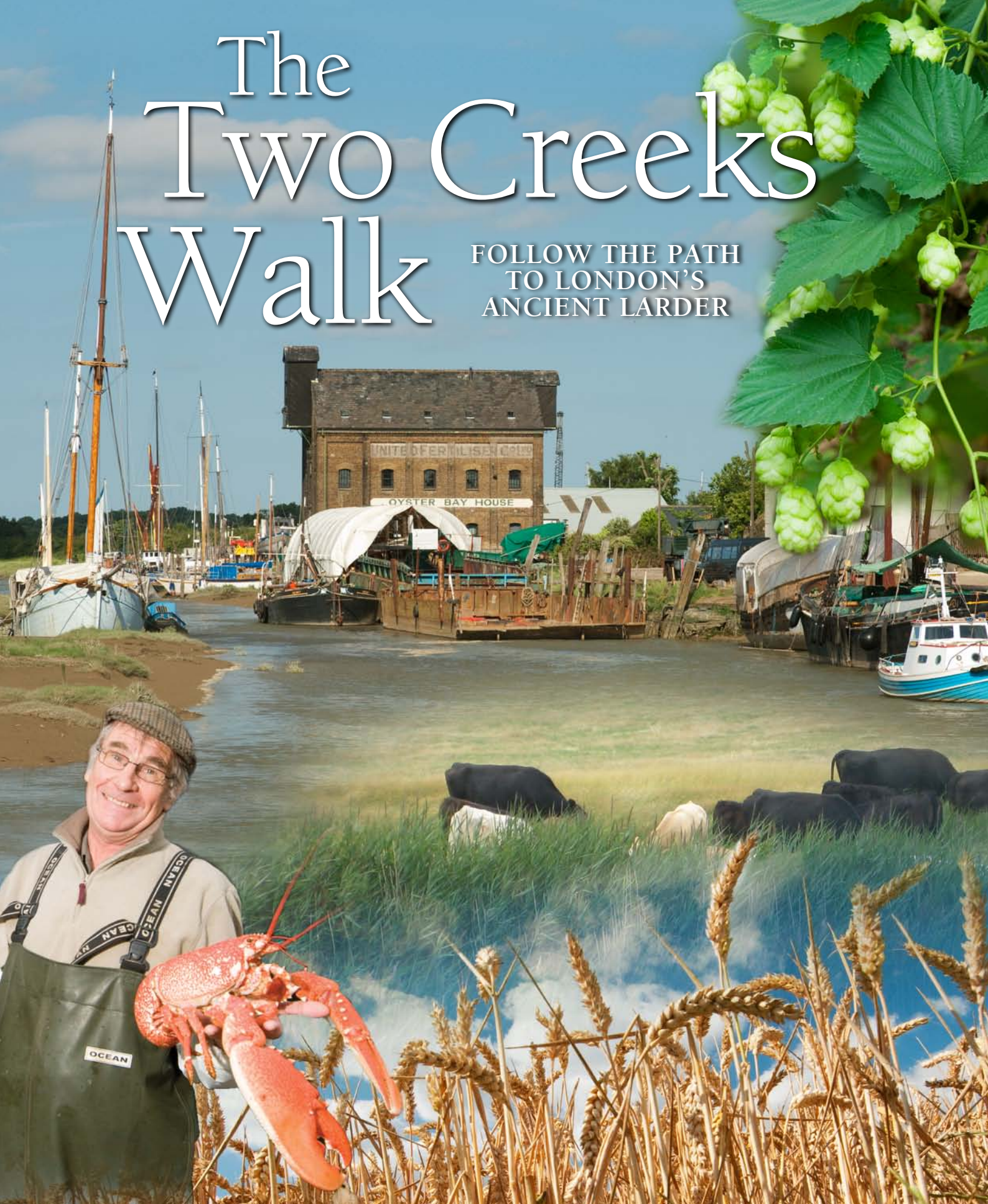


The Two Creeks Walk

FOLLOW THE PATH
TO LONDON'S
ANCIENT LARDER



Explore
KENT

faversham.org/walking


FAVERSHAM
MARKET TOWN OF KINGS

FAVERSHAM - THORN CREEK - DAVINGTON - OARE

Follow the path to London's ancient Larder

*"Agriculture gives riches
to a nation, riches she can
call her own."*

Samuel Johnson

Step back in time on the trail of Faversham's Two Creeks and discover the rich maritime and farming legacy that made this area the Larder of London.

