

¹ Hunter, J, *The Essex Landscape: A study of its form and history*, (Chelmsford: Essex Records Office, 1999), p32
² Wilde, E.E, *Ingatestone and The Essex Great Road with Fryerning*, (London: Humphrey Milford/OUP, 1913), p4

Sarsen stone by Woodcock Lodge, Blackmore Road, Fryerning, Ingatestone, June 2013



From Ingatestone Market Place proceed up via Bakers Lane to Fryerning Lane, turning left and following the road to the green at Fryerning Church Hill following the road on, past the junction with Bag Lane on the left. Follow this road on for 1 mile, past Barn Mead on the left, the one time home of the actress Sarah Miles who was born here, the turning on the right to Beggar Hill, and on to the T-junction with Green Street at Furze Hall Farm. Turn right and proceed on for another mile, passing ancient Mapletree Lane on the right and through Fryerning Wood on the right and Portsmoorhall Wood on the left, out of the parish and into Blackmore. As you do so, on the right, in the ditch before Woodcock Lodge, you pass the fourth sarsen "stone" of Ingatestone.²

"It seems very remote, a mysterious and beautiful tract of country"¹



THE RIDE



Ingatestone Pedallers Social Cycling Group

"WRITTLE FOREST CIRCLE"

CYCLE RIDE



MAPS: OS: Landranger 167 - Chelmsford, Harlow & Bishop's Stortford, Explorer 175 - Southend on Sea & Basildon and 183 - Chelmsford & The Rodings; Sustrans Cycle Maps: Essex & the Thames Estuary Cycle Map
START & FINISH: Ingatestone Market Place, grid ref TQ649994
FURTHEST POINT IN THE RIDE: Blackmore Road and Ingatestone Road junction grid ref TL634038

Saint Mary the Virgin Church, Fryerning



³ Bettley, J & Pevsner, N, *Essex (The Buildings of England)*, (New Haven & London: Yale, 2007), pp141-142
⁴ Crouch, M, *Essex*, (London: Batsford, 1969), p128
⁵ Rackham, O, *Trees & Woodland in the British Landscape*, (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1995), p183 – see also: Rackham, O, *The Last Forest: The Story of Hatfield Forest*, (London: Dent, 1989), pp15-16

"This astonishing survival from the depths of the medieval countryside is within twenty-five miles of St Paul's Cathedral"⁵

Writtle Forest information board at the entrance to Deerlade Wood, Mill Green, Essex, April 2013



Ignoring the turning on the left by the garage and pond to the village centre you now continue on Blackmore Road for some 2+ miles towards Highwood and Chelmsford. The junction past Elkins Green with Spriggs Lane on the left to Norton Heath is known as Polecat Cross, possibly hinting that this animal was once more common around here. Passing Howletts Hall on the right you enter the northern part of Writtle Forest with Parsons Spring on the left and Birch Spring on the right where the footpath from Mill Green Common crosses the road. There is an information board on Writtle Forest at the entrance to the wood here on the right.

"Blackmore had only 12 canons – and they performed a practical function in providing priests to sing mass in the numerous tiny villages scattered about the forest"⁴

At the junction with Mountnessing Road on the left and Hay Green Lane ahead of you, bear right on Ingatestone Road towards Blackmore village, ignoring the lane on the left, as you approach the village, on your left is the house Jericho Priory, the site of which has an historical connection with Henry VIII, and beyond, the remains of the small Augustinian Priory which now forms part of Blackmore Church.³



St Laurence's Church, Blackmore



ROBERT W FLETCHER
 rfletcher189@gmail.com
 Ingatestone, Essex

Published: May 2021 | Design: Silvery Fox Design silveryfox141@gmail.com



⁶ Kemble, J, *Essex Place-Names: Places, Streets and People*, (London: Historical Publications Ltd, 2007), pp45-47
⁷ See: Gunton, T, (Ed.), *Wild Essex*, (Wimbish: Lopinga Books/Essex Wildlife Trust, 2000), p244

On the right, in the car park on the Common, Brentwood Borough Council have erected some information boards on Writtle Forest and the ecology of Mill Green Common.
 Follow the road on through Mill Green to Fryerning and the green once again and back to the High Street thence to your starting point at the Market Place in Ingatestone.

Information board on Mill Green Common, April 2013



"...called Bedeman's Berg ('hill of the man-of-prayer...)"⁶

Cycling through the woods, you pass hidden Moore's Ditch on the left and enter the open part of the Common, passing Mapletree Lane on the right which leads to the Blackmore Road, which you passed earlier, and Monks and Barrows, the former site of a priest in a small hermitage.

