

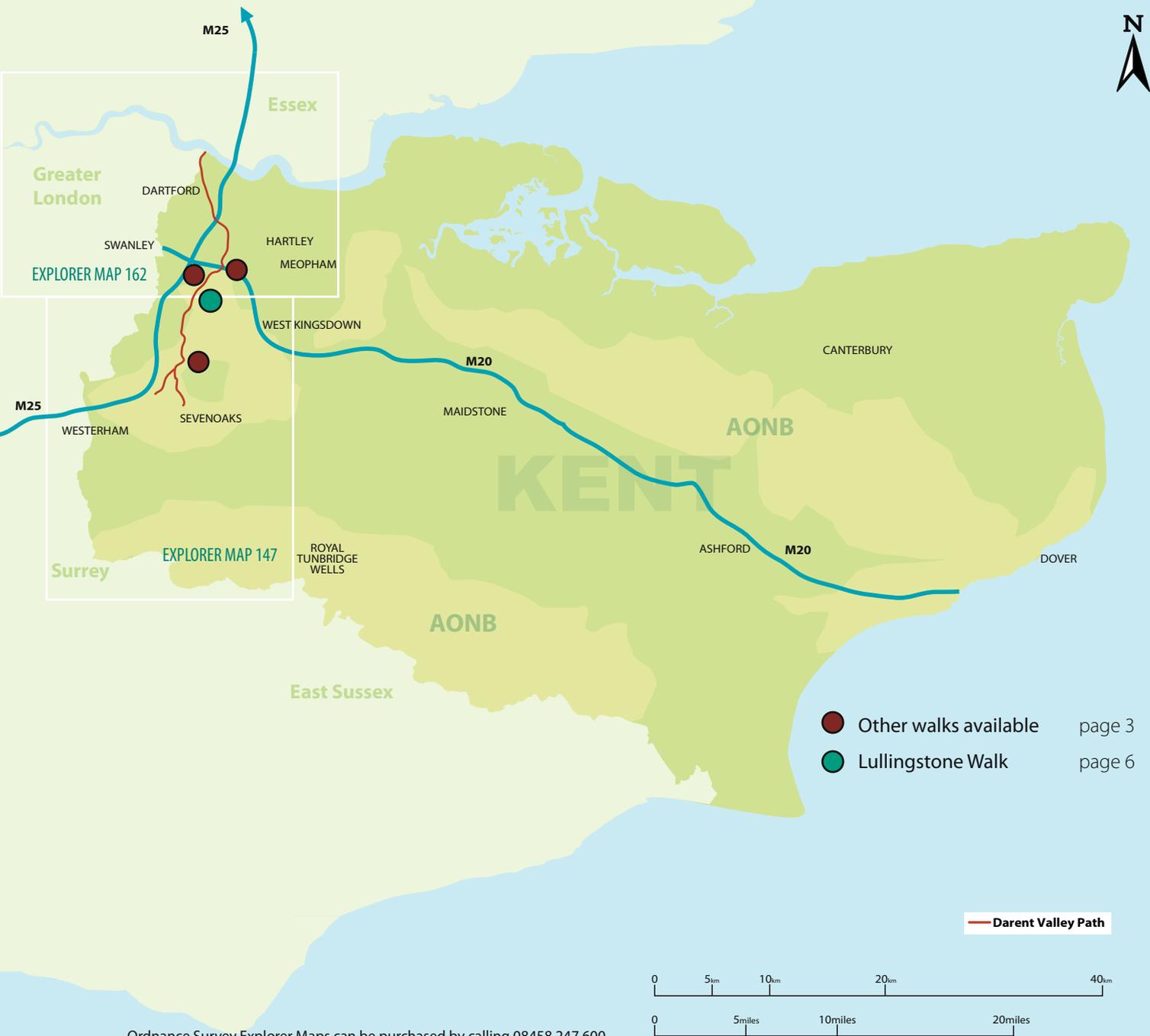
Free Taster

the Darent Valley Path

rolling hills and picturesque riverside villages



the Darent Valley Path from Dartford to Sevenoaks



Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps can be purchased by calling 08458 247 600

get walking

The following circular walk is a free taster of what can be enjoyed along the Darent Valley Path.

The walk is easy to find with the help of a road map or you can choose to travel by public transport. You will also find information about where to park, the type and length of the walk and where to enjoy a well earned rest.

The paths are clearly marked with references to Ordnance Survey Explorer map numbers to help walkers planning their own alternative or extended walks.

Details of further walks along the Kent coast and across the county are available from www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent.

