

Teynham to Faversham		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
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Teynham to Faversham

Start: Teynham Station

Finish: Faversham Station

Teynham Station, map reference TQ 957 631, is 68 km south east of Charing Cross and 11m above sea level. Faversham Station, map reference TR 016 609, is 6 km south east of Teynham and 17m above sea level. Both are in **East Kent**.

Length: 24.7 km (15.4 mi), of which 5.8 km (3.6 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

Cumulative ascent/descent: 153/147m.

For a shorter or longer walk, see *below* **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 3 out of 10

Time: 5 ½ hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9 hours.

Transport: Teynham station is on the London Victoria to Dover Priory Chatham Main Line. Journey time is 70 minutes Mondays to Saturdays and 88 minutes on Sundays (shorter if utilising the High-Speed service from St. Pancras), with an hourly service all week. Return trains from Faversham are two an hour to Victoria and one or two to St. Pancras (from 66 to 94 minutes journey time). Buy a Faversham return.

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train closest to 9.00 hours, or a later one if taking one of the early morning shortcuts.

OS Landranger Map: 178 (Thames Estuary)

OS Explorer Map: 149 (Sittingbourne & Faversham)

Walk Notes:

This is a flat walk leading initially through 'The Larder of London', or the 'Fruit Bowl of England', the area around Teynham, not only the home of English cherries, but also with plentiful orchards of apples, pears, plums, strawberries and raspberries, as well as foraging opportunities for cherry plums, elderberries and blackberries. The area also used to be a large exporter of timber, grain and oysters. The local brick earth and chalk make the area fertile for fruit, but also were the foundation for the many brickfields in Teynham, Conyer and Faversham, remnants of which are passed en route. The bricks were an important source in London's Victorian building boom, and were transported to London by the famous sailing barges, ruined remnants of which can be seen on the walk's Conyer Creek option and along Faversham Creek.

From Conyer you follow the Saxon Shore Way along The River Swale, a tidal channel between mainland Kent and the Isle of Sheppey, and then along some creeks, with mudflats, salt marshes and fishing boats on the one side and the stark but beautiful landscape of drainage ditches and dykes, fertile meadows and windswept grazing marshes on the other, an unspoilt and tranquil haven for walkers, livestock and wildlife alike. Oare Marshes NR, passed late in the afternoon, is an internationally important birdlife sanctuary. You finish in Faversham's bustling streets past the stunning Market Place and its many cafés and eateries. Plentiful options enable walk lengths from as short as 13.6 km/8.4 mi to as long as 29.2 km/18.1 mi.

Walk Options:

A couple of **Early Morning Shortcuts** cut out the southerly loop through fields, woods and orchards. They cut 8.3 km/5.1 mi or 7.5 km/4.7 mi respectively.

A **Mid-Morning Shortcut** cuts out 3.1 km/1.9 mi and some of the loop through fields, woods and orchards.

A **Morning Extension**, through more orchards and up a hillock or two, adds 2.2 km/1.3 mi.

An **Afternoon Shortcut** takes a more direct route into Faversham from Oare (entirely on tarmac though). It cuts 2.7 km/1.7 mi.

An **Afternoon Extension**, along Faversham Creek rather than through Ham Marshes, adds 1.6 km/1.0 mi.

Buses 8/344/345/662/664 (Mon-Sat) link Teynham and Sittingbourne stations to Lynsted and Conyer (the recommended lunch stop) for a start (or finish) there.

Bus line 333 (Maidstone – Teynham – Faversham) travels along the A2 and enables a start or finish at the A2 London Road/Lewson Street junction, a little off route.

Bus line 3/X3 from Oare links to Faversham station (Mon-Sat, but on Sat last at 14.10).

Circular Walks from Faversham are possible due to a choice of routes from the seawall to Oare and then again from Oare to Faversham.

Lunch (details last updated 14/11/2024)

The Black Lion The Street, Lynsted, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9JJ (01795 521 229,

<https://blacklionlynsted.co.uk/>). The Black Lion is located 150m off route of the main walk, along the morning extension, 3.4 km (2.1 mi) into the walk. Open from 16.00 on Tue and from noon Wed-Sun. Food served 18.00-20.30 Tue, 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-20.30 Wed-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

The Plough Inn Lewson Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9JJ (01795 521 348,

<http://www.ploughinnlewsonst.co.uk/>). The Plough is located 6.1 km (3.8 mi) into the walk, and 8.1 km/5.0 mi if taking the morning extension. Open 12.00-15.30 and 17.30-21.30 Thu-Sat and 12.00-18.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 17.30-20.30 Thu-Sat and 12.00-16.30 Sun.

The Ship Inn at Conyer The Quay, Conyer, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9HR (01795 720 768,

<https://www.theshipinnconyerquay.co.uk/>). The Ship is located 10.3 km (6.4 mi) into the walk, and 12.4 km (7.7 mi) if taking the morning extension. Open all day Wed-Sun. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 17.30-20.30 Wed-Sat and 12.00-17.00 Sun.

The Three Mariners at Oare 2 Church Road, Oare, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0QA (01795 533 633,

<https://www.threemarinersoare.co.uk/>). The Mariners is located 19.6 km (12.2 mi) into the walk, and 11-12 km if taking one of the early morning shortcuts. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.00 Tue, all day Wed-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

The Castle Inn 2 The Street, Oare, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0PY (01795 533 674,

<https://www.castleoarefaversham.co.uk/>). The Castle is located 19.5 km (12.1 mi) into the walk, and 11-12 km if taking one of the early morning shortcuts. Open all day Tue-Sun.

