CHOOSE how You MOVE

Colchester City Council | colchester.gov.uk/travel-choices

Choose How You Move

Your Guide to Sustainable Travel Choices in Colchester

Colchester is a well-connected city, making it easy to travel in ways that suit everyday life. Many regular journeys (such as commuting, getting to school, shopping, or heading out for leisure) are short and well served by a mix of walking routes, cycling options and public transport. With buses, trains, Park & Ride, eBike hire, pay-as-you-go Car Club cars and car share schemes all available locally, residents can choose the option that works best for each trip without relying on owning a car.

These flexible travel choices can offer real benefits. Walking and cycling help build activity into daily routines, public transport takes the stress out of driving and parking, and using a Car Club provides convenient access to a car only when it's needed. Mixing different modes of travel can significantly reduce your transport costs. By comparison, owning a car (or a second car) can be expensive, with ongoing costs like insurance, fuel, maintenance and depreciation, even when the car is parked and not being used.

By making the most of Colchester's sustainable travel choices, including pay-as-you-go driving, many residents find they can get where they need to go comfortably and affordably, while reducing or avoiding the need for full-time car ownership.

Stay Informed

Keep up to date with local sustainable travel choices, tips, offers and projects by signing up to the 'Choose How You Move' newsletter.

Colchester Castle Summer Series and @gjheming

Contents

Walking in Colchester Healthy journeys, every step of the way 3
Walk Colchester Discover walking routes that work for everyone... 3
Keep an eye out for Wayfinding routes around Colchester..... 3
Visit Colchester 3

Cycling Made Easy Your journey, your pace, your power..... 4
Hire eBikes and eCargo bikes..... 4
On-Street Bike Hire 4

Public Transport Ride smart, let public transport move you 5
Buses 5
Park and Ride Skip the stress and cost of city parking 5
Trains 5

Ditch the cost of car ownership 6
Car Club Pay-as-you-go Electric car hire 6
Car Share Share the ride, split the cost 6
LOVE UR CAR Make your journeys even more convenient 6

Heavy items? No hassle. Just book an eCargo bike. 7
Fast, simple, car-free deliveries...... 7
Residents can now book Colchester eCargo bike collections and deliveries using the GoCargo App..... 7

Resources and Links..... 8

Colchester's local places and events are closer than you think – every location shown can be reached easily using sustainable travel options like walking, cycling and public transport.

Colchester Castle, St Nicholas Square, High Street Markets and statue of Twinkle Little Star Poet Jane Taylor with sister Ann, Highwoods Country Park, The Moot Hall, Castle Summer Series live music, Firstsite Arts and Exhibitions, St Botolph's Priory, Enlightened Light Trail.

Walking in Colchester

Healthy journeys, every step of the way

Walking is the most sustainable way to travel - keeping you active, with a reliable journey time that you can control.

Colchester has a growing network of routes connecting key destinations across the city, making walking easy to fit into everyday life and providing opportunities to integrate green spaces that support health and wellbeing.

Whether commuting, exploring with friends and family, or taking a break at work, a simple walk can boost both body and mind.

Walk Colchester

Discover walking routes that work for everyone

Walk Colchester is your dedicated walking resource, championing walking as a normal, practical and enjoyable way to get around the city and nearby green spaces. The newly relaunched website, developed in collaboration with Walk Colchester and Colchester City Council, acts as a one-stop shop for everyday practical journeys, leisure routes and longer walks.

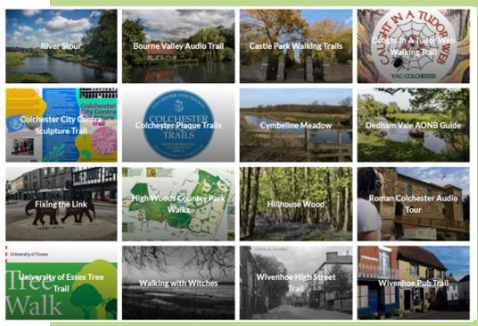
Backed by local knowledge and strong community partnerships, Walk Colchester supports people of all abilities to walk with confidence, improve access to green spaces, and make walking a simple, healthy part of everyday life.

Keep an eye out for Wayfinding routes around Colchester

Fixing the Link - from Colchester Station to the city centre

Walk With Words - from the city centre to Greenstead.

Colchester Station to the Hospital – promoting walking as a convenient, healthy and sustainable travel option for visitors to the hospital



Visit Colchester

An afternoon stroll is a great way to explore Colchester's history and scenery. The city and surrounding countryside offer a wide range of walks, from short historic routes to longer countryside paths, making it easy to find the perfect walk for you.

Cycling Made Easy

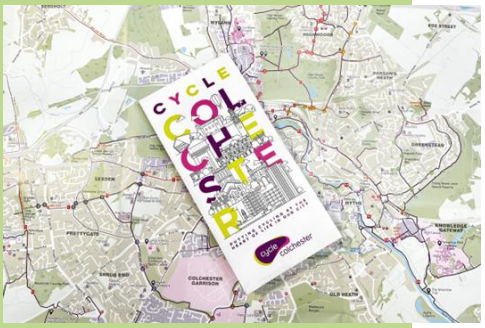
Your journey, your pace, your power.

Cycling is a highly sustainable way to travel, offering reliable journey times while keeping you active and avoiding congestion!

Cycle Colchester - Our dedicated cycling resource

Cycle Colchester champions cycling as a normal, practical way to travel, backed by local knowledge, support and a strong network of riders who help keep Colchester moving by bike.

New cyclists will find clear route maps, journey planning tools, confidence-building advice and information on training and bike More experienced riders can explore quieter routes, National Cycle Network links (NCN1, NCN13, NCN51 run through Colchester) for longer leisure rides and local updates that support regular commuting and weekend cycling.