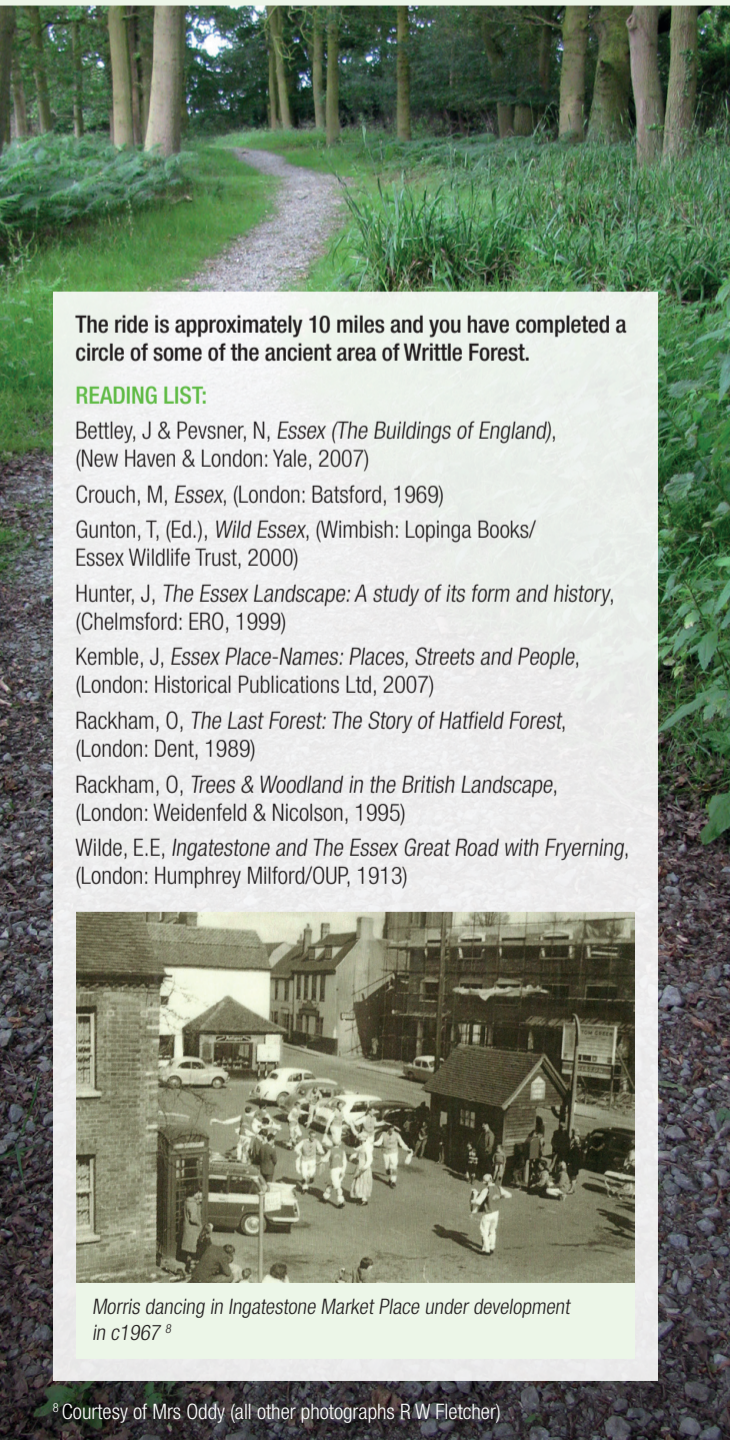
"Ingatestone Pedallers" at The Viper, Mill Green on their first ride on this route, 14 April 2013



On the right the bridleway across the field leads to Deerlade Wood where another notice board on the forest has been erected. Going downhill, you pass the bridleway to Ivy Barn Lane and go uphill to reach The Viper PH on your right and thence through Stoneymore Wood and Mill Green Common.

Passing Barrow Farm Riding School for the Disabled on the right, and Cat and Kittens Cottages on the left you come to the junction with Ingatestone Road on the right where you turn to take you in the direction of Mill Green, Fryerning and Ingatestone. Going past Oddy's wood yard on the right and Cock Lane on the left, you eventually re-enter Ingatestone & Fryerning beyond Highwood Cottage.

Below: Re-surfaced bridleway leading from Ingatestone Road to Ivy Barn Lane, Mill Green, Essex, June 2009



The ride is approximately 10 miles and you have completed a circle of some of the ancient area of Writtle Forest.

READING LIST:




- Bettley, J & Pevsner, N, *Essex (The Buildings of England)*, (New Haven & London: Yale, 2007)
- Crouch, M, *Essex*, (London: Batsford, 1969)
- Gunton, T, (Ed.), *Wild Essex*, (Wimbish: Lopinga Books/Essex Wildlife Trust, 2000)
- Hunter, J, *The Essex Landscape: A study of its form and history*, (Chelmsford: ERO, 1999)
- Kemble, J, *Essex Place-Names: Places, Streets and People*, (London: Historical Publications Ltd, 2007)
- Rackham, O, *The Last Forest: The Story of Hatfield Forest*, (London: Dent, 1989)
- Rackham, O, *Trees & Woodland in the British Landscape*, (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1995)
- Wilde, E.E, *Ingatestone and The Essex Great Road with Fryerning*, (London: Humphrey Milford/OUP, 1913)



Morris dancing in Ingatestone Market Place under development in c1967⁸

⁸ Courtesy of Mrs Oddy (all other photographs R W Fletcher)

"WRITTLE FOREST CIRCLE" CYCLE RIDE

-  Cycle route
-  Landmark / place of interest
-  Public house

