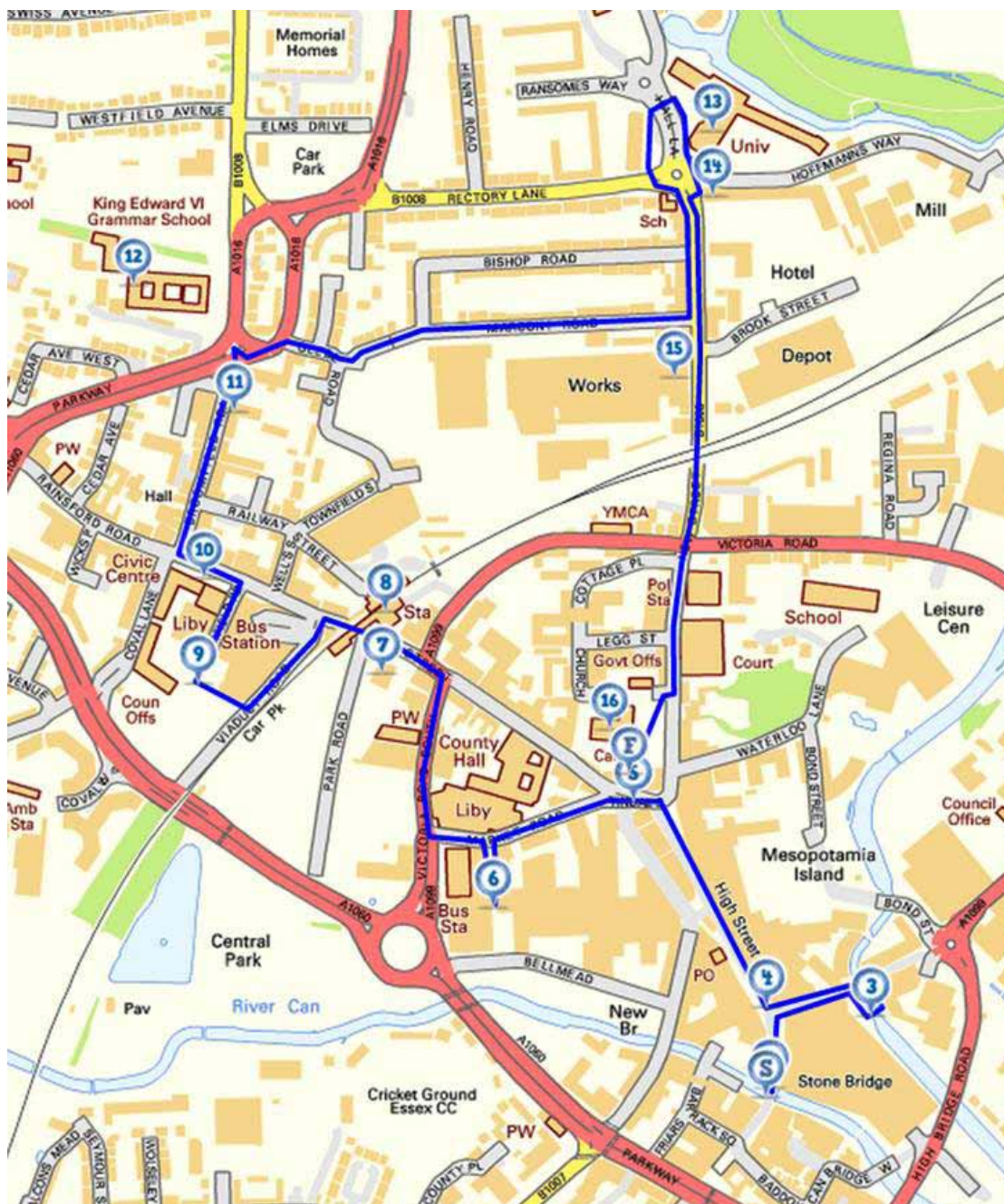


Anglia Ruskin University campus
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Chelmsford's progress has been influenced by many countries around the world. Look out for a Roman road and a bridge that spans Europe. Hear tales of a scandalous German queen and an American pioneer. Visit the 'home of radio', a former ball bearing factory and England's second-smallest cathedral.

This walk was created by a local school pupil, Ollie Barnard, from King Edward VI Grammar School for the Royal Geographical Society's *Young Geographer of the Year* competition in 2012.

