

**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 Hartly. 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.

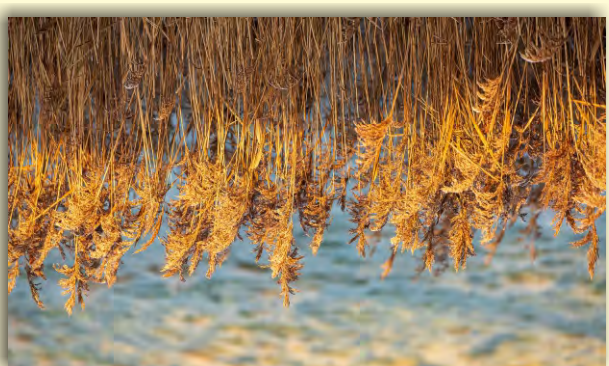
Overwintering and breeding wetland birds and sheep – is of international importance for old farming traditions, including grazing by cattle-bird hide ahead. The habitat – managed by age-Kent Wildlife Trust) and follow the sea wall to the Oare Marshes Nature Reserve (managed by the and Faversham Creek,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

**B2** Shortly after the confluence of Oare Creek left and the creek on your right.

The Castle, ensuring the creek is on your right, passing through a kissing gate on your right, signposted to the Saxon Shore Way. Keeping 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.

**B1** At the head of the creek turn right just before

## Oare to Hartly Ferry



## A haven for wildlife, wetland and migrating birds

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, the scene is framed by the open sea and the local fishing boats that still land their catch here.

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. Of international importance for migratory, overwintering and breeding wetland birds, the reserve consists of grazing marsh (one of a few left in Kent) with freshwater dykes, open water scrapes, reedbed, saltmarsh and seawall.

You may even be lucky enough to spy one of the 14 different species of dragonfly and damselfly recorded here.



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 of England. Continue along Oare Road until you reach Oare itself – the Castle Inn is ahead of you and Oare Creek and boatyard is 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).



**A3** Continue straight on, passing Davington School on your left, into Oare Road. On your left you'll pass former gravel pits, now teaming with fish, and on your right an 18th century windmill, in

Davington Priory. Walk along Priory Row.

pass Davington Church on your left – the oldest building in the area and part of the former

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

## Faversham to Oare



**A2** Turn right at Stonebridge Pond and walk up Davington Hill. Continue straight ahead as you

wildfowl. Once part of the Home Works, one of Faversham's gunpowder factories, the pond is now a haven for West Street to Stonebridge Pond on your right. Use the pedestrian crossing to continue along historic buildings and specialist food shops – and many cafes, head along West Street – lined with Saturdays. From the busy Market Place, with its local produce on Tuesdays, Fridays and selling fresh fish, fruit and vegetables, flowers and Guildhall and home to Kent's oldest market. Market Place, presided over by the impressive Your walk starts in Faversham's historic

## 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/](https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/countrysidecode/)



**Faversham Town Council**  
12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE  
T: 01795 503286 [www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)



## A Walk on the Wild Side

Take a walk on the wild side and discover Kent's most beautiful wildlife havens on the doorstep of the historic medieval market town of Faversham



7 miles ALL FITNESS LEVELS



**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.



## 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.

## Luddenham Court to Oare

**D1** Turn left through the kissing gate in front 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.

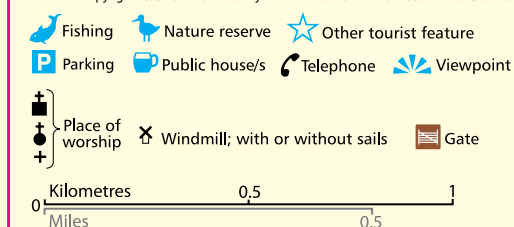
**D2** Cross the road and enter the field opposite through the next kissing gate. Walk ahead along the concrete path through the field.

**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 the menu, and the Castle Inn both offer an excellent opportunity to stop for something to eat and drink. 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.



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### Walk Overview

<b>Distance:</b>	7.5 miles (12.25km) 3.5 hours (no stops)	<b>Transport:</b>	Main railway station at Faversham <a href="http://www.thetrainline.com">www.thetrainline.com</a>
<b>Fitness level:</b>	Suitable for all fitness levels	<b>Pay phones:</b>	Faversham town centre and Oare village
<b>Toilets:</b>	Central car park behind Market Place	<b>Parking:</b>	Queen's Hall car park near Faversham station
<b>Refreshments:</b>	Restaurants, pubs & tearooms on route	<b>Map:</b>	OS Explorer 149

## Experience 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.