From grain fields to fertile windswept marshes and the vestiges of industrious quaysides, you'll be captivated by the area's stunning and historic shoreline, where tales of its commercial past and smuggling still abound.

Once bustling with sailing barges bound for London, the creeks at Faversham and Oare and the surrounding farmland remain a memorial to a golden maritime age.

Now an oasis for pleasure boats, walkers, wildlife and livestock, at every turn you'll be reminded of the part played by the area's productive countryside in feeding the nation and the mark it made on a community that prospered on the doorstep of London.

Your walk begins in Faversham's historic town centre, dominated by the distinctive crown spire of its parish church, where bustling streets are lined with specialist shops and restaurants, and tearooms pour onto the pavements. On Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays there's also the street market - the oldest in Kent.

You'll pass Shepherd Neame – the country's oldest brewer - producing beer and lager from local hops and barley since at least 1698 in Court Street – a focal point for Faversham's world famous hop festival each September. There's also the chance to visit Abbey Street, with one of the country's finest collections of period houses, home to the welcoming Phoenix Tavern and The Anchor Inn, a local for maritime craftsmen to this day.

Then it's on to the creekside, crossing the Victorian swing bridge to your waterside route, where Faversham's farming and industrial past loom large. Once a hive of activity, with boats trading grain, hops, fruit, oysters, bricks, cement and gunpowder, in the 17th century more grain was exported to London from here than any other English port.

The quayside buildings, some now homes, stand tall, guarding their commercial past and shipping secrets, while nearby workshops remain one of the UK's last centres for traditional maritime crafts.

You'll pass The Albion, with its impressive views across the creek and an equally impressive Mexican restaurant – a great place to enjoy the view and one of the many cosmopolitan menus on offer in the area.

Next is Crab Island and the site of the town's former shipyard, where 2,000 vessels were launched, before you stride out into open countryside to the sea wall. Here sheep and cattle greet you in the fertile farmland, meadows and open marshes they share with wild flowers and wetland birds.

The enchanting Shipwrights Arms provides your first break from blissful solitude in this beautiful, wild landscape, where passions for sailing, fishing and food endure. Busy boatyards then punctuate your path as you make your way along Oare Creek, once a centre for exports of the town's gunpowder and bricks.

Generations on, freshly-caught fish still feature on the menu at The Three Mariners and The Castle pub in the village of Oare, where fisherman "Bluey" Walpole sells his local catch at weekends.

As you return to Faversham, with its haul of restaurants, bars and cafés, pause for thought at the elegant windmill near the water in Oare Road – a landmark to the area's rich agricultural and maritime past as the Larder of London and a further reminder of the countless treasures this area has to offer.

Maritime history

HIGH TIDE AND GREEN GRASS



From as early as Roman times, Faversham Creek's closeness to the Thames estuary put the town on course to flourish.

Eclipsing Oare, despite being further from the coast, Faversham Creek fed London's hunger for grain, oysters, fruit and hops throughout the 1600s. Indeed, in that century more corn was exported to the capital from here than any other English port.

Until the 1930s the waterways at Faversham and Oare teemed with sailing barges carrying timber, fertiliser and farm produce, and cargoes of local bricks, cement and gunpowder, while talk of tobacco and brandy smuggling was common!

Along its banks settlements grew, providing homes for seamen, fishermen and brickfield workers and, later, boat builders, the last shipyard closing in 1975. The shift of freight from water to roads saw trade slowly ebb.

The Kings Port, as the town came to be known, enjoyed royal privileges in past centuries as a reward for providing ships to defend the nation. Faversham is now a haven for pleasure boats and a home to its skilled maritime craftsmen.



Step by step WALKING GUIDE

Planning Your Walk

Feel free to start your walk at any point: as this is a circular walk you'll always return to where you began.