Route map



Stopping points

- 5.** The Stone Bridge, High Street
- 2.** The Stone Bridge, High Street
- 3.** Friendship Bridge
- 4.** Town sign, High Street
- 5.** Tindal Square
- 6.** Retail Market, Market Street
- 7.** Anne Knight Building, Duke Street
- 8.** Railway station, Duke Street
- 9.** Marconi statue, Marconi Plaza
- 10.** War memorial, Duke Street
- 11.** Former Britvic House, Broomfield Road
- 12.** King Edward VI Grammar School
- 13.** Lord Ashcroft Building, Anglia Ruskin University
- 14.** Globe House, Hoffmann's Way
- 15.** New Street Works
- 16.** Cathedral, off New Street
- F.** Thomas Hooker plaque, Duke Street

Practical information

Location	Chelmsford, Essex, East of England
Getting there	<p>Train - Chelmsford station is very close to the city centre and features on the walk route (Stop 8). Services run to and from London Liverpool Street, Colchester and Norwich.</p> <p>Bus - There are many local services to Chelmsford city centre. The bus station is on Duke Street opposite the railway station.</p> <p>Car - Easily accessible from the M25 (Junction 28) and A12 linking London and Great Yarmouth. There are over 5,000 city parking spaces (charges apply).</p>
Start point	The Stone Bridge, High Street, CM1 1DE
Directions from railway station to the start	Turn left out of the station onto Duke Street. Continue to the end up to the junction with Tindal Square. Pass behind the statue and go along the pedestrianised High Street. The Stone Bridge is at the end past the town sign and by the Meadows Shopping Centre.
Finish point	Chelmsford Cathedral, CM1 1TY
Distance	2 miles
Level	Gentle - a mostly flat city centre walk.
Conditions	Some pedestrianised streets and busy roads. The city centre can be busy especially at weekends.

Suitable for

Families - There are a couple of major roads to cross so take care with children

Wheelchairs & pushchairs - An entirely step-free route

Dogs - Must be kept on a lead in the city centre

Refreshments

There are plenty of cafés and shops along the route

Facilities

Public toilets are available on Market Street between the Essex County Council offices and the Retail Market (Stop 6)

Other info

Chelmsford Retail Market (Stop 6) is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm

Chelmsford Cathedral (Stops 16 and 17) is open daily

Family friendly activities

Chelmsford Museum tells the story of the city from the Ice Age onwards. There is a café and children's play area plus plenty of family activities including free quizzes, craft days, Christmas and Easter events (Tel: 01245 605700)

Hylands House & Gardens makes an ideal spot for a picnic. The 18th century villa is 3 miles from the railway station and includes a museum, visitor centre and café.

Note that Hylands Park hosts the annual **V Festival** at the end of August so will be closed to the public during this period.

Tourist Information

Chelmsford Travel & Visitor Information Centre is at the Bus Station, 8 Dukes Walk, CM1 1GZ (Tel: 01245 283400)

Directions

These directions are for use with the Chelmsford walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Chelmsford

The Stone Bridge, High Street

Directions 1 - Remain on the Stone Bridge and listen to Track 2.

2. A city symbol

The Stone Bridge, High Street

Directions 2 - Cross the bridge towards the Meadows shopping centre. Continue a short way into the pedestrianised High Street. Take the pedestrianised street to the right called Springfield Road. Head towards a footbridge but then turn right into Backnang Square. After a short distance turn left onto another pedestrian bridge called Friendship Bridge. Stop halfway across when you can read the writing on the handrail and listen to Track 3.

3. Making friends

Friendship Bridge

Directions 3 - Cross over Friendship Bridge then turn left. Use the other bridge to retrace your steps back along Springfield Road. When you reach the High Street stop by the pole with a coat of arms on the top. Look down the road in the opposite direction to the Stone Bridge. Listen to Track 4.

4. The Great Eastern

Town sign, High Street

Directions 4 - Continue along the High Street. At the end turn left into Tindal Square. Stop beside the statue of a man in a chair and listen to Track 5

5. Adultery and witchcraft

Tindal Square

Directions 5 - With your back to the bank building behind the statue, turn left and cross the end of Tindal Street. Continue onto Market Road. Pass a car park entrance on your left then the Essex County Council office on your right. Turn left into the pedestrianised arcade (opposite the entrance to Chelmsford Central Library). Go along the arcade until you reach a seating area on the left. Stop facing the market and listen to Track 6.

6. Trading places

Retail Market, Market Road

Directions 6 - Feel free to explore the market. When you are ready, return to the front of the arcade and retrace your steps to Market Road. Carefully cross Market Road by the library then turn left. Continue under the library terrace, turning right onto Victoria Road South. At the end of the road, cross over at the traffic lights before the mini roundabout. Bear left into Duke Street. Stop at the building opposite the railway station. There is a bench outside if you want to sit down. Listen to Track 7.

7. Knight's crusades

Anne Knight Building, Duke Street

Directions 7 - Look across the road at the railway station and listen to Track 8.

