

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.

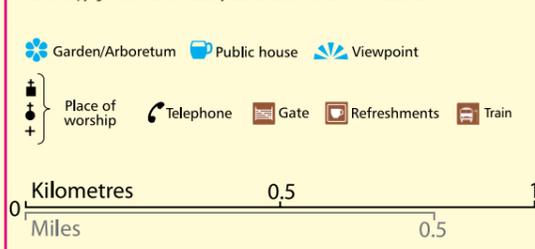
C2 At the end of this road, with Davington Stores on your left, cross over to Davington Church ahead. The interpretation panel in the churchyard tells you more about this Grade 1 listed building - the oldest in the area and part of the former Davington Priory. Follow the old flint wall down Davington 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.



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Walk Overview

Distance: 5 miles (8km)
Fitness level: Suitable for all fitness levels
Toilets: Central car park behind Market Place
Refreshments: Restaurants, pubs & tearooms on route
Transport: Main railway station at Faversham www.thetrainline.com
Pay phones: Faversham town centre and Oare village
Parking: Queen's Hall car park near Faversham station
Map: OS Explorer 149