If this walk has inspired you then you can buy the full version of the guidebook priced £4.99 by calling 08458 247 600, going on-line at www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent or visiting any good bookstores.

planning your walk

Make sure you have appropriate maps and information about the walk you are planning.

Make a good estimate of how long the walk is likely to take you. Most people average 2 miles (3 kilometres) an hour – steep slopes and rough ground can make the going much slower.

Remember to allow time for rests, refreshment breaks and simply savouring the views. If you are not used to walking, start with a short walk of 1.5 – 2 miles (2–3 km) see Walk 2.

Check the weather forecast for the day. Wear loose-fitting, comfortable and bright clothing appropriate for the season and road walking. Select strong, comfortable shoes with a good gripping sole or walking boots. Sun cream is always advisable but particularly during the spring and summer.

Drink plenty of water and take snacks with you.

Carry a mobile phone and let someone else know where you are going and when you expect to return.

If your walk takes you along roads, or across roads, please take care and follow the Highway Code (www.highwaycode.gov.uk).

Signage on Public Rights of Way

Where footpaths, bridleways or byways join a road, a right of way sign (see below) will indicate the route to follow. Additionally, to help people follow a route, waymarkers are installed along a right of way. These are usually coloured arrows fixed or painted onto stiles and gateposts (see below).



FOOTPATH



BRIDLEWAY



BYWAY



RESTRICTED BYWAY



Signpost



Waymarker



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.

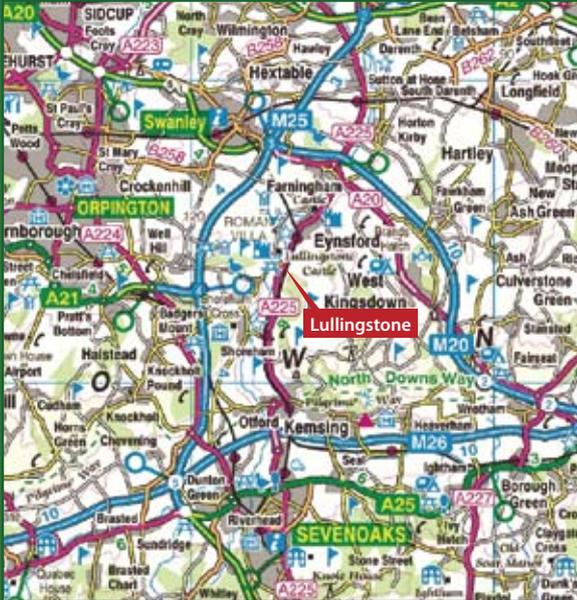
Dog walking

The countryside is a great place for dogs to enjoy whether ambling along leafy lanes, rambling through forests, or exploring open access land.

For further information about the Countryside Code, or copies of “You and your dog in the countryside”, visit www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or phone 0845 100 3298.



Lullingstone



© Crown copyright 100019238.

Location: Lullingstone

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.4km)

Time: allow 4 hours

Explorer Map: 147

Terrain: field and woodland paths, some steep slopes

Stiles: 10 **Gates:** 8

Parking: Lullingstone Country Park

Refreshments and facilities: Lullingstone Park Visitor Centre and public houses in Shoreham village centre

Public transport: for information about local bus and train services in Kent, contact Traveline tel: 0870 6082608, www.traveline.org.uk

Step count: approx 13,000

Lullingstone Country Park Visitor Centre is packed with information about the many delights to be discovered along this walk and across the North Downs. This area is renowned for its stunning views of the Kent countryside, lavender fields, hop gardens and historic buildings.



From the Visitor Centre follow the signs to the Darent Valley Path across the fields towards the banks of the river. Continue alongside the river to the picturesque centre of Shoreham and past the Kings Arms public house.

Take the footpath just past Shoreham Aircraft Museum, signposted to Halstead and Timberden Bottom (The Landway). Follow the path uphill taking time to turn back and savour dramatic views across the valley and Shoreham below.

At the top, Meenfield Wood offers an excellent resting point and an opportunity to enjoy the scenery and grassland wildlife before heading downhill to skirt the top of the Shoreham Memorial Cross carved into the hillside and on through the woods.

Follow up tree-lined Cockerhurst Road to take the footpath on the right and follow the route along the field edge, into Redmans Lane. After a short distance, turn right, and take the steps into a field.

Keep to the left, crossing over a stile and follow along an enclosed path to a gate.

Go through the gate into Beechen Wood, Lullingstone Park and across a fairway to the main entrance of the golf club car park to pass through a kissing gate and follow the path into the fields beyond.