Some sections of the walk end at a spot where you'll find a pub, restaurant or tearoom to help fortify you or provide a welcome treat once you've finished the whole route.

There are several places to leave your vehicle if you are arriving by car, including the Queen's Hall long-stay car park near Faversham railway station and The Central car park, off Market Place.

If not driving, you can take a train to Faversham. Buses also run between Faversham and Oare.

There are public toilets in Faversham, at the car park behind Market Place, and you can also use the facilities at the various 'pub stops' en route.

Use our directory to find a list of local accommodation, food producers, retailers and restaurants. Also, check out the wealth of additional information at Faversham.org/walking.



FAVERSHAM TO THORN CREEK

A1. Your walk begins in stunning Market Place in the bustling heart of Faversham with its specialist shops, cafés and Kent's oldest street market, selling fresh fruit, fish, flowers and local produce on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. With the impressive, stilted Guildhall behind you, continue through Market Place and past the visitor centre at Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest brewer. Turn left into Quay Lane. As you do, savour the view along Abbey Street ahead, one of Britain's finest historic streets and home to the welcoming Phoenix Tavern and Anchor Inn.

A2. Walk down Quay Lane. Belvedere Road, to your right, is home to the Osteria Posillipo Pizzeria at Provender Mill. Turn left into Conduit Street, passing the ancient timber-framed TS Hasard building on your right – a creekside warehouse built for busy maritime merchants in 1475. The building is named after the Faversham ship that helped fight the Spanish Armada and is now used by sea cadets, continuing its nautical connections.



A3. Turn right into Bridge Road, over the swing bridge, and turn immediately right into Front Bents. Follow the path by the creek, passing the Albion Taverna and its celebrated Mexican restaurant, towards Crab Island.

The Albion Taverna



Tuck in to traditional English food, including ploughman's lunches, as well as Mexican wraps at The Albion Taverna – just one of the area's fashionable restaurants offering food with an international flavour.

As well as boasting impressive views of the creek, The Albion prides itself on using locally-sourced food where possible and on its premium cask ales, produced a stone's throw away at the Shepherd Neame brewery.

The Albion serves lunches until 2.30pm and dinner until 10pm weekdays, with food available all day until 10pm at weekends. Roast dinners are also on the menu from noon to 4pm on Sunday from April-October.

A4. Continue past the interpretation panel, with Crab Island on your left – formed when the creek was straightened in 1842 – to the houses ahead. Turn left at the houses, then right, following the path by the edge of an industrial estate, part of a former shipyard opened by Pollock's at the government's request in World War I. More than 2,000 vessels were built here, including some from concrete. Cross the road diagonally and take the footpath for the Saxon Shore Way. The paved path opens onto farmland on your left, nodding with golden cereals in summer, skirting the industrial estate on your right. Bear right when the track forks and continue on to the kissing gate, with cornfields and grazing sheep on your left. Pass through the kissing gate into a livestock meadow, with the fence line on your right. Walk down to the creek and turn left onto the sea wall, with sailing boats and waterfront workshops buzzing with the sound of maritime craftsmen ahead of you. You are now in open marshes, with the magnificent Oyster Bay House over the water – the former home of the United Fertiliser Company.

A5. Follow the raised path along the sea wall, with pastures to your left and the creek on your right, to the interpretation panel at Thorn Creek – the mooring point for boats entering Faversham until 1559 when the waterway was extended. Catch your breath and admire the diverse landscape and the wood-capped hilltops that cradle this wide open space, shared by livestock and coastal birds that wheel over head. Look out for waders at the water's edge and the barn owls and rabbits that also feed off a land puddled with pools of water, reed beds and rich with scarce plants.

THORN CREEK TO OARE

B1. From Thorn Creek follow the sea wall as the waterway widens – a good place to spot dunlin, redshank and oystercatchers feeding on the saltmarshes. Ahead is the Shipwrights' Arms at Hollowshore, the perfect waterfront setting for walkers – and their dogs – offering a fine selection of locally-brewed real ales. Fish caught nearby, including mullet, sole, bass and plaice are on the menu in season. At Hollowshore, the tidal water from The Swale splits into Faversham Creek to the east and Oare Creek to the west.

