

# Earth, Wind and Water

MOTHER NATURE'S COAST  
AND COUNTRY HARVEST

Explore  
KENT

[faversham.org/walking](http://faversham.org/walking)

  
FAVERSHAM  
MARKET TOWN OF KINGS

FAVERSHAM - GOODNESTONE - GRAVENEY - SEASALTER



# Mother nature's coast and country harvest

*"Doubtless God could  
have made a better berry  
than the strawberry, but  
God never did."*

William Allen Butler

## Green energy ...

### HARVESTING THE WIND



The 30 turbines you see in the Thames Estuary off Seasalter form Vattenfall's Kentish Flats wind farm. The blades began turning in 2005 and produce enough wind power to supply 100,000 homes.

Work has now started on its neighbour, London Array's estuary operation, just 12 miles out from Seasalter and served by a sub-station at Graveney; it will be the world's largest offshore wind farm. Comprising up to 341 turbines, it will provide enough green energy for more than 750,000 homes and displace 1.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

Work on the first phase is expected to start offshore early in 2011. Phase One will include 175 turbines, two offshore substations and four sub-sea export cables linking the substations to the shore and 130 miles of cables threaded between the turbines.

The first phase, which will generate enough energy to power around 472,500 homes, is due to be completed by the end of 2012.

Explore an exquisite Kent landscape where the riches of Earth, Wind and Water are harvested in one of the most dynamic, yet enigmatic, corners of the county.

You'll be mesmerised by the diversity of this living patchwork, formed by Man working in harmony with Mother Nature - a major centre for soft fruit, with traditional marsh-reared lamb, spreading wheat fields, