ESSEX WAY STAGE 9 - BRADFIELD TO RAMSEY (5.7 miles)

START - BRADFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE (Map Ref: TM 144307)

Key

L = left; R = right; TL = turn left; TR = turn right; X = cross over; CONT = continue; THRU = through; ST = stile; WM = waymark; FPS = footpath (or bridleway) sign; FB = footbridge (normally wood); TK = track; RD = road; KG = kissing gate; SA = straight ahead All distances are approximate

- 1 Follow pavement 150M past church to war memorial (on your R).
 - TR, X RD, and follow pavement until it runs out. CONT round R hand bend to FPS at end of newish wooden fence (on your L). TL 30M on narrow dirt TK & THRU KG. CONT 150M SA, in direction of railway bridge, 'til reaching WMs.

 TL directly towards river for 200+M to just before railway line. TR & CONT by railway line to railway bridge. TL under railway bridge & CONT SA 200M directly towards river. Just before WM/ditch TR along field edge. CONT SA to just immediately past old greyish wooden barn.
- **2** CONT **SA** 130M on river foreshore TK (may be slippery/seaweed) to start of **trees**. CONT 50M to **Nature Reserve sign**.

TR and after 25M **TL** onto tarmac TK.

With hedge on L follow TK 200M to tarmac TK Xing.

CONT ahead 200-300M to RH bend & pass WM on L.

CONT 30M slightly uphill to Essex Way badged WM.

- **3** TL 40M down 2 flights of steps to WMs.
 - TL on 2nd TK for 40M, passing WM, on gravelly TK to flat wooden plank 'raft'.

X 'raft' and CONT 30M to climb steps to seawall.

TR and follow seawall 150M to **FPS** (on your R).

- **4 TR** down steps and immediately **TL** at **FPS** through metal barrier. Follow enclosed grass TK 800M **SA** (eventually uphill) to pass bungalow. Facing black barn-like house **TR** 20M and **X** ST to FPS at RD. (2.3 miles)
- 5 TL and follow RD 200M uphill past houses to Wrabness Church. CONT 100M on RD to pass green telecoms box to 'STONE LANE CARAVAN SITE' sign.

TL 500M down gravel lane towards river to end of lane (just before metal gate).

TR and follow field edge 150M (wooden buildings/hedge on L).

Just before wooden gate (SHORE FARM) bear L up to seawall.

TR & CONT 500M on seawall TK, eventually field edge to FB (WM/FPS).

6 X FB and <u>immediately</u> **TL** to follow TK 130M (woods on R) to **WM** as you exit woods. CONT **SA** 250M to **WM** (near house).

Through metal gate, **X** FB. Ahead 40M on dirt TK; Through metal gate & **X** FB. CONT **SA** 700M (woods parallel on **R**) to **X** FB to **RSPB** reserve. **(4.1 miles)**

7 Up steps and SA 25M to TK fork.

Bear L & CONT 200M to X FB.

SA 150M then **bear R** uphill to wooden gate (30m after Nomads' bench).

Pass THRU wooden barrier & X railway bridge.

CONT **SA** ahead 350M on wide gravel TK (ignore side turnings) to pass metal field gate to main RD.

8 TL following RD to just before overhead wires (do **not** X RD before blind corner).

X RD and on to FPS by power pole (circular mirror/metal field gate).

TR and follow TK 275M to pass under power lines.

50M on CONT SA (ignore TK going L).

CONT 130M (pond on L) to L end of facing hedge. (5.2 miles)

9 CONT SA 150M on TK over field and THRU metal KG.

TL and CONT 120M (hedge on L) then THRU metal KG.

CONT 100M towards windmill (TK may be feint if field in crop) and THRU fence gap (metal **swing-barrier**) into paddock.

X paddock diagonally & exit THRU swing-gate (you may have to unbolt).

CONT ahead, same direction, under overhead wires diagonally to field corner. Exit THRU small wooden gate near windmill.

(THIS GATE <u>MUST</u> BE CLOSED AGAIN TO STOP HORSES STRAYING)

10 CONT 100M along field edge (hedge on R/open wooden fence on L) and then TR (wooden fence on L) down narrow enclosed TK to RD at RAMSEY. TL 150M along RD to *'THE CASTLE' pub.

* Map Ref: TM 212305