Continue through the woodland before coming once again into the open to walk along the field edge. Look ahead as the path winds downhill to catch glimpses of Lullingstone Castle in the distance.

The waymarked path continues to wind downhill and offers stunning views of Eynsford Viaduct before turning to pass directly in front of Lullingstone Castle. A kissing gate leads back to the banks of the river and the Visitor Centre.

If time is short, numerous footpaths make it simple to plan shorter walks choosing, for example, just to complete the southern or northern section of the full circular walk and heading back to the Visitor Centre from the path at Beechen Wood.



© Crown copyright 100019238.



- Darent Valley Path
- Parking
- Visitor Centre
- Nature reserve
- Fort
- Country park
- Public House
- Picnic Site
- Museum
- English Heritage
- Golf Course
- Interest
- Gate
- Stile
- Take care
- Railway Stations

Attractions in the Darent Valley

Squerryes Court and Gardens

Westerham TN16 1SJ

Squerryes Court is a redbrick manor house designed by Sir Nicholas Crisp in the late 17th century. The house has a collection of Old Master paintings, furniture, porcelain and tapestries all acquired or commissioned by the family in the 18th century.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1959 562 345 or visit
www.squerryes.co.uk

Quebec House

Westerham TN16 1TD

National Trust

This gabled, brick and Kent ragstone building dating from the 17th century was the childhood home of General James Wolfe. The Grade I listed building features Georgian memorabilia and there is a Battle of Quebec exhibition in the Tudor stable block.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1732 868381 or visit
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Chartwell

Westerham TN16 1PS

National Trust

This Victorian house was the home of the former Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill from 1922 until his death in 1965. Churchill restored the buildings and created fine rose and water gardens. The house features collections of Churchill paintings, photographs and memorabilia. The gardens offer excellent views over the Weald of Kent.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1732 868381 or visit
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Knole

Sevenoaks TN15 0RP

National Trust

Knole – a grand Tudor mansion set in rolling parkland – is the largest private house in England. Originally owned by the church and occupied by archbishops, the house was acquired by Henry VIII.

Elizabeth I passed the house to the Sackville family and owned it until it was bequeathed to the National Trust in the 20th century.

Knole is now recognised as one of the treasure houses of England.

Knole deer park covers more than 1,000 acres and includes a site of special scientific interest.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1732 462100 or visit
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Lullingstone Castle

Eynsford DA4 0JA

Lullingstone Castle is actually a 15th century manor house, frequently visited by Henry VIII, which was enhanced in the 18th century in honour of Queen Anne who also often stayed there. The house is set in 120 acres of parkland that include a 15-acre lake. Now, the renowned plant hunter Tom Hart Dyke is creating an award-winning World Garden of Plants in the two-acre walled garden at Lullingstone Castle which is planned to feature 10,000 plants from around the globe planted to represent their respective countries of origin.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1322 862 114 or visit
www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk

Lullingstone Roman Villa

Eynsford DA4 0JA

English Heritage

This is one of the best preserved Roman sites in the Darent Valley. The excavated remains are of a prosperous first and second century farm and country house. The house was built in the lee of the hill and on land sloping east to catch the warmth of the sun. Archaeological evidence suggests this was also a popular site with evidence of nearby Iron Age sites.

The villa was first built around AD 75 and extended several times during 300 years of Roman occupation. The villa includes a room decorated with Christian symbols, among the earliest evidence for Christianity in Britain.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1322 863467 or visit
www.english-heritage.org.uk
Closed from 31st August 07 - May 08 due to building works. Please call in advance to avoid disappointment.

Eynsford Castle

Eynsford DA4 0AA

English Heritage

Thick flint walls are all that remains of this Norman castle, which was one of the first stone castles to be built in England. The site was used in Saxon times and there is evidence of a wooden tower on raised ground next to the River Darent. Building of the stone castle dates from around 1088. Guided tours are being introduced in 2007.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1322 863467 or visit
www.english-heritage.org.uk

Eagle Heights

Eynsford DA4 0JB

One of the UK's largest birds of prey centres with more than 150 raptors and growing collections of reptiles and mammals. Dedicated to conservation and preservation. Daily displays of bird handling. Husky rides.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1322 866 577 or visit
www.eagleheights.co.uk

The Hop Shop

Castle Farm, Shoreham TN14 7UB

Kentish produce, dried flowers, hop bines, aromatic oils and essences and more on Castle Farm which features acres of fragrant lavender and hops. Farm tours and events.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1959 523219 or visit
www.hopshop.co.uk

St Johns Jerusalem

Sutton at Hone, Dartford DA4 9HQ

National Trust

This attractive house with its moated, secluded gardens was a 13th century training school for knights preparing for the crusades. The house was rebuilt in the 17th and 18th centuries and was home to Edward Hasted who is best known for his "History and Topographical Survey of Kent" – a detailed account of life in Kent in the 18th century.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1732 810378 or visit
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Dartford Borough Museum

Dartford DA1 1EU

Permanent and temporary exhibitions covering the history of the Dartford area from prehistoric to 1939-1945 era. Local geological and natural history exhibits.