Tea (details last updated 14/11/2024)

The Three Mariners at Oare As above. The Mariners is located 5.3 km (3.3 mi) from the end of the walk, and 2.6 km if taking the afternoon shortcut.

The Castle Inn As above. The Castle is located 5.2 km (3.2 mi) from the end of the walk, and 2.5 km if taking the afternoon shortcut.

The Café by the Creek Oare Road, The Boatyard, Oare, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7UA (01795 537 985,

<https://www.thecafebythecreek.co.uk/>). The Café is located 19.6 km (12.1 mi) into the walk, and 11-12 km if taking one of the early morning shortcuts. Open 10.00-16.00 every day (-15.00 outside of BST).

The Shipwright's Arms at Hollowshore Hollowshore, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7TU (01795 590 088,

<http://www.theshipwrightsathollowshore.co.uk/>). The Shipwright's is located 3.8 km (2.3 mi) from the end of the walk. Open all day Wed-Sun. Food served 12.00-14.00 Wed-Thu, 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-20.00 Fri-Sat (-15.00 Sat) and 12.00-15.00 Sun.

The Albion Taverna Front Brents, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7DH (01795 591 411,

<http://www.albiontaverna.com/>). The Albion is located 1.3 km from the end of the walk. Open all day. Food served all day.

The Bull Inn 1 Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JL (01795 534 740,

<http://www.bullinnfaversham.co.uk/>). The Bull is located 1.0 km from the end of the walk. Open 16.00-22.00 Mon-Wed, 13.00-22.00 Thu-Sat and 13.00-17.00 Sun.

And in Faversham's Centre: **The Sun Inn**, **Refinery** café and bar, **Leo Lounge**, **The Bear Inn**, **Vino** (Wine Shop, Tastings & Food), **Café Guild**, **Havishams Coffee House**, **Fays Place Café**, **Castella**, **Furlongs Ale House**, **Cosgroves** café, **Old Wine Vaults**, **Jittermugs** coffee shop, wine & tapas bar, **The Leading Light** (Wetherspoon's), **Moonlight Café**, **The Creeker's Tap**, **The Limes** pub, **Railway Hotel** pub, **The Carriage** restaurant.

Notes:

Teynham

Tenham, a Saxon settlement, is still pronounced Ten-am, despite the 17th century addition of a 'y'. The southern part of the parish is mainly devoted to agriculture, the principal crops being corn and hops with the produce of some famous orchards. Near the Swale is a large tract of land known as the Teynham Levels. This is devoted solely to the raising of sheep and cattle. At one time these marshes were not properly drained, and malaria was prevalent within the parish. So many residents got the disease that Teynham became known as an unhealthy place. The draining of the marshes eradicated this by 1953. The disease threatens a return to the Swale marshes though, with dry habitats such as vacant pill boxes allowing over-wintering for vector species, however few carriers frequently come to the area and gradually derelict structures are being removed.

Swale Heritage Trail

The SHT is a 19.1 km (11.9 mi) waymarked flat walk across the Swale district on minor roads and field and orchard paths.

Saxon Shore Way

The SSW is a 263 Km (163 mi) waymarked linear Long Distance Path from Gravesend to Hastings along the Thames and Medway estuaries and via the White Cliffs of Dover. It follows Kent's ancient coastline, as it was in Roman times, which in many places is now kilometres inland.

The Swale

The Swale is a strip of sea separating mainland Kent from the Isle of Sheppey in the Thames Estuary. It was originally part of a river valley facing eastwards. [The name "Swale" is Old English in origin, and is believed to mean "swirling, rushing river", or "rushing water".] Prior to the formation of the Channel in about 6,500 BC, the eastern coast extended much further into the area of the present-day North Sea, and the Isle of Sheppey formed part of mainland Britain. The channel now occupied by the Swale comprised a river valley facing eastwards. As sea-levels rose, water occupied the whole length of the valley, dividing today's Isle of Sheppey from the mainland. When the Romans arrived in Britain, the Swale extended much wider than today, with one part of the Isle of Sheppey – now called the Isle of Harty – a separate island. The Swale forms both a National Nature Reserve and a Special Protection Area. Since 1968, it has also been a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Oare Marshes (Local) Nature Reserve

Oare Marshes Nature Reserve is located on the south bank of The Swale at Harty Ferry and managed by Kent Wildlife Trust. It consists of over 81 hectares (170 acres) of grazing marsh with fresh brackish water dykes, open water 'scrapes', and bounded by an earth seawall and some salt marsh. The well-sheltered marshland and mudflats of Oare Marshes provide a superb habitat and attract many migrating birds, and the reserve is of international importance for migratory, overwintering and breeding wetland birds. Suitable habitat is achieved through manipulation of water levels and livestock grazing. The land, which is now known for its tranquil remoteness, was used from 1787 until 1916 for the manufacture of gunpowder and the remains of its jetty are still visible. The Harty Ferry to Sheppey previously operated from near the wild-life lookout point on the reserve. Oare Marshes are part of The Swale SSSI.

