

1 Halstead Flood Alleviation Scheme

The flood storage embankment, built by the Environment Agency in 2005, will protect Halstead against floods that, based on past experience, will occur on average up to once every 75 years. Until its construction Halstead had no effective flood defences and the town has flooded on a number of occasions. It works by using automatic gates to hold back excess flood waters that would otherwise flow through and flood the town.

2 Sculpture

This was commissioned by Colchester Museums and created by Gary Thrussell, a sculptor with local connections. It was unveiled in 2005 and takes its inspiration from the plants and animals found along this stretch of the River Colne.



3 Townsford Mill

In the heart of Halstead town, the elegant white wooden facade of Townsford Mill has long been a major feature. The nucleus of Courtaulds' activities, Townsford Mill's three storey white weatherboarded frontage has impressive bands of continuous windows on two floors beside the waters of the Colne. It was erected in the 18th century (circa 1740) but ceased to be a mill when Courtaulds pulled out in 1982. The nearby gatehouse, with its conical roof and half timbered walls, still stands at the entrance to the Mill. Today

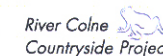
Townsford Mill is an antiques centre. There is a large restaurant on the ground floor. The Mill House, originally the Courtaulds Mill Manager's home, now houses the Town Council offices and a small museum (telephone 01787 476480 for opening times)

4 Nether Court Public Open Space

This area of open space has been created for residents and the general public as part of the development of Nether Court. It is managed for walkers with paths cut regularly, whilst the meadows are cut annually to maximise their wildlife value. The open space contains a number of habitats including wildflower meadows, scrub, woodland and hedgerows, which allow a wide variety of species to flourish and walkers can expect to see a range of birds, butterflies and wild flowers. Areas of dense vegetation are left next to the river to provide habitat for some of our rarer species, such as the otter, kingfisher and water vole, whilst other areas will be cut to encourage wild flowers. The path continues on into open countryside.

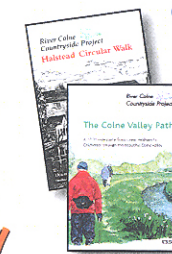


Halstead River Walk



Halstead River Walk

The Colne Valley Path stretches from Great Yeldham to Colchester, passing through Halstead. You can extend the Halstead River Walk by following the **Colne Valley Path** or the **Halstead Circular Walk**.



Copies of the Colne Valley Path guide and the Halstead Circular Walk leaflet can be obtained from Braintree District Council, Landscape Services (tel: 01376 551414), from Halstead Library or the Town Council Offices.

