






Long Melford

**This is a lovely route that takes in some beautiful villages in North Essex and the medieval wool town of Long Melford. Its wide, tree lined village street is the country's longest. Both routes have hills that are easy to moderate.**


The route starts  at Long Melford Country Park where there is ample parking. It then takes you out of Suffolk and over the river Stour into Essex, following a quiet lane heading towards the village of Borley.


When you get to the pretty church at Borley you'll find yourself on high ground with lovely views over the Stour Valley back towards Long Melford. Borley Rectory  was made famous by the

Reverend Smith and his wife who had a series of articles published in the Daily Mail in the 1920s telling of its ghostly goings on.


As you cycle out of the village heading towards the picturesque village of Foxearth , the two routes split with the short route taking you past the stone Church of St Peter and St Paul's. The nave dates to around 1350 and the black flint knapped tower was erected in 1862. There are a number of wall paintings inside the church dating from the same period.


The touring route takes you past the entrance to Foxearth Hall. The Domesday survey shows that the small manor of Foxearth Hall had become the property of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, ancestor of the Lords of Clare.

Heading out of Foxearth the touring route heads towards Pentlow. Here you can view the unusual Pentlow Tower  from the road. The tower is a 95ft folly, built in 1859 in the grounds of the Rectory by the Rev. Edward Bull. A plaque above the door states that the tower was built by him in honour of his parents.

The route continues towards Pentlow Street. If you have time why not take a detour to the picturesque and historic village of Cavendish. Just off this route you can also view Pentlow Watermill .

The route then heads towards Liston

and the two routes re-join just before you reach Weston Hall . The route continues alongside the River Stour and past Liston Church before heading into Long Melford.

It is worthwhile taking time to explore Long Melford High Street . There are various historic buildings, galleries, and antique shops. A slight detour will also take you to the stunning Holy Trinity Church, Melford Hall and Kentwell Hall all open to the public.

### REFRESHMENTS

Various cafés and public houses in Long Melford, also public house and tea room in Cavendish.

### TOILETS

Long Melford Country Park.



The Stour