The Shipwrights' Arms



The Shipwrights' Arms at Hollowshore provides the perfect place to try a pint of real ale straight from the cask. A regular winner of awards from the Campaign for Real Ale, the 300-year-old pub is packed with sea-faring secrets. Once frequented by pirates and smugglers, the waterfront inn was also popular with fishermen and sailors bound for Faversham Creek. Today, locally-caught fish and home-cooked food feature on the menu. In summer there's no better place to enjoy your meal than in its garden, or by a roaring fire in winter... but, beware, the pub is haunted by Hollowshore Harry, whose boat floundered nearby.



“Plough deep while sluggards sleep and you shall have corn to sell and to keep”

Benjamin Franklin

B2. At the pub continue along the sea wall, crossing over the entrance to the boatyard, keeping to the path directly ahead. The walk now passes through a wooded thicket with reed beds to your left and the boatyard to your right. Look out for reed warblers, but do take care as the path is uneven in places.

Cross over the road leading to a boatyard on your right and remain on the footpath, sheltered by hedges loaded with blackberries and elderberries in season.

B3. On reaching the tarmac road turn right and head along the creekside road, with water on either side of you, to the

end. There is an impressive array of boats here and a stunning view of St Peter’s Church at Oare high on your right in the distance. You’ll also catch your first glimpse of the windmill on your left in Oare Road. The grain mill was converted into a house in 1962.

OARE TO DAVINGTON

C1. At the end of the road turn left at the marina. Across the road to your right is Oare Meadow Nature Reserve, an area grazed by cattle, providing the perfect conditions for a rare mix of fresh water and salt water plants. Also to your right is Oare village, where you will find The Three Mariners, which boasts both local fish and produce on its impressive menu, and The Castle, a former haunt of barge skippers and workers from the former brickfield and gunpowder factories nearby. At weekends you will be able to buy local catch direct from fisherman “Bluey” Walpole who has a stall in the village. You are now following Oare Road towards Faversham. Look out for the windmill on your left and the nearby miller’s house facing the road. Opposite the mill was one of the town’s industrious brickfields, in operation from about 1860 to 1930. Continue on this road, passing on your right disused gravel pits, now stocked with fish, and then Davington Primary School.



past the popular allotments on your left to Stonebridge Pond at its foot. The white weather-boarded cottages on your right are gunpowder workers’ cottages from the 18th century. (See suggested detour at C3 to find out more about the town’s explosive history)



C3. Turn left at Stonebridge Pond, with its ducks, coots and moorhens. A little further on, on the opposite side of the road, you’ll see the sign for Chart Gunpowder Mill. This short detour takes you to the world’s oldest powder mill (open on weekend afternoons and Bank Holidays from Easter to October). Otherwise, continue on, following West Street past the 16th century Bull pub on your right, with its delightful ales and hidden garden and the Mechanics Arms, also on your right. Use the crossing to West Street to return to the bustling town centre and Market Place, with its cafés, restaurants, shops and bars.



Wildlife haven ...

