



# Local Area Guide

for health and social care international recruits



*A place to  
call home.*

Basildon and  
Wickford



## About this Guide

This guide is intended to provide an overview of the local area to include guidance on travel distances, potential areas in which to live, tips for finding accommodation and contact details for local letting agents. Should you require any further assistance please speak to your employer who will be able to provide you further information.

Nestled in the heart of Essex, **Basildon** and **Wickford** blend modern living with rich history. Basildon, with its vibrant town centre and lush parks offers a bustling lifestyle, while Wickford, with its charming market town atmosphere provides a serene retreat. Both towns boast excellent transport links to London, making them ideal for those seeking a balance of urban and suburban living.



### About Basildon and Wickford

- Basildon and Wickford are vibrant towns located in Essex, southeast England.
- They are known for their mix of urban amenities and green spaces, offering a balance of lively town life and peaceful countryside.
- Basildon, located around 32 miles (51 km) east of London, is well-connected to the capital, making it ideal for commuters.
- Wickford, a smaller market town, is known for its historical charm and is approximately 30 miles (48 km) from London.

## Getting around

### By bus

- Both towns have extensive local bus networks, connecting to various parts of Essex and surrounding areas.
- First Essex and Arriva are the main bus operators. For routes and timetables, visit [firstbus.co.uk/essex](http://firstbus.co.uk/essex) and [arrivabus.co.uk](http://arrivabus.co.uk)
- The Basildon Bus Station, centrally located, is a hub for many routes.

### By rail

- Rail services are primarily operated by c2c and Greater Anglia. For schedules and tickets, visit [c2c-online.co.uk](http://c2c-online.co.uk) and [greateranglia.co.uk](http://greateranglia.co.uk)
- Basildon Railway Station: Situated in the heart of Basildon, offers direct services to London Fenchurch Street (approx. 35-40 minutes).
- Wickford Railway Station: Provides services to London Liverpool Street (approx. 40 minutes) and Southend (approx. 30 minutes).

## Wickford



## Finding accommodation

When renting property, UK law says that landlords must check that you are who you say you are and that you are allowed to live in the UK. More information on proving your right to rent property can be found at [gov.uk/prove-right-to-rent](https://www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-rent).

### Useful tips

When considering a new home, it's crucial to think about your preferred location. Deciding on an area simplifies the search. Consider proximity to your workplace and essential amenities like shops, gyms, supermarkets, churches, childcare facilities, schools, and parks. Research public transport availability, including the frequency, cost, and travel times of bus services, as well as the location of train and bus stations. Remember, rural areas often have less public transport than major cities or towns. Communities 1st has developed a Top Tip Guide for finding Accommodation in the UK

Be aware that some landlords offer "all inclusive" rent, which might cover some of these costs. It's important to understand exactly what is included in the rent before committing to a property.

Before moving into a rental property, you will typically need to pay the first month's rent in advance, a tenancy deposit, and possibly a holding deposit if you're renting through a letting agent. For advice on paying bills visit: [www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/homes/renting](https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/homes/renting)

### Rental cost guide (£pcm)

Bedrooms	Basildon	Wickford
Studio	£950	£750
1 Bed	£1,100	£950
2 Bed	£1,400	£1,250
3 Bed	£1,700	£1,500

### Local letting/estate agents

- Abbotts Lettings
- Bairstow Eves
- Cowling & Payne
- OpenRent
- 100 Key Properties

### Agent portals

- homestay.com
- onthemarket.com
- rightmove.co.uk
- zoopla.co.uk

## Basildon



## Key

- Train station
- Supermarket
- Library
- Bus station
- Bus stop
- Medical centre
- Police station
- Council offices

# Basildon and Wickford



## Local NHS services and facilities

**GP Practices:** Both Basildon and Wickford have several GP practices serving local communities. For finding a local GP, visit [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)

**Walk-in Centres and Minor Injury Units:** For non-emergency care, there are various centres in and around Basildon and Wickford.

**Basildon University Hospital:** A large hospital providing a range of acute medical services. Located in Basildon, it's about a 10-minute drive from the town centre.

**St. Andrew's Centre:** Located in Billericay, close to Wickford, this centre offers mental health services.

**Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust:** Provides community health, mental health, and social care services in the area.

## Useful contacts

NHS	111 or in an emergency <b>999</b>
Essex Police	101 or in an emergency <b>999</b>
Essex County Council	<b>0345 743 0430</b>
Citizens Advice Essex	<b>0808 278 7877</b>

## Who are Communities 1st?



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[communities1st.org.uk](https://www.communities1st.org.uk)

Communities 1st is committed to offering rounded pastoral support for international health and social care recruits transitioning to life in the UK. Our comprehensive service, delivered through a combination of dedicated staff and enthusiastic volunteer buddies, focuses on individualised 1:1 support and a range of group activities, ensuring a smooth integration into the UK lifestyle.

Don't miss the opportunity to benefit from our well-structured and holistic programmes. Reach out to us today to find out how we can collaborate to create a positive and seamless transition for your recruits.

### For more information

Visit: [www.communities1st.org.uk](https://www.communities1st.org.uk)  
Email: [buddy@communities1st.org.uk](mailto:buddy@communities1st.org.uk)  
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