Faversham

There has been a settlement at Faversham since pre-Roman times, next to the ancient sea port on Faversham Creek, and archaeological evidence has shown a Roman theatre was based in the town. It was inhabited by the Saxons and mentioned in the Domesday book as *Favreshant*. [The Faversham name is of Latin via Old English origin, meaning "the metal-worker's village".] Geographically, Faversham sits at a boundary between marshland to the north and a mixture of brick earth, gravel and chalk to the south which leads into the North Downs. The town was favoured by King Stephen who established Faversham Abbey in 1148. Subsequently, the town became an important seaport and established itself as a centre for brewing, and the Shepherd Neame Brewery, founded in 1698, remains a significant major employer (tours can be booked on their website). The town was also the centre of the explosives industry between the 17th and early 20th century, before a decline following an accident in 1916 which killed over 100 workers. Later accounts suggested that had the incident not happened on a Sunday, there would have been many more casualties. All three gunpowder factories closed in 1934 due to the impending threat of WW II. Faversham Market has been established for over 900 years and is the oldest street market in Kent and still based in the town centre. The UK's third-highest ever temperature (as of 2024), at 38.5 °C (101.3 °F), was recorded in Faversham on 10 August 2003.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train at **Teynham Station** on platform 2 and exit at the front of the platform through a metal gate and along a narrow path to a tarmac lane with the level crossing on the right.

Here you have a choice:

For the two Early-Morning Shortcuts, *turn left* along the lane and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Early-Morning Shortcuts**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* across the level crossing and in 35m cross a road at a T-junction and *turn left* along its pavement through Teynham village. In 160m ignore a right turning footpath along **Trigg's Row**, in 35m ignore the left turning **Conyer Road** and in 40m ignore **French's Row** on the right. Continue along the road, now without a pavement, and in 40m *turn right* by a footpath signpost on the right through a gap into an arable field and along its right-hand grassy boundary (to the left of a hedge, 175°), ignoring a car wide gravel farm track on the hard right. You have a lightly wooded hillock on the left across the field (walked through later) and in 250m in the field corner go through a hedge gap by footpath marker post into a neighbouring large arable field. *Bear right* gently uphill through the field (250°) along a usually well-cleared path, aiming for a point to the right of a lone poplar tree and to the left of other large trees.

In 175m at the brow of the rise you can identify the exit from the field: a gap in the boundary growth at the corner of a wooded strip another 140m away. *Bear left* through the gap and continue along a grassy path with the wood on the right and a paddock on the left. In 150m pass a marker post and continue in the same direction along a tarmac drive and in 40m reach the **A2** at a T-junction. [The A2 follows the line of **Watling Street**, an ancient Romano-British paved trackway. It linked London to Canterbury and several Channel ports. Spot the milestone on the right under an overhanging bush (London 43 mi, Canterbury 12 mi).] Cross the road and continue in the same direction along **Cellar Hill** (road) through Cellarhill hamlet for about 500m, with a left-hand pavement for part of it. Where the road turns left, you *turn right* along a signposted footpath along a narrow path with some trees on the right.

[But for the **Mid-Morning Shortcut**, you *turn left* with the lane and in 50m, where the lane turns right, continue in the same direction along a signposted footpath between trees. In 60m emerge in an arable field corner where the Main Walk joins from the right. Continue in the same direction and pick up the directions below at the asterisk *).]

In 30m go through a metal kissing gate into a pasture and follow the left-hand boundary fence with a formerly majestic row of poplars ahead (most of the trees have been shortened). In 160m curve to the left with the fence and in another 75m go through a metal kissing gate and cross a tarmac lane and continue in the same direction with a marker stone along a grassy path. In 40m you emerge into a large arable field and cross it diagonally towards its far right corner along a usually clear path (250°, slightly to the left of a couple of red roof tops). In 300m leave the field through a hedge gap and follow a narrow path to a tarmac lane. *Turn left* along **Lynsted Lane** through **Bogle** hamlet. In 60m *turn right* along an easily-missed signposted footpath, a concreted path with a wire garden fence on the right and a hedge on the left, with an apple orchard behind. In 50m continue in the same direction at the corner of the fence on the right, now with orchards on both sides (pears on the right, apples on the left).

In 150m at a crosspaths of tracks through the orchards, *turn left* off the concrete path and away from the row of birch trees, through a wooden squeeze gate and continue along a narrow path with orchards on both sides. In 450m walk through a metal

squeeze gate and *turn left* along a tarmac lane at a bend. In 70m you reach a triangular green by a three-way road junction in the village of Lynsted [Lynsted = Linde Stede, place of the lime tree.]. **The Black Lion** pub is 150m ahead down the road.

Here you have a choice:

For an Extension, continue in the same direction into Lynsted, signposted 'Doddington 2 ¾', and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Morning Extension**.

For the Main Walk, *turn left* along **Lynsted Lane**, signposted 'Teynham & Sittingbourne'. In 150m *turn left* with the road and in another 80m, just after the last house on the right (**Swedish Houses** on the OS map), *turn right* off the road along a signposted footpath between trees. You have a pasture on the left and some houses and later a nursery on the right and in 200m go through a wooden kissing gate and start a gentle descent through a dipping pasture. In 100m in the bottom-left corner of the field *turn left* through a metal gate and *veer right* a little up a grassy bank and *turn left* to follow the field boundary below you at a higher level. In about 100m the path curves slowly to the right towards a rusty metal field gate and in 40m you go through it and *turn left* along a tarmac lane. In 100m you pass a ruined oasthouse in the field on your left and a three-storey timer-framed house on your right (**Bumpit**), and then *turn up right* at a T-junction with **Bogle Road**.