For further information
tel: +44 (0)1322 224739 or visit
www.dartford.gov.uk/community/museum

Kent Visitor Information Centres

Ashford

tel: +44 (0)1233 629165
email: tourism@ashford.gov.uk
www.ashford.gov.uk

Broadstairs

tel: 0870 2646111
email: tourism@thanet.gov.uk
www.tourism.thanet.gov.uk

Canterbury

tel: +44 (0)1227 378100
email: canterburyinformation@canterbury.gov.uk
www.canterbury.gov.uk

Deal

tel: +44 (0)1304 369576
email: info@deal.gov.uk
www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Dover

tel: +44 (0)1304 205108
email: tic@doveruk.com
www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Faversham

tel: +44 (0)1795 534542
email: faversham@btinternet.com
www.faversham.org.uk

Folkestone

tel: +44 (0)1303 258594
email: discoverfolkestone@btconnect.com
www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk

Gravesend

tel: +44 (0)1474 337600
email: info@towncentric.co.uk,
www.towncentric.co.uk

Herne Bay

tel: +44 (0)1227 361911
email: hernebayinformation@canterbury.co.uk
www.visithernebay.co.uk

Maidstone

tel: +44 (0)1622 602169
email: tourism@maidstone.gov.uk
www.tour-maidstone.com

Margate

tel: 0870 2646111,
email: tourism@thanet.gov.uk
www.tourism.thanet.gov.uk

New Romney

tel: +44 (0)1797 362353
email: info@discoverfolkestone.co.uk
www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk

Ramsgate

tel: 0870 2646111
email: tourism@thanet.gov.uk
www.tourism.thanet.gov.uk

Rochester

tel: +44 (0)1634 843666
email: visitor.centre@medway.gov.uk
www.medway.gov.uk

Sandwich

(summer only)
tel: +44 (0)1304 613565
email: info@ticsandwich.wanadoo.co.uk
www.open-sandwich.co.uk

Sevenoaks

tel: +44 (0)1732 450305
email: tic@sevenoakstown.gov.uk
www.heartofkent.org.uk

Swanley

tel: +44 (0)1322 614660
email: tourisminfo@swanley.org.uk

Tenterden (summer only)

tel: +44 (0)1580 763572
email: tenttic@ashford.gov.uk
www.ashford.gov.uk

Tonbridge

tel: +44 (0)1732 770929
email: tonbridge.castle@tmbc.gov.uk
www.tmbc.gov.uk

Tunbridge Wells

tel: +44 (0)1892 515675,
email: touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
www.visittunbridgewells.com

Whitstable

tel: +44 (0)1227 275482
email: whitstableinformation@canterbury.gov.uk
www.visitwhitstable.co.uk

To order a free copy of the Kent
Visitor Guide tel: **0906 294 1191** or
visit: www.visitkent.co.uk

Find out further information in the
Surrey and London areas by visiting
www.visitbritain.co.uk

This has been produced by the Countryside Access Service, Kent County Council.

All rights reserved. No reproduction permitted without the prior permission of the publisher.

This book contains mapping based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100019238. 2007.

Design: 'astonestrow' (astonestrow@mac.com)

Photography: John Miller

(www.johnmillerphotography.com)

Kent Tourism Alliance

Sally Pike

Words: Delphine Houlton, at Maxim

(www.maxim-pr.co.uk)

To report any problems with Public Rights of Way in Kent please call our report line on 0845 3450210.

For other guidebooks, maps and walking information in Kent:

Environment and Waste

Kent County Council

Invicta House

Maidstone

Kent ME14 1XX

Tel: 08458 247 600

www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

e-mail: explorekent@kent.gov.uk

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information is correct. Please be aware that the surface of paths in the countryside are liable to change at different times of the year.

You will find information about the walk, including terrain and number of stiles, which will help you decide if the walk is right for you.

KCC cannot accept responsibility or liability for loss or damage caused by any inaccuracies, errors, omissions or subsequent changes to the information.

**This is available in other formats,
please call 08458 247 600**



Otford



Lullingstone



Project part funded by the
European Union