

A Walk on the Wild Side

Explore
KENT

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FAVERSHAM
MARKET TOWN OF KINGS

FAVERSHAM - DAVINGTON - OARE - LUDDENHAM



A Walk on the Wild Side

Barkaway Butchers



A J Barkaway Butchers have supplied the finest quality meat products to Faversham and the local area for more than a century.

Specialists in award winning hand-made pies, sausages and fresh meats sourced from the very best local farms, Barkaway's offers a complete traditional butcher's service.

The shop offers friendly, informed assistance and is committed to maintaining and promoting top class standards of butchery.

Barkaway's exceeds all Environmental Health Standards in its work and is one of just 130 butchers in the UK awarded the prestigious Guild of Q Butchers quality standard.

Drop into the shop to see for yourself!



Take a Walk on the Wild Side and discover one of Kent's most beautiful wildlife havens on the doorstep of the historic market town of Faversham.

You'll be bowled over by breath-taking views across farmland, sweeping pasture and glistening wetlands, and by an internationally important bird sanctuary, grazed by livestock as in days gone by. The scene is framed by the open sea and the local fishing boats that still land their catch here.

Echoes of the area's explosive and maritime history are all around you in this unexpectedly unspoilt and fertile habitat, rich with wild plants and skies that all year round brim with birds.

Your route starts in Faversham's bustling Market Place – a sea of colour, lined with centuries-old half-timbered shops and houses and presided over by the elegant, stilted Guildhall. On Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays traders selling fresh fish, fruit and vegetables, flowers and local produce vie for attention like their predecessors down the ages, while tempting tearooms entice you to sit back and admire the scene.

This is an intriguing town, with specialist food stores, restaurants and bars, and the pleasing aroma of beer brewing most days of the week at Shepherd Neame, the country's oldest brewer.

But soon the town centre will be left behind as you pass Davington Church – the oldest building in the area and part of the former Davington Priory – and then Oare windmill as you head for open country and the coast. Here, farming sits happily alongside the region's diverse flora and fauna – a far cry from the days when this area's rich harvest included brick clay and gunpowder. (Find out more about the area's explosive heritage at the Oare Gunpowder Works country park, a short detour along the Western Link).

Today, Oare marshes are an unspoilt and tranquil haven for walkers, livestock and wildlife. Cattle and sheep graze the wetlands, following a centuries-old tradition that encourages a diversity of coastal plants, creating an internationally-important bird life sanctuary.

Your walk takes you through a 200-acre reserve managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. You may even be lucky enough to spy one of the 14 different species of dragonfly and damselfly recorded here.

As you reach the coast and The Swale, take time to enjoy the fragrant sea air and look out for fishing boats that harvest this stretch of water. Locally-caught fish is a delicacy you can enjoy at restaurants in the area. From the coastline, you walk back through open countryside, where sheep graze in orchards and Luddenham Court lies ahead, with the church by its side. The butcher's shop here sells beef, pork and lamb, much of it reared on the wetlands you have passed through.

Oare village, with its welcoming pubs, is then just a stroll away across the fields, providing an opportunity to stop for a drink or a meal and enjoy the open views across the creek. Or retrace your steps into the heart of Faversham, where you will find dozens of places to eat, many specialising in local Kentish produce.

Of course, there's far more to Faversham than you can discover on this one walk – so why not stay a night or two at a local pub or guesthouse and explore the delights of this entrancing waterside haven and its surrounding countryside.

"Be patient and calm - for no one can catch fish in anger"

Herbert Hoover



St Mary's Church,
Luddenham -
A haven for wildlife

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. Many sections of the walk end at a spot where you'll find a pub, restaurant or tearoom to help fortify you – or perhaps offer 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 the railway station in Faversham.

If not driving, you can take a train to Faversham. Local buses also run between Faversham and the village of Oare.