In 120m, as the lane starts to level out, you *turn left* along a signposted footpath through an easy-to-miss hedge gap into a field corner and continue along its left-hand boundary hedge. In 40m *turn left* through another easy-to-miss gap in this hedge into the neighbouring arable field (there is a marker post hidden in the hedge). You *bear right* across this field on a bearing of 5°, clearly to the right of an electricity pole and to the right of the drop in this field, towards a minor gap in the opposite boundary hedge, 30m left of the hedge corner. In 100m you walk through the gap past a marker post and continue through the next field towards a hedge corner 75m away. At the corner continue in the same direction along the right-hand field boundary treeline through this shallow valley. In 250m at a marker post on the right, *turn left* across the narrower end of the field on a bearing of 355°. In 90m *turn right* with a marker post along the opposite boundary and in 110m in the field corner a footpath joins from the left out of trees. This is the Mid-Morning Shortcut. *Turn right* with the field boundary.

*) In 50m you *veer left* with the path to continue in the same direction to the left of a treeline in the neighbouring field and then between trees. In 75m the path turns right, now with a garden on the left, and in 90m you *turn up left* along a car wide grassy track with an arable field on the right (**Cherry Gardens** on the OS map). In 90m continue in the same direction along a gravel drive and in 220m *turn left* along a tarmac lane at a T-junction. You have a row of chestnuts on the right and another orchard beyond it. In 100m, at the end of the treeline, you *turn right* with a footpath signpost through a gap to the right of a metal field gate and along a fenced grass path, now with the orchard on the right. You have a treeline on the right and an arable field on the left and in 370m emerge on a car wide gravel track and continue in the same direction along it. In 15m reach a stile on the left by a two-way footpath signpost, 20m before a bend in a tarmac lane. The Morning Extension joins from along the lane. The early lunch stop **The Plough Inn** (the white building you can see ahead) is 100m away along the lane in the same direction. *Turn left* over the stile into a paddock.

**) Cross the paddock to the left of a couple of fenced trees and leave it 40m to the left of the far-right corner over a set of stiles either side of a treeline. [This and the next few fields have an electric fence accompanying the wooden fences (with a plastic handle to ease the passage though).] You continue in the same direction through the next field and in 80m go through a metal field gate and continue in the same direction through a

paddock. In 60m go over a stile and continue in the same direction through an arable field's corner and leave it in 60m through a gap by a marker post to *bear right* along a fenced path between trees, but in 25m continue along an arable field's right-hand boundary. In 50m, at the fence corner on the right and by a marker post, *veer left* across the arable field along a usually clear path (355°). You cross a gravel track in 50m and in another 130m leave the field through a gap and *veer half left* with a marker post through another apple orchard. In 70m *turn left* through a hedge gap and down a few steps to a tarmac lane (**Nouds Lane**) and *turn right* along it.

In 65m you cross the **A2** and *turn right* along the opposite pavement in front of **Sandown Cottages**. In 35m at the corner of the cottages *turn left* with a footpath signpost along a gravel driveway and in 60m continue in the same direction to the right of a large corrugated asbestos barn. You continue in the same direction up along a grassy right-hand field boundary with undulating fieldscapes on the left (you have walked through the far arable field at the start of the walk) and in 150m continue to the left of a tree line at a corner. In 80m walk through a metal kissing gate and continue in the same direction along a fenced path with trees on the right [this path can be overgrown and with fallen trees forcing diversions]. From the brow you get views on the left towards **Sittingbourne** and the bridge across to the **Isle of Sheppey**.

In 100m pass a marker on a fence post on the left at a corner and continue in the same direction through a belt of trees and in 110m emerge from the wood and continue in the same direction with a wooden fence and a pasture on the right and a farm on the left below. In 150m, by a wooden field gate on the right, continue in the same direction and in 40m you continue along a paved track in the same direction [*if this stretch is overgrown*, veer left by the field gate down to the paved track]. In 30m you cross **Lower Road** and walk along a lane under the railway line. In another 80m where the lane turns left, continue in the same direction through a metal kissing gate to the left of a field gate and continue along a car wide grassy track with a grassy hillock on the right. In 30m you have a dyke on the left below with an orchard and a wood behind and will now broadly follow it for 1 kilometre.

In more detail: in 120m, just after entering some trees and where the car wide track curves up further to the right, **[!]** *turn left* by a footpath marker post down some steps and *turn right* along an earthen path; you pass an old orchard on your right, and in 170m, 15m before entering a larger orchard and just after a marker on a fence post on the right, *turn left* along a grassy track towards the dyke; in 20m *turn right* with the path by a marker post, initially between trees, then with an orchard on the right; occasionally you have **St. Mary's Church, Teynham Street** visible on the left across the fields and orchards (a pre-conquest minster church); in 230m walk through a metal kissing gate and in 10m *turn left* at a bend in a car wide farm track, with yet another orchard on the right; in 180m enter the next apple orchard at a bend in a farm track and in 50m you have the best views of the church yet; in a further 70m walk through a metal field gate by a footpath signpost and continue to a road at a bend.

In 20m, with **Peete House** on the right, *turn left* along **Marsh Lane** to cross the dyke. In 220m, just after the lane has turned to the right, *turn left* along **Teynham Street** with some **Swale Heritage Trail** markers on an electricity pole on the right, ignoring the (cul-de-sac) continuation of Marsh Lane. In 90m by **Chapel House** on the right, a signposted footpath joins from the left through a metal field gate from the church. This is Morning Shortcut II. Continue along the lane.