OARE MEADOW NATURE RESERVE



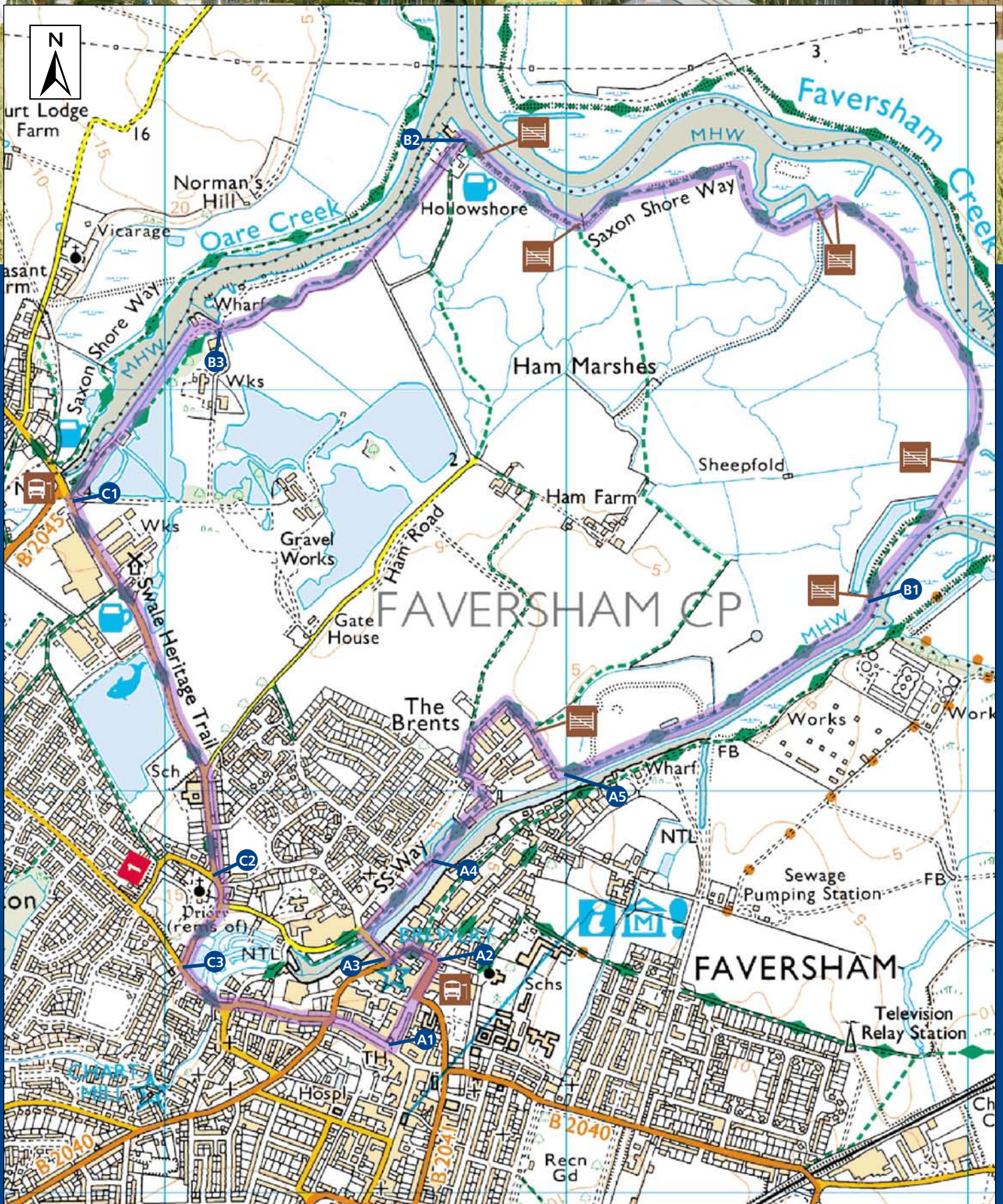
On the edge of the saltmarshes at the head of Oare Creek, Oare Meadow Nature Reserve is unusual in that freshwater plants mingle with their salt water cousins. Fed by fresh water springs, it supports a wealth of wetland plants, including ragged robin and yellow flag iris.

The grazing meadows surrounding Faversham and Oare creeks are a national gem, providing a rare haven for wildlife, grassland flowers and rare plant species, including the unmistakably aromatic hog’s fennel – the local area is one of only four places in the UK where it grows.









Protected from the ravages of the waves by sea walls dating back to medieval times, these wild pastures offer abundant grazing for sheep and cattle, crucial in maintaining the delicate habitat demanded by this rare mix of wild flora.

