

## Finlay's Burning Oxen Ride

Total Distance: **45.3 miles**

Elevation Gain: **2857 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **2857 ft / 45.3 mi = 63.07 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Hilly**

Killer Hills: **Several very hilly sections**

Geographical Region: **South Central Connecticut**

City/Town: **Essex**

Starting Location: **Route 9 Exit 3 CPL (Route 154) in Essex; CPL is on Route 154 just east of the intersection with Route 153**

Ride Description: **This interesting but hilly ride uses mostly country roads as it visits the towns of Westbrook, Killingworth and Haddam en route to the suggested lunch/snack stop (bring) at Haddam Meadows State Park. Many historical points of interest are noted along the way (some are mentioned on the route sheet) and after the break the route takes you past Cedar Lake into Chester and Deep River villages before dropping down to Essex near the end of the ride. You need to be in excellent condition to be able to fully enjoy this challenging ride.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

<b>Mile</b>	<b>Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i></b>
0.8	<i>Centerbrook section of Essex</i>
2.1	<i>Ivoryton section of Essex</i>
24.7	<i>Haddam Meadows State Park: a good spot for a lunch/snack break (no place to purchase), views of the Connecticut River, portable toilets</i>
35.9+	Chester village with various shops
37.7+	Deep River village, grocery store
39.8	<i>Start 4-mile scenic ride along the Connecticut River</i>
43.7	Begin Essex business district, convenience store and several eateries
43.8	Public bathrooms in small park beside the post office and NewAlliance Bank on the right
44.0	Ice cream parlor on the left just before reaching the Connecticut River
44.1	<i>Connecticut River Museum, Essex town dock and boat launch (river views)</i>

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