

LAWFORD

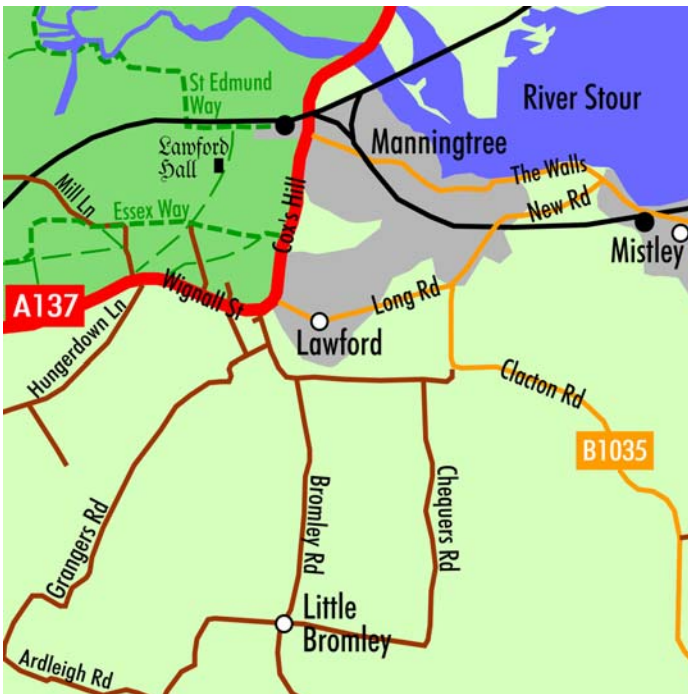
Only a small part of Lawford is included in the AONB, at its south-eastern extremity, much of the remainder of the village having been built-over by a succession of developers in the last forty years. But despite its diminutive size it contains a number of interesting buildings set amidst sharply undulating countryside.

St. Mary's church, built in the fourteenth century, has a spectacular chancel and occupies an elevated position overlooking the Stour estuary.

Nearby stands Lawford Hall, built in the 1580s in timber-frame on a H-shaped plan, but two-hundred years later, refronted in brick at a time when, in common with many other timber houses in the area, and in particular, Dedham, Georgian facades were added. A most elegant building.



St. Mary's Church



The village of Lawford lies on the edge of the Dedham Vale AONB which is marked green

The Essex Way provides walkers with excellent views of the Vale towards Stratford, Dedham and East Bergholt as it threads its way along the southern ridge, overlooking the river, the footpath passing close to the Hall before wending its way through close to the churchyard and eastwards to Manningtree and its urban environs. Several other buildings are also worthy of note among them a sprinkling of cottages and a watermill one of a very few in Essex to be powered by an overshot wheel.

At one time this tiny area also had three pubs, a post-office, a village shop and a forge. One public house is the sole survivor.