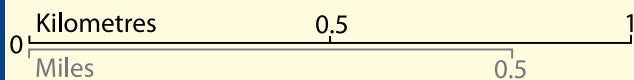


C2. At the end of this road, with Davington Stores on your left, cross over to Davington Church ahead. The interpretation panel in the churchyard tells you more about this Grade I listed building - the oldest in the area and part of the former Davington Priory. Follow the old flint wall down Davington Hill,



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-  Garden/Arboretum
-  Public house
-  Viewpoint
-  Place of worship
-  Telephone
-  Gate
-  Refreshments
-  Train



Walk Overview

- Distance:** 5 miles (8 km);
2 hours (no stops)
- Fitness level:** Suitable for all fitness levels
- Toilets:** Town centre short-stay car park behind Market Place
- Refreshments:** Restaurants, pubs and tearooms en route

- Transport:** Mainline railway station at Faversham
www.traveline.org.uk
- Pay phones:** Faversham town centre and Oare village
- Parking:** Queen's Hall car park near Faversham station
- Map:** OS Explorer 149

Directory of local businesses

FOOD, DRINK AND PRODUCE

A J Barkaway Butcher, Faversham ME13 7JE
01795 532040. Find us on faversham.org

Lamberhurst Farm Dairy,
Dargate ME13 9ES 01227 751741
www.cheesemakersofcanterbury.co.uk

Grow, Brogdale Farm ME13 8XZ
01795 531888. www.brogdaleonline.co.uk

Macknade Fine Foods, Faversham ME13 7JE
01795 534497/53737. Find us on faversham.org

Moor Organics, Deerton Street ME9 9LJ
01795 521341. Find us on faversham.org

Pine Trees Juice, Doddington ME9 0AX
01795 886266. www.pinetreesfarm.co.uk

Seasalter Lamb, Eastling ME13 0BD
07891 004474. www.seasalterlamb.co.uk

Snod Farm, Otterden ME13 0DB
01795 890700. Find us on faversham.org

SW Doughty Butcher, Doddington ME9 0BH
01795 886255. Find us on faversham.org

PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Albion Taverna, Faversham ME13 7DH
01795 591411. Find us on faversham.org

Anchor Inn and Crabshack,
Faversham ME13 7BP 01795 536471
Find us on faversham.org

Ardennes Restaurant, Faversham ME13 7JB
01795 590008. Find us on faversham.org

Black Lion, Lynsted ME9 0RJ
01795 521229.

Courtyard Restaurant,
Brogdale Farm ME13 8XZ
01795 530013. www.courtyard-restaurant.co.uk

Elephant, Faversham ME13 7JN
01795 590157. Find us on faversham.org

George Inn, Newnham ME9 0LL
01795 890237.

Osteria Posillipo, Faversham ME13 7LD
01795 590580. Find us on faversham.org

Phoenix Tavern, Faversham ME13 7BH
01795 591462. Find us on faversham.org

Plough, Stalisfield Green ME13 0HY
01795 890256. Find us on faversham.org

Plough Inn,
Lewson Street ME9 9JJ 01795 521348
Find us on faversham.org

Provenance, Faversham ME13 8PE
01795 539508. Find us on faversham.org

Read's, Faversham ME13 8XE
01795 535344. Find us on faversham.org

Rose and Crown, Perry Wood ME13 9RY
01227 752214. Find us on faversham.org

Shipwrights' Arms, Hollowshore ME13 7TU
01795 590088.

Spice Lounge, Faversham ME13 8NU
01795 533322. Find us on faversham.org

Sun Inn, Faversham ME13 7JE
01795 535098. Find us on faversham.org

Three Horseshoes, Hernhill ME13 9AX
01227 750842. Find us on faversham.org

White Horse Inn, Boughton ME13 9AX
01227 751343. Find us on faversham.org

White Lion, Selling ME13 9RQ
01227 752211. www.thewhitelion-selling.com

Woodrose Restaurant, Hernhill ME13 9TX
01227 751168. Find us on faversham.org

ATTRACTIONS

Beech Court Gardens, Challock TN25 4DJ
01223 740735. Find us on faversham.org

Belmont House, Throwley ME13 0HH
01795 890202. Find us on faversham.org

Brogdale Farm, Ospringe ME13 8XZ
01795 536250. Find us on faversham.org

Doddington Place, Doddington ME9 0BB
01795 886101. Find us on faversham.org

Farming World, Boughton ME13 9SP
01227 751144. Find us on faversham.org

Fleur Museum, Faversham ME13 8NY
01795 534542. Find us on faversham.org

Faversham Swimming Pools, ME13 8PW
01795 532426. Find us on faversham.org

Sailing Barge Greta, Standard Quay, Faversham
07711 657919. www.greta1892.co.uk

Mount Ephraim Gardens, Hernhill ME13 9TX
01227 751496. Find us on faversham.org

St Mary of Charity Church,
Faversham ME13 8JZ
01795 530599. Find us on faversham.org