*****)** In 150m you continue in the same direction at a bend with **Conyer Road** (signposted 'Conyer ½') and in 220m ignore the tarmac drive on the left to **Stone Chimney Farm**. In 190m by a row of poplars on the right, views open up on the right across **Teynham Level** grazing marshes. In 50m, where the road bears right, continue

in the same direction with a footpath signpost and through a metal kissing gate into a paddock and in 50m continue in the same direction where the left hand fence bears left. In 60m leave the field to the right of a large tree through a difficult-to-spot metal kissing gate and continue along a narrow path between garden fences. In 80m the path continues as a tarmac drive and in 30m you *turn left* along **Conyer Road** through Conyer village. In 70m by **The Moorings** (road) on your left with a **bus stop for services to Teynham or Sittingbourne** stations, you reach a four-way junction of tarmac lanes by a signposted four-way junction of footpaths. The **Saxon Shore Way** (SSW) joins down the tarmac lane ahead and the Morning Shortcut I joins from the left along a grassy path. *Turn right* with the SSW along the continuation of the road ('The Quay') further into the village, with some townhouses on the right.

****) In 80m ignore a grass track off to the left and in 150m reach the recommended late lunch stop **The Ship Inn at Conyer** on your left. In another 60m walk through a metal kissing gate to the left of a double metal gate (with an orchard on the right) and in 140m the tarmac lane turns left, where a grass path continues in the same direction by a three-way footpath signpost on the right:

- **For a route closely following Conyer Creek** on the one side and a former brickwork site on the other (adds 660m), *turn left* with the tarmac lane (the old brickworks road), in about 150m with occasional views back on the left to Conyer village and marina; you turn right with the path and in another 70m *turn left* along a clear grassy path and in 40m *turn right* along the seawall with the creek on your left; in 300m you pass a couple of wrecks of wooden **Thames Barges**; in another 150m the path turns right, with **The Swale** on your left and **Fowley Island** and the **Isle of Sheppey** behind; in 330m the seawall and the track turn right and in another 120m you walk through a metal kissing gate to the left of a double metal field gate, where another track atop a seawall joins from the right; *turn left* along the seawall.
- **For the shorter route** continue in the same direction along the grass path for 500m with trees first on the left and with orchards then grazing marshes on the right, until you walk through a metal kissing gate to continue in the same direction along the seawall. In a further 220m another track atop a seawall joins from the left through a metal kissing gate to the right of a double metal field gate, and you *turn right* along the seawall, now with **The Swale** on your left and **Fowley Island** and the **Isle of Sheppey** behind.

You now follow the seawall for 4.2 km past **Teynham Level, Luddenham Marshes** and **Uplees Marshes**, to the point where you have to decide whether to continue further along the seawall or take an inland route instead. **But in more detail:** In 350m you cross a sluice in the seawall, just before the seawall turns right and left again. In another 180m go through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and you now have the remnants of a disused **Rifle Range** away on your right (on the OS map). In 350m the path takes a left and right turn and in another 30m you walk through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate. In 370m you have a reed-filled perpendicular water channel on your right as you bear right with the path and in 420m there is another, wider water channel on the right (the **Luddenham Gut**).

In 40m you walk through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and in 120m the seawall turns to the left. The path goes through a few light turns and in 625m curves to the right more markedly, now with the raised part of the **Isle of Harty** ahead across the water (formerly separate, but now part of the Isle of Sheppey). In 600m you have the beginnings of a saltmarsh on your left, with **Whitstable** now visible ahead in the distance. You now walk through an **ex-brickworks site**, remnants of which are clearly visible, from concrete patches in the grass on the right, to a disused jetty on the left to some concrete blocks and foundations further along. About 250m after the last of the concrete remnants the path takes a sharp right turn by another disused jetty by a

little sea inlet, this being wooden remnants of **Dan's Dock** and of the jetty that served another brick and tile works. In 40m *turn left* with the path by a marker post and in 20m, by a SSW and **Explore Kent** marker post on the right and a car wide track turning right, you come to a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate.

Here you have a choice:

For an Alternative Inland Route to Oare via Luddenham, *turn right* along the car wide grass track towards the metal field gate and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Luddenham Route**.

For the Main Walk further along the shore, continue with the SSW through the metal kissing gate on the left and in 40m *turn right* along the seawall path. You have **Oare Marshes Nature Reserve** and several pillboxes on the right hand side, and more saltmarshes on the left. In 180m the path veers to the left by a water channel on the right and you have **West Flood** on the right, an area within the nature reserve deliberately flooded to encourage bird visits (you can see one of the bird hides on the opposite side of West Flood, to the right of some yellow brick cottages). In 700m walk through a metal kissing gate by the **Watch House Information Centre** on the right, and descend to a tarmac lane leading to a causeway on the left, the site of the former **Harty Ferry**, leading to the Isle of Harty opposite. In the near corner of the car park you'll find a surprisingly gushing **artesian well**, now just providing drinking water from an aquifer below, but originally drilled for one of the Faversham explosives factories.

Continue along the seawall through another metal kissing gate in 30m and with **East Flood** now on your right, and in 530m *turn right* with the path by a bird hide where **Faversham Creek** joins the sea. Follow the path for 2.4 km all the way to **Oare**, in 500m crossing a sluice and then in 30m ignoring a right turn along East Flood to another bird hide and car park, and in another 190m go through a metal kissing gate to leave the nature reserve. In 220m (just after going under an HV pylon line) pass the **confluence of Oare and Faversham Creeks**. You continue along Oare Creek, lined by boats, wharfs and marinas and in 900m have **St. Peter, Oare** church on the right amongst trees on a low ridge. In 500m you go through a metal gate and a belt of trees and in 20m continue in the same direction through a pasture. In 50m you walk through a wooden kissing gate onto a road (The Street) on the fringes of **Oare**, by **The Castle Inn** on your right. **The Three Mariners at Oare**, is 90m further along the road to the right. *Turn left* along the road's right-hand pavement.