There are public toilets in Faversham at the car park behind Market Place, and you can also use those 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 OARE

A1. Your walk starts in Faversham's historic Market Place, presided over by the impressive Guildhall and home to Kent's oldest market, selling fresh fish, fruit and vegetables, flowers and local produce on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

From the busy Market Place, with its many cafés, head along West Street – lined with historic buildings and specialist food shops – and use the pedestrian crossing. Continue along West Street to Stonebridge Pond on your right, once part of the Home Works, one of Faversham's gunpowder factories, and now a haven for wildfowl.

A2. Turn right at Stonebridge Pond and walk up Davington Hill. Continue straight ahead as you pass Davington Church on your left – the oldest building in the area and part of the former Davington Priory. Walk along Priory Row.

A3. Continue straight on, passing Davington School on your left, into Oare Road.

On your left you'll pass former gravel pits, now teeming with fish, and on your right an 18th century windmill, in operation until 1919. The Marsh Works, a former gunpowder works, were also on your right. The GIST transport depot on your left distributes M&S food across south east England. Continue along Oare Road until you reach Oare itself – the Castle Inn is ahead and Oare Creek and boatyard on your right.

(To visit Oare Gunpowder Works, formerly Davington Mills, detour left and walk along the footpath by the Western Link. The entrance is some 400 yards on your right)

Faversham & Gunpowder...

AN EXPLOSIVE HISTORY



For a quiet market town, Faversham certainly can claim an explosive history. For many years it was at the heart of the British explosives industry – in fact, much of the Industrial Revolution that transformed modern Britain depended on Faversham's products, since they were used to blast routes for the new canals and railways which were being built. Gunpowder was made here from 1573, if not earlier, and by 1787 there were three large factories in the area. You can see one of the powder mills – the oldest of its kind in the world – at Chart Mills, another short detour, this time off West Street. Other factories opened along The Swale to make high explosives such as cordite and TNT – and it was here that the "Great Explosion" – the worst ever in the history of the British industry – occurred in 1916, killing 108 people. The shock waves were felt as far away as Norwich.

OARE TO HARTY FERRY

B1. At the head of the creek turn right just before The Castle, ensuring the creek is on your right, passing through a kissing gate on your right signposted to the Saxon Shore Way. Keep the creek to your right.

Cross the meadow and pass through a kissing gate on to the sea wall.

You are now walking with ditches and farmland on your left and the creek on your right.

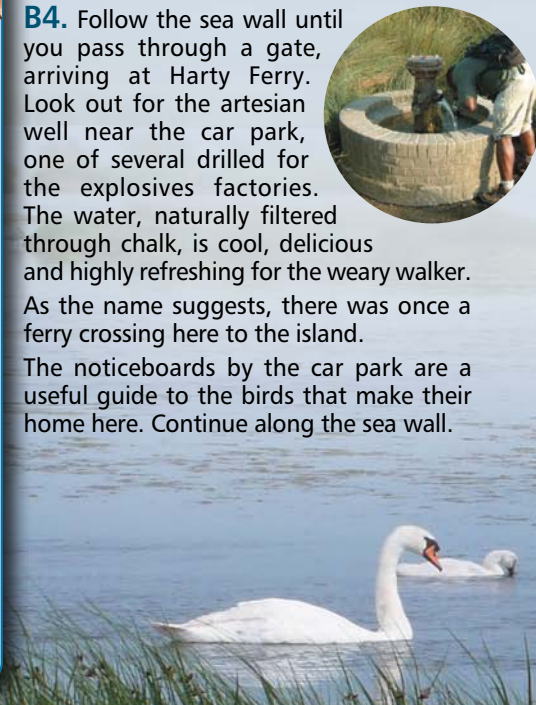
B2. Shortly after the confluence of Oare Creek and Faversham Creek, pass through a gate to Oare Marshes Nature Reserve (managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust) and follow the sea wall to the bird hide ahead. The habitat – managed by age-old farming traditions, including grazing by cattle and wild Konik ponies – is of international importance for overwintering and breeding wetland birds.