Shepherd Neame Brewery Tours,
Faversham ME13 7AX
01795 542016. Find us on faversham.org

Shrine of St Jude, Faversham ME13 7SE
01795 539214. Find us on faversham.org

ACCOMMODATION

Barnsfield, Fostal ME13 9JG
01227 750973. Find us on faversham.org

Black Lion, Lynsted ME9 0RJ
01795 521229. Find us on faversham.org

Brenley Farm House, Boughton ME13 9LY
01227 751203. Find us on faversham.org

Church Oast, Hernhill ME13 9JW
01227 750974. Find us on faversham.org

Cot-Hoy, Buckland ME13 0TP
01795 535616. Find us on faversham.org

Court Lodge, Oare ME13 0QB
01795 591543. Find us on faversham.org

Fairlea, Faversham ME13 8NH
01795 539610. Find us on faversham.org

Frith Farm Cottages, Otterden ME13 0DD
01795 890701. Find us on faversham.org

Gladstone House, Faversham ME13 8DZ
01795 536432. Find us on faversham.org

Judd's Folly Hotel, Ospringe ME13 0RH
01795 591818. Find us on faversham.org

Leaveland Court, Leaveland ME13 0NP
01233 740596. Find us on faversham.org

March Cottage, Faversham ME13 8NH
01795 536514. Find us on faversham.org

Old Vicarage, Doddington ME9 0BD
01795 886136. Find us on faversham.org

Painter's Farm Caravan Camping Site,
Painter's Forstal ME13 0EG 01795 532995

Palace Farm, Doddington ME9 0AU
01795 886200. Find us on faversham.org

Railway Hotel, Faversham ME13 8PE
01795 533173. Find us on faversham.org

Read's, Faversham ME13 8XE
01795 535344. Find us on faversham.org

Sandhurst Farm, Newnham ME9 0NE
01795 886854. Find us on faversham.org

Sun Inn, Faversham ME13 7JE
01795 535098. Find us on faversham.org

Syndale Lodge, Faversham ME13 0RH
01795 531488. Find us on faversham.org

Tenterden House, Boughton ME13 0RH
01227 751593. Find us on faversham.org

Uplees Farm, Uplees ME13 0QR
01795 532133. Find us on faversham.org

White Horse Inn, Boughton. ME13 9AX
01227 751343. Find us on faversham.org

Food Trails in this series

- **Footsteps of Royalty & Romans** (Faversham – Ospringe – Painter's Forstal – Brogdale)
- **A Walk on the Wild Side** (Faversham – Davington – Oare – Luddenham)
- **Syndale Valley Walk** (Newnham – Eastling – Stalisfield – Doddington)
- **The Peasants' Last Revolt** (Boughton – Hernhill – Dargate – Dunkirk)
- **The Two Creeks Walk** (Faversham – Thorn Creek – Davington – Oare)
- **First Fruit** (Teynham – Conyer – Lewson Street – Lynsted)
- **Earth, Wind and Water** (Faversham – Goodnestone – Graveney – Seasalter)
- **A Land for All Seasons** (Sheldwich – Selling – Perry Wood – Badlesmere)

A Faversham Enterprise Partnership project, working in collaboration with Faversham Area Tourism Association

The Countryside Code

Respect – Protect – Enjoy

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you will enjoy walking in Kent and help protect the countryside now and for future generations.

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs. Leave gates and property as you find them. Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home. Keep dogs under close control. Consider other people.

For further information please visit www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or Tel: 08451 003298

Remember to always follow the Highway Code.



For walking information: go to faversham.org/walking Telephone: 01795 534542

Visit: Tourist Information Centre, Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, 10-13 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NS