*****) In 25m you pass a **bus stop for services into Faversham** and pass Oare Creek's narrow tip on your left. In another 50m a tarmac lane turns left. **The Café by the Creek** is just to the left along that lane.

Here you have a choice:

For the shortest route to Faversham (cuts 2.7 km/1.7 mi, but runs entirely on tarmac), you continue in the same direction along **Oare Road's** pavement. You pass the 18th century (grain) **Windmill** in 220m and after about 500m **Ham Road** joins from the left. The road is now called **Priory Row** and in another 250m you have **Davington Church** on the right, Grade I listed and the oldest building in the area and part of the former **Davington Priory** (find an info panel by the church yard gate, the priory building itself is now owned and occupied by **Bob Geldof**). Continue to the left of the church down **Davington Hill** (road) and in 60m ignore Brent Hill joining from the left. In another 170m *turn left* at a T-junction. You pass **Stonebridge Pond** on the left (once part of the Home Works, one of Faversham's gunpowder factories) and in 120m *fork left* by a green, with **The Bull Inn** on the far side to the right. In 50m you continue along **West Street**, a fabulous little road with timbered and half-timbered houses and in

230m cross **North Lane/South Road** and continue in the same direction along the pedestrianized part of West Street. The Main Walk has joined from the left and you pick up the directions below at the septuple asterisk *********).

For the Main Walk *turn left* along the tarmac lane with a two-way SSW and footpath signpost and *fork left* immediately along tarmac, with a high barbed wire fence on the right. You walk past a marina on the left and a saline lagoon (an ex-quarry) on the right and in 170m cross the outflow of the lagoon. In 300m the lane turns right by a wharf building on the left and in 60m you *turn left* through a squeeze gate, just before the entrance to **East Kent Recycling Ltd**. Walk along a gravel path through a wooded thicket, with occasional views on either side. You have a reed-filled channel and grassy meadows behind it on the right and some boat yards on the left. In 420m cross a drive leading to those boatyards on the left (**Ham Wharf**) and continue between hedges with a SSW marker post. In 120m the fence and hedge on the left discontinue for a stretch and you have open views to and across **Oare Creek** again and in 250m you cross a tarmac drive by **The Shipwright's Arms at Hollowshore**, and ignore the right turning footpath to continue to the left of the pub building. In 25m you *turn right* along the seawall by the confluence of Oare and Faversham Creeks and pass the pub garden. In 50m walk through a metal kissing gate and follow the creek side path with **Ham Marshes** on the right and in 300m reach a metal kissing gate.

Here you have a choice:

For a longer route to Faversham, along Faversham Creek and *around* the marshes, rather than *through* the marshes (adds 1.6 km/1.0 mi), go through the metal kissing gate and *veer left* along the seawall, with the HV pylon line marching into the distance on the left across the creek (SWC 12 Faversham – Whitstable also runs on the other side) and soon veer away from the creek with the path. In 400m *turn right* with the path to circumvent a marshy inlet. The path curves to the left and in 250m you walk through a metal kissing gate and in another 50m another one to turn right with the seawall. The path gradually curves to the right and eventually you head for **Faversham** dead ahead. After a while you have a converted grain silo on the opposite side of the creek (**Oyster Bay House**, inscribed United Fertiliser Co. Ltd.), and in another 130m *turn right* with a marker post, as an estate is blocking the onwards route. In 110m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction, and pick up the directions at the sextuple asterisk below *********).

For the Main Walk, you *turn right* off the seawall *before* the metal kissing gate towards a two-railed wooden footbridge 20m away, cross the bridge and go through a metal gate on the other side and **do not go** towards the obvious target of a metal kissing gate across the field, **but instead** *veer left* on a bearing of 140° towards a metal-railed plank bridge over a drain, 160m away. Cross the bridge (there are yellow makers on the bridge planks) and *veer left* on a bearing of 170° on the other side (effectively bearing right from the previous walked direction). In 200m cross a two-railed wooden plank bridge with a metal gate on the near side and *turn right* to go through a metal kissing gate to *bear right* with a marker on a fence post. You go through an earth bank in 20m and go through a grassy marsh, on a bearing of 185°, soon past a bend of a ditch on the right and with some trees on the other side of it.

In 200m walk through a metal kissing gate between two metal field gates with a footpath marker and cross a narrow pasture diagonally to its far-left corner 120m away, with **Ham Farm** on your right (en route going through a metal field gate, often open). Go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate and cross a vast arable field in the same direction (185°) along a usually well-cleared path and in 300m at the opposite boundary, *turn right* along the boundary. In 250m, at a path T-junction with a

tall wall ahead, *turn right* with another footpath (the longer Faversham Creek route has joined along it from the left through a metal kissing gate).

*****) You have some buildings on the left behind a high wall (the **Brents Industrial Estate**) and in 100m *turn left* at the corner of that wall with a marker post along an arable field boundary. In 110m a farm track (and a footpath along it) joins from the right behind and in 50m in the field corner you continue in the same direction along a paved path. In 30m *turn left* with a SSW two-way signpost at a bend in a tarmac drive. You walk towards an industrial estate (**Faversham Reach**) but in 25m [!] continue to the right of a wall along a narrow path with a two-way signpost.