B3. At the hide, continue along the sea wall. On your right is The Swale, a tidal channel between the mainland and the Isle of Sheppey. The part of the island you see is the Isle of Harty. As you look out you may also see the local fishing boats that harvest this stretch of water, once home to the rich reserves of the Faversham Oyster Fishery Company – the world's oldest company on record.

B4. Follow the sea wall until you pass through a gate, arriving at Harty Ferry. Look out for the artesian well near the car park, one of several drilled for the explosives factories. The water, naturally filtered through chalk, is cool, delicious and highly refreshing for the weary walker.

As the name suggests, there was once a ferry crossing here to the island.

The noticeboards by the car park are a useful guide to the birds that make their home here. Continue along the sea wall.





“Food is our common ground, a universal experience”

James Beard

Oare Marshes Nature Reserve...

A HAVEN FOR WETLAND BIRDS

The Oare Marshes Nature Reserve is owned and managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. It is an area of over 200 acres, with freshwater dykes, open water ‘scrapes’, sea-wall and salt-marshes. It is part of the Swale Site of Special Scientific Interest and is an internationally important wetland because of the migratory, overwintering and breeding wetland birds it supports. Breeding species include avocet, redshank, snipe, lapwing, water rail, bearded reedling, common tern and garganey. Migrating birds include the black-tailed godwit, ruff, little stint, curlew, sandpiper and whimbrel, while birds that winter here include the Brent goose, dunlin, curlew, wigeon, merlin, hen harrier, short-eared owl, bittern and twite.

HARTY FERRY TO LUDDENHAM COURT

C1. The path bends sharply to the left at Dan’s Dock, with the remains of a jetty that served a brick and tile works. Leave the sea wall and the reserve and head inland along the straight track, the line of a former industrial tramway. Follow this restricted byway through grazing marsh, heading for a patch of woodland ahead.

C2. Keep going past Gate House Bungalows, following the purple restricted byway signs, and bear left along a dirt track with Forge Cottage on your right and farm buildings on your left.

C3. At the end of the track, with the entrance to Uplees Lodge on your right, cross the road and pass through the gate opposite into an orchard. Cross the orchard, heading for the kissing gate in front of you.

Pass along a narrow path with fields on either side. At the track at the bottom cross straight over, pass through the next kissing gate and head for the wooden bridge ahead, halfway across the field. Note the references to Sheepfold and Sheep Wash on the map - another reminder of the long-standing tradition of grazing animals in this area.

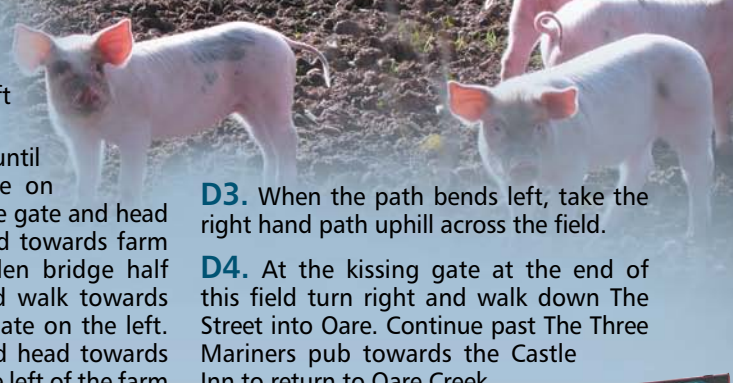
C4. Cross the bridge and walk towards the trees ahead, passing through the kissing gate.

C5. Follow the left hand edge of the field and pass through the gate to the left of Poplar Hall.

Continue down the lane until you reach a kissing gate on your right. Go through the gate and head diagonally across the field towards farm buildings. Cross a wooden bridge half way across this field and walk towards a culvert with a kissing gate on the left. Go through this gate and head towards another kissing gate to the left of the farm buildings ahead.

C6. Turn right through the kissing gate and head along the lane to Luddenham Court.

