

with scarce plants.

with pastures to your left and the creek on your right to – the mooring point for boats entering right to – 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 puddled with pools of water, reed beds and rich puddled with pools of water, reed beds and rich puddled with pools of water, reed beds and rich

United Fertiliser Company. House over the water - the former home of the in open marshes, with the magnificent Oyster Bay of maritime craftsmen ahead of you. You are now and waterfront workshops buzzing with the sound and turn left onto the sea wall, with sailing boats meadow. Walk straight ahead down to the creek Pass through the kissing gate into a livestock with cornfields and grazing sheep on your left. the track forks and continue on to the kissing gate, the industrial estate on your right. Bear right when nodding with golden cereals in summer, skirting paved path opens onto farmland on your left, take the footpath for the Saxon Shore Way. The from concrete. Cross the road diagonally and 2,000 vessels were built here, including some government's request in World War 1. More than former shipyard opened by Pollock's at the path by the edge of an industrial estate, part of a

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

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

Posillipo Pizzeria at Provender Mill. Turn left into Conduit Street, passing the ancient timber-framed TS Hazard 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.





AZ Walk down Quay Lane passing Belvedere Road on your right, which is home to the Osteria

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 Visitor Information Centre behind you, and the impressive stilted Guildhall to your left, walk straight shead through Market Place passing the visitor centre at Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest visitor centre at Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest view along Abbey Street ahead as you do so, one of Britain's finest historic streets and home to the of Britain's finest historic streets and home to the welcoming Phoenix Tavern and Anchor Inn.

#### Faversham to Faversham Creek

Alternatively you can take the train into Faversham. The public toilets are in Central car park behind Market Place.

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 Central car park just off Market Place.

provide a welcome treat once you've finished the whole route.

Some sections of the walk end at a spot where you'll find a pub, restaurant or tearoom to help fortify you or

Planning your walk



## Faversham's rich maritime and farming heritage

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.

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!

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

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.



# 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 and on a lead around livestock
- Consider other people
- Remember to always follow the Highway Code

For more information about how to safely enjoy the countryside, visit the following website or scan the QR code https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en\_GB/countrysidecode/



#### Other Nature Trails in this Series



Faversham Town Council

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### The Two Creeks Walk

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



#### **Faversham Creek to Oare Creek**

**B1** With Faversham Creek still on your right, continue along the sea wall as the waterway widens for approximately a mile. This is a good place to spot dunlin, redshank and oystercatchers feeding on the saltmarshes and pools of tidal water when the tide is out.

**B2** 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.

**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 private boatyard on your right and remain on the footpath straight ahead, 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. There is an impressive array of boats here and a 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, which was converted into a house in 1962. At the end of the road on your right is Café by the Creek where you can stop for a bite to eat and drink; the café is open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-4pm, bank holidays 10am-3pm.



### Oare to Davington

C1 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. Turn left at the marina, 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.

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 1 listed building - the oldest in the area and part of the former Davington Priory. Follow the old flint wall down Davington Hill, 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). Continue on keeping left, passing the 16th century Bull pub on your right going straight ahead in West Street. Use the crossing at the next junction to continue ahead along West Street to return to the bustling town centre and Market Place, with its cafés, restaurants, shops and bars.