8. Transforming tracks

Railway station, Duke Street

Directions 8 - Continue along Duke Street and under the railway bridge. Turn immediately left before the bus station into Viaduct Road. You can see the arches of the railway viaduct on your left. Follow the viaduct until you see a car park on your right. Go through the bollards and head into a pedestrianised area. Stop by the statue of a man standing on a globe and listen to Track 9.

9. The great communicator

Marconi statue, Marconi Plaza

Directions 9 - Pass the statue and continue over the plaza. Turn right into Fairfield Road. At the end turn left back onto Duke Street and continue past the entrance of the City Council building. Stop by the obelisk outside and listen to Track 10.

10. In memoriam

War memorial, Duke Street

Directions 10 - From the war memorial use the traffic lights to turn into Broomfield Road. Cross over Railway Street . Stop when you reach a large square brown building on the right hand side and listen to Track 11.

11. A growing thirst

Former Britvic House, Broomfield Road

Directions 11 - Continue to the end of Broomfield Road. Cross the first set of traffic lights and stop in the space in the middle of the junction. Look at the large red brick building behind the wall and listen to Track 12.

12. Geography and history lessons

King Edward VI Grammar School

Directions 12 - Cross back over at the traffic lights towards Broomfield Road. Turn left and then bear left into Marconi Road. Take care here of the cycle path. Continue to the end of Marconi Road – on the right hand side is the former Marconi factory. At the end of the road turn left. Continue up to the roundabout. Carefully cross Rectory Lane on the left. With the parade of shops behind you cross over Bishop Hall Lane. Stop facing the modern building with the glass front to listen to Track 13.

13. International exchange

Lord Ashcroft Building, Anglia Ruskin University

Directions 13 - Head towards the bus stop outside the Business School. Continue past it for a short distance then stop by the University sign on the left of the roundabout. Look at the long orange building immediately across the road to the left and listen to Track 14.

14. The Way around the Globe

Globe House, Hoffmann's Way

Directions 14 - Cross over Hoffmann's Way. Continue to the front of Globe House and look out for a blue plaque on the wall. Use the crossing in front of Globe House then turn left. Continue along the right hand side of New Street, crossing Bishop Road and Marconi Road. Stop at the large building with the gates onto the street and white clock tower and listen to Track 15. Note: At the time of creating this was it was partly obscured by boards and scaffolding.

15. The home of radio

New Street Works

Directions 15 - Continue along New Street and go under the railway bridge. Cross Victoria Road then pass the police station and court building. Immediately after Church Street turn right through the gate and into the grounds of Chelmsford Cathedral. Follow the diagonal path to the front of the Cathedral. Look for the a sculpture of a man on the corner wall and listen to Track 16.

16. A community hub

Cathedral, off New Street

Directions 16 - Feel free to go into the Cathedral if it is open. When you are ready, leave through the South Porch for the final stop. Follow the path from the Cathedral to a small building opposite with a curved wall. Find the blue plaque on the wall and listen to Track 17.

17. Endings and beginnings

Thomas Hooker plaque, Duke Street

Directions 17 -The Cathedral grounds are in the centre of the city. Go through the gate and turn left to reach Tindal Square and the High Street. To go to the bus or railway stations, turn right from the gate into Duke Street.



Scenes from around Chelmsford
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route

Anglia Ruskin University

www.anglia.ac.uk

Britvic

www.britvic.co.uk

Chelmsford Cathedral

www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Chelmsford City Council - Visiting Chelmsford

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/visiting-chelmsford

Chelmsford Retail Market

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/market

Chelmsford Museum

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/museums

Chelmsford War Memorial

www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk

Hylands House and grounds

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/hylands

Marconi Calling

www.marconicalling.com

Marconi Development

www.marconiredevelopment.co.uk

Marconi Veterans Association

www.marconi-veterans.org

Visit Essex - Chelmsford

www.visitessex.com/chelmsford

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Walk the World walk:

- **Ollie Barnard** for creating the walk and providing the audio commentary
- **Ollie's parents** and **Dr Stuart Hitch**, Head of Geography and Geology at King Edward VI Grammar School for their valuable time and support
- **Rory Walsh** for creating the walk resources, providing photographs and acting as narrator
- **Jenny Lunn** for editing the walk materials
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
- **Britain From Above, Chelmsford City Museums, Grace's Guide** and **oldukphotos.com** for kind permission to include archive images
- **Stuart Axe, Alastair Bennett, Felix O, Paul Fenner, Robin Lucas, Tigger Snapper, Robin Webster** and **Trevor Wright** for additional images



Ollie Barnard with Rory Walsh of the RGS-IBG
recording the walk commentary in one of the quads at KEGS
Jenny Lunn © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain



Britain's landscapes are wonderful.

There is a tremendous variety within our shores – whether in the countryside, in towns and cities or at the seaside. And every landscape has a story to tell about our past and present.

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