Take time to explore 12th century Luddenham Church. If it is locked you can get the key from Luddenham Court farm, where livestock has been reared since 1898. The butcher’s shop sells beef, pork and lamb, much of it reared on the farm.



D3. When the path bends left, take the right hand path uphill across the field.

D4. At the kissing gate at the end of this field turn right and walk down The Street into Oare. Continue past The Three Mariners pub towards the Castle Inn to return to Oare Creek.

The Three Mariners, where local produce often features on a special walkers’ menu, and the Castle Inn both offer an excellent opportunity to stop for something to eat and drink.



Local fisherman Barry “Bluey” Walpole sells his fresh catch each weekend from his store just a short detour to your left by the Castle Inn.

As you have begun to discover on your walk, Faversham is filled with pleasures just waiting to be discovered, so feel free to stay a night or two in this delightful market town and surrender to its charms.

LUDDENHAM COURT TO OARE

D1. Turn left through the kissing gate in front of the pig sties and walk across the field heading for the kissing gate to the right of a farm building. Keeping the fence line to your left, leave the field via the kissing gate.

D2. Cross the road and enter the field opposite through the next kissing gate. Walk ahead along the concrete path through the field.

Shepherd Neame...

BRITAIN’S OLDEST BREWER

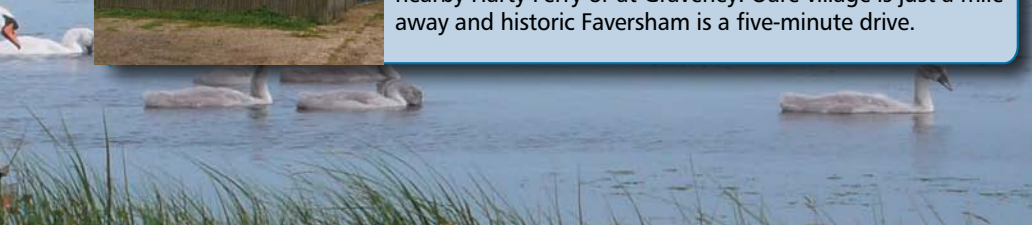


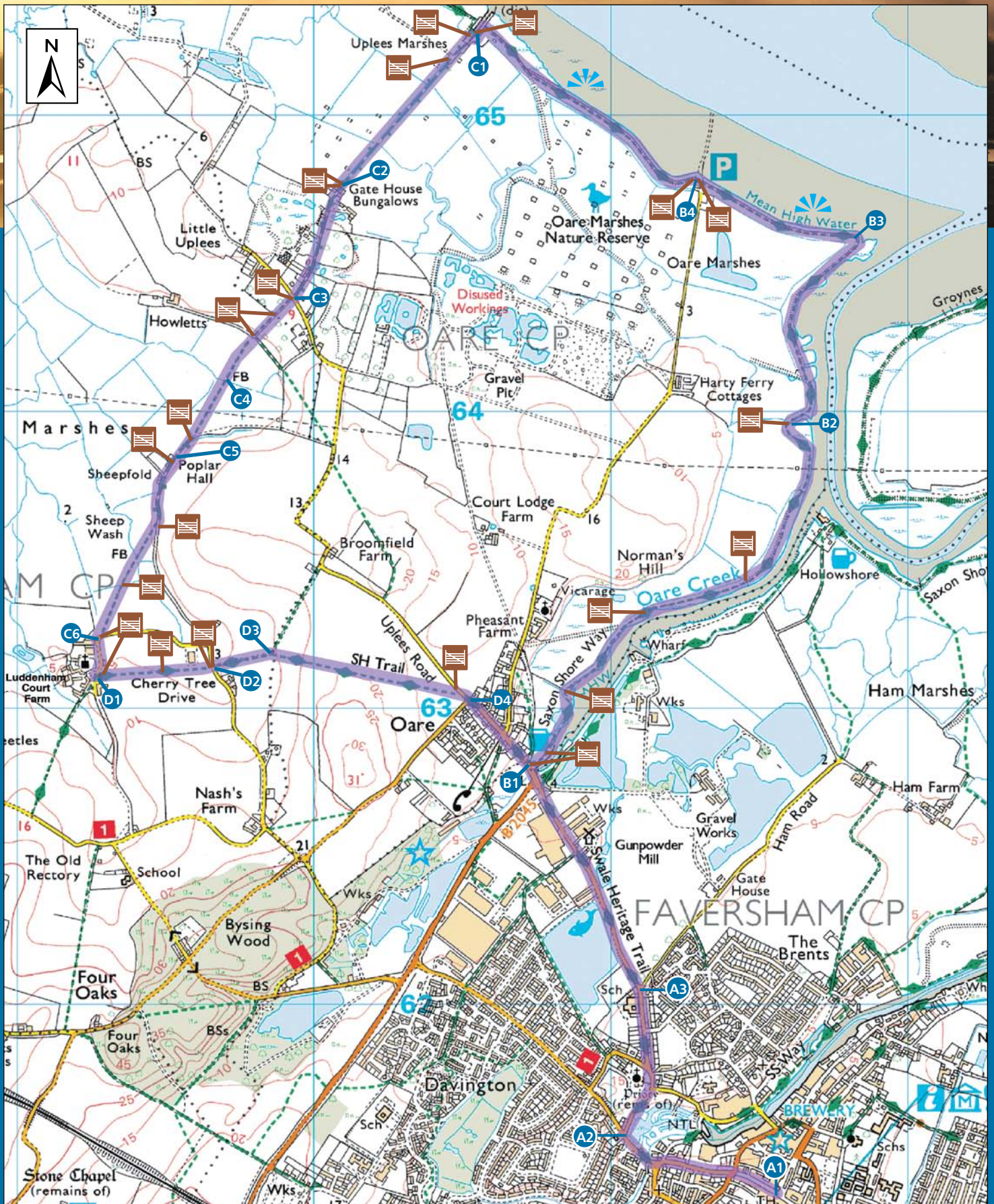
Faversham has been a centre of brewing for over 850 years and is home to Britain’s oldest independent brewer, whose business dates back to the 17th century. Shepherd Neame was also the first brewery outside London to install a stationary steam engine and to this day still uses pure water from its own artesian well. The countryside around