Paper copies of the new Colchester cycle map (released late 2025) are available to collect free of charge from the **Colchester Visitor Information Centre** (inside Hollytrees Museum in the Castle Park), bike shops, the Town Hall, Leisure World, and various local cafés and community centres

Hire eBikes and eCargo bikes

An electric cargo bike, often called an eCargo bike, is an electric bike with purpose-built cargo carrying capacity. The bikes come in different shapes and sizes to suit whatever is being transported from children to shopping, to heavy parcels and cargo.

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On-Street Bike Hire

Dott eBikes Designed for convenient on-street pick-up and drop-off, Dott eBikes are available across the city and can be hired by the minute using the Dott app.

Public Transport

Ride smart, let public transport move you

Buses

First Bus and Arriva operate the majority of bus services into Colchester, with Central Connect also providing several frequent routes. All three bus companies offer apps for real-time updates, timetables and service information.

There is a wide range of ticket options available, including multi-operator and discounted tickets such as **Tap & Cap**, and the **Colchester Borough Card**, offering savings for regular local travel. *Family and group tickets are also available on many services.*

Planning your journey is simple with the **Travel Essex Journey Planner** or by downloading the **Travel Essex app**.

Plus, you can save up to **15% on season tickets** if your employer becomes a member of **Colchester Travel Plan Club**.

Park and Ride

Skip the stress and cost of city parking

Colchester Park and Ride offers a quick and comfortable route into the city centre from the Park and Ride site beside the A12 at Junction 28. Using priority bus lanes for much of the route, Park and Ride buses can avoid congestion and provide one of the most efficient ways to travel into the city. A daily ticket allows unlimited travel, with stops at the hospital, train station and Middleborough, as well as the city centre.

P & R Buses run approximately every **15-20 minutes between 6:40am-7:20pm, Monday-Saturday.**

Trains

For longer distances, rail is great travel option allowing you to read or use the free on-board Wi-Fi during your trip. There are three train stations serving the city: Colchester, Colchester Town, and Hythe.

Greater Anglia operates all services from Colchester with fast and frequent trains to Norwich, Ipswich, Clacton, Chelmsford and London (Stratford and Liverpool Street). Choosing rail also allows you to add Plusbus to your rail ticket which includes local buses at a discount to several destinations on the route.

Ditch the cost of car ownership

Pay-as-you-go driving

Car Club

Enterprise Car Club provides 24/7 on-street access to pay-as-you-go electric cars, giving you the convenience of a car only when you need one. Use the app to quickly find, book and unlock a vehicle, paying by the hour for personal or business trips.

All costs, insurance, tax, charging and maintenance, are included so there are no unexpected bills or long-term commitments.

Car Club cars are ideal for occasional journeys, larger shopping trips or days out, helping many residents avoid owning a car or reduce the need for a second vehicle, while still enjoying the flexibility of driving when it suits them.

Car Share

Share the ride, split the cost

Car sharing doesn't just cut traffic — **it could save you over £1,000 a year** on your commuting costs.

You can sign up for Essex Car Share to connect with car sharing partners or post a request on your work noticeboard.

LOVE UR CAR

Make your journeys even more convenient

The Colchester LOVE UR CAR scheme offers preferential parking spaces in select car parks for car sharers, giving you easy access in and out of the car park.

Heavy items? No hassle.

Just book an eCargo bike.

Fast, simple, car-free deliveries.

Residents can now book Colchester eCargo bike collections and deliveries using the GoCargo App.

Green, clean and eco-friendly

Whether you're furnishing a new home, picking up a bulky purchase, or supporting a local retailer, Colchester eCargo bike deliveries offer a smarter, greener choice

With just a few taps, GoCargo lets you arrange convenient, low-carbon collections and deliveries using electric cargo bikes designed to carry large and heavy items safely around the city.

eCargo bike deliveries are ideal for:

- Furniture, homeware and DIY items
- Shopping from local shops and suppliers
- Items bought through online marketplaces
- Click-and-collect orders that are awkward to carry by hand

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Jumbo Water Tower and The Mercury Theatre, Culver Square Shopping Centre, Heart of Greenstead, St Nicholas Square

In Colchester, walking, cycling and public transport are the natural choice to move around, making every location shown easy to reach.

Resources and Links

Walking

Walk Colchester - https://www.walkcolchester.org.uk/
Visit Colchester - https://www.visitcolchester.com/things-to-do/walking-and-cycling/walking/

Cycling

Cycle Colchester - https://cyclecolchester.co.uk/
Cycle Hire - https://cyclecolchester.co.uk/bike-hire/
On Street Bike Hire - https://ridedott.com/

Public Transport

Buses - https://colchestertravelplan.club/travel-options/#:~:text=Hire%20%2D%20Cycle%20Colchester-,BUSES,-Ride%20smart%20and
Park and Ride - https://colchestertravelplan.club/travel-options/#:~:text=travel%20carbon%20calculator-,PARK%20AND%20RIDE,-Skip%20the%20stress
Trains - https://colchestertravelplan.club/travel-options/#:~:text=Powered%20by-,TRAINS,-Ride%20smart%20and
Travel Essex - https://www.travelessex.co.uk/

Pay-as-you-go driving

Car Club - https://www.new.colchester.gov.uk/sustainability/choose-how-you-move/car-club-evs-and-driving
Car Share - https://www.new.colchester.gov.uk/sustainability/choose-how-you-move/car-club-evs-and-driving
LOVE UR CAR - https://www.new.colchester.gov.uk/parking-and-travel/loveurcar-colchester/loveurcar-luc-colchester-car-sharing-scheme

Heavy items? No hassle. Just book an eCargo bike.

Colchester eCargo - ecargobikecolchester.com
GoCargo App. - ecargobikecolchester.com