In 40m you have an open grassy area on the right and continue along the concrete wall and in 60m *turn left* with the wall and path back towards the creek in 30m. Follow the creekside path through the meadow (**Crab Island**) and in 100m pass an info panel on the **Two Creeks Circular Walk**. In 30m go through a bike barrier and follow a tarmac drive, with some cottages on the right and in 70m pass **The Albion Taverna**. In 150m, at a junction with Bridge Road and by a bridge over the creek on the left (with an info panel on **The King's Port**, and with **Shepherd Neame's Brewery** across the bridge), you *turn left* across the bridge and in 90m *turn right* at a T-junction with **North Lane**. In 220m *turn left* along the pedestrianised part of **West Street**, a fabulous little road with timbered and half-timbered houses.

*****) In 80m you pass **The Sun Inn** on your right and in 40m the **Refinery** café and bar on your left just before Faversham's old **Market Place** (Kent's oldest, every Tue/Fri/Sat), dominated by the impressive stilted **Guildhall building** (part Elizabethan) with its open arcade. You find the **Leo Lounge** Café & Bar on the right and **The Bear Inn** around the left, the **Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre** and **Vino** (Wine Shop, Tastings & Food) 100m further along the left on the other side of the Market Place, and **Café Guild**, **Havishams Coffee House** and **Fay's Place Café** diagonally across.

Continue in the same direction with the market on your left, passing **Castella** French bistro on the right and in 75m *turn right* along **Preston Street**, in 40m pass **Furlongs Ale House** on the left, in 50m **Faversham Visitor Information Centre** on the left in a timber-framed house, then in 20m **Cosgroves** café on the left, with the **Old Wine Vaults** on the right, in 30m **Jittermugs** coffee shop, wine & tapas bar and then a Wetherspoon's pub (**The Leading Light**) on the left, then the **Moonlight Café**. In 100m you have Whitstable Brewery's tap room **The Creeker's Tap** on the left, and **The Limes** pub on the right. In 50m find the **Railway Hotel** pub on the left, with its recommended restaurant, **The Carriage**. *Turn left* at the corner of The Railway along Station Road towards **Faversham Station**.

Early-Morning Shortcuts (cut 8.3 km/5.1 mi or 7.5 km/4.7 mi respectively)

In 20m at a two-way footpath signpost by a metal bike barrier, where the lane turns left to a row of cottages (Station Row), **you have a choice:**

For Shortcut I (cuts 8.3 km/5.1 mi), *bear left* with the lane towards the cottages and in 100m at the end of the cottages *veer right* with a footpath and in 15m *turn left* between fences. In 20m continue through a bike barrier along a narrow path with a fence and a pasture on the left and a row of trees on the right. In 70m *turn right* with the path and in 40m there are some allotments on the right. In another 30m pass a fence corner on the left (around wastewater treatment works) and in 60m continue in the same direction along a car wide tarmac track, with an apple orchard on the right. In 180m continue in the same direction along a gravel path where the car wide track turns right and in 60m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate.

You now continue in the same direction for 1.0 km along the right hand boundaries of a handful of fields (the exit from the first field is about 40m to the left of its right hand corner), with orchards on the right behind a row of trees, walking through some gates, across one two-railed plank bridge and under an HV pylon line along the way, mostly with views of the mast tops of the boats berthed at **Swale Marina**, and eventually leave the last field in its far right corner through a metal kissing gate to continue in the same direction along a grassy path. In 40m you emerge in **Conyer** village at a four-way junction of tarmac lanes by a signposted four-way junction of footpaths. The **Saxon Shore Way** joins from the left and the Main Walk from the right. Continue in the same direction into the village, with some newly built townhouses on the right, and pick up the directions in the Main Walk at the quadruple asterisk ****).

For Shortcut II (cut 7.5 km/4.7 mi), you continue in the same direction through the metal bike barrier and along a fenced grassy path with a hedge on the right. In 130m *turn right* at a T-junction with a wider fenced grassy path through some paddocks. In 90m *turn left* with a footpath marker stone at a T-junction with a tarmac drive and in 125m *bear left* with the drive. In 70m *turn right* in front of a large shed and in 40m by a footpath signpost *turn right* along a lane at a bend with an apple orchard on the left. In 80m, where the lane turns right, *turn left* with a footpath signpost through a bike barrier and along a fenced grassy path towards **St. Mary's, Teynham Street** church (a pre-conquest minster church) in the near distance. In 240m cross a tarmac lane and continue between fences with pastures behind, in 180m walk through a bike barrier, in 100m continue along a tarmac lane which joins from the left behind and in 40m enter the church yard through the lychgate and continue to the left of the church (usually shut). Leave the churchyard in 70m on the opposite side through a wooden gate to walk along a clear path through another apple orchard. In 200m you go through a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane at a T-junction. The Main Walk joins from the right along it. *Turn left* and pick up the directions in the Main Walk at the triple asterisk ***).

Morning Extension (add 2.2 km/1.3 mi)

In 150m pass **The Black Lion** pub on the right and a **bus stop for services to Teynham** station a little further along. In another 20m pass the churchyard entrance of **St. Peter & St. Paul, Lynsted** on the right (usually locked) and **[!]** in 70m *turn left* with a footpath marker stone along a paved drive towards a wooden garage 10m away. *Bear right* around the garage and continue with a wooden garden fence on the left and a hedge on the right. In 100m the garden fence on the left discontinues and you have a wooded slope on the left and in 30m a pasture on the right behind some trees. In 70m ignore some very wide railed steps on the left, leading up to a house, and in 100m go through a wooden kissing gate into a pasture and continue in the same direction along its right-hand boundary and in 20m at the corner of the fence on the right, *curve left* across the field along a clear path towards a corner of a wood opposite. In 120m *bear right* through a metal gate and walk up along the right-hand field boundary of another pasture. In 130m at the top-right corner go over a stile to leave the field and cross a tarmac lane to go over a stile a little to the left into another field and continue along its right-hand boundary fence.

You walk in the same direction through four fields separated by metal gates, mostly under – or parallel to – an electricity line (note the strawberries growing under polytunnels on the right halfway through the third field) and in 800m go through a metal kissing gate by a footpath signpost onto a road. *Veer right* across the road and continue along a concrete drive towards **Loyterton Farm** with an apple orchard on the left. In 50m *veer left* off the concrete track and continue in the same direction through grass to the left of some large sheds. Keep the farm buildings on your right and the orchard on your left and in 200m continue with a tall hedge on your right. In another 250m *turn left* in the corner of the orchard and in 40m *turn right* over an easy-to-miss stile in the hedge on the right and continue through a grassy area with **Monks Farm** away to the right. In 30m cross a gravel track and continue along a grassy path *to the right* of a hedge with another orchard on the right. In 125m walk through a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane (**Norton Road**) and *turn left* along it. In 150m *turn right* along a car wide grassy path (a signposted bridleway) with orchards on both sides.

In 320m, by a large corrugated iron barn on the left, you *turn left* over a stile by a footpath marker on a fence post and continue to the left of the barn through the orchard along a clear car wide track. You continue in the same direction for 800m, mostly along – or between – rows of trees, with apple and plum orchards behind, and leave the farm through metal bike barriers onto **Provender Lane**. *Turn left* along the lane and in 240m *turn right* along a car wide track (signed 'Church of St. Mary') through another apple orchard towards the church. In 200m you reach the field gate entrance to **St. Mary's, Norton** church (Grade I listed) and *turn left* in front of the gate along a fence, with **Norton Court** with its 10 acre landscaped garden on the right screened by some trees.

In 125m you pass a marker post and continue in the same direction along the right hand side of a sports field and in 100m leave it through a gap in the boundary and cross a road to continue in the same direction along a residential road through **Lewson Street** village. Ignore ways off and in 340m you reach the early recommended lunch stop **The Plough Inn**. Continue along the road and *turn left* with it, where a footpath turns right through a hedge. In another 90m where the road turns right, continue in the same direction along a gravel car wide farm track to a two-way footpath signpost 10m away. The main Walk joins from down the track. *Turn right* over a stile into a paddock and pick up the directions in the Main Text at the double asterisk **).

Luddenham Route (cut 200m)

In 30m you go through a metal field gate and in 100m through a wooden field gate or over a stile to the right of it. Follow a restricted byway marker along a straight raised gravel track (an ex-tramway to the brick works) through the marshland (**Uplees Marshes** on the right and **Oare Marshes Nature Reserve** on the left). In 520m by **Gate House Bungalows** (on the OS map) you continue in the same direction through a metal field gate with a restricted byway marker. In 20m go through a metal gate to the right of a larger metal gate and in 40m continue in the same direction along a car wide drive. You pass some houses along the way and in 320m cross a tarmac lane and walk through a metal gate with a footpath signpost and continue through an orchard. In 75m walk through a metal kissing gate and continue between trees. In 100m you go down some steps and through a metal kissing gate into **Luddenham Marshes**.

Continue in the same direction towards a two-railed wooden footbridge over a water channel 160m away and on the other side continue in the same direction. In 100m you go under an HV pylon line and in another 100m go through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue along the left hand boundary of another grassy marsh. In 80m walk through another metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue to the left of a garden fence of **Poplar Hall** (on the OS map). This section can be overgrown. In 120m continue along a gravel drive. In 190m *turn right* through a metal kissing gate into the marshland and *veer left* (i.e. veer right from the previous direction) along a usually clear path towards a railed wooden bridge with metal gates either side 100m away (220°, in the general direction of some large farm buildings in the distance). *Veer left* on the other side towards a metal field gate and in 80m cross a culvert and go through a metal kissing gate to the left of the gate. Continue towards the farm buildings and in 170m go through a metal kissing gate 20m to the left of a double metal field gate and *turn right* along a tarmac farm track at a bend into **Luddenham**.

In 130m, at a three-way footpath signpost on the left by a metal kissing gate, you have **Luddenham Court** (Grade II listed) and **St. Mary, Luddenham** church (Grade I listed) 40m away on the right (if the church is locked, the key is available from the farm or the butcher's shop). The walk route turns left through the kissing gate and in 30m enters an arable field. You head for a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and a row of poplars on the opposite side of the field with a red brick farm building behind (due E). In 160m walk through the gate and continue in the same direction along a left hand field boundary and in 150m leave the field through a metal kissing gate onto a tarmac lane. Continue a little to the left along a concrete farm track (the signposted route through a metal kissing gate opposite leads to that track anyway) and stay on the track for 200m. Where the farm track turns left (towards **Broomfield Farm** about 300m away), you continue in the same direction to enter an arable field and *bear right* along a usually well cleared path, slightly uphill (105°, towards an electricity pole).

In 200m pass the electricity pole and in another 100m the terrain levels out and the rooftops of **Oare** are visible ahead. In 350m leave the field through a metal kissing gate by a footpath signpost and *turn right* along a tarmac lane. In 70m continue in the same direction with **The Street** at a bend (signed 'Harty Ferry 1 ¾, Faversham 1 ¼') and in 165m pass **The Three Mariners at Oare**, a recommended early tea stop, on your left. In another 90m pass **The Castle Inn**. In 20m a footpath joins from the left through a wooden kissing gate, this is the Main Walk. Continue in the same direction and pick up the directions in the main text at the quintuple asterisk *****).