Faversham is a prime location for growing the key ingredients of these beers - barley and Kentish hops. Brewery tours are available from the brewery’s Visitor Centre in Court Street, taking you through every step of the brewing process and ending with the opportunity for a tutored tasting of the award-winning ales and lagers for which Shepherd Neame is so famous.

Uplees Farm



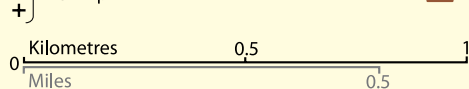
Uplees Farm offers comfortable and private self-catering farmhouse accommodation in beautiful countryside, with breathtaking views across The Swale. The working farm, where chicken and ducks roam freely and sheep and goats graze in the fields, has a self catering cottage with accommodation for up to six people (four adults and two children). The 16th century farmhouse has been tastefully refurbished to enhance its original features. The farm is an ideal base for walkers and visitors to the nature reserves at nearby Harty Ferry or at Graveney. Oare village is just a mile away and historic Faversham is a five-minute drive.





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- Fishing
- Nature reserve
- Other tourist feature
- Parking
- Public house/s
- Telephone
- Viewpoint
- Place of worship
- Windmill; with or without sails
- Gate



Walk Overview

- Distance:** 7.5 miles (12.25 km); 3.5 hrs (no stops)
- Fitness level:** Suitable for all fitness levels
- Toilets:** Town centre short stay car park adjacent to the Market Place
- Refreshments:** Restaurants and pubs en route
- Transport:** Mainline railway station

- Pay phones:** Faversham town centre and Oare.
- Parking:** Queen's Hall long-term parking near Faversham railway station.
- Map:** OS Explorer 149

at Faversham. Bus from Faversham to Oare www.traveline.org.uk

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](#)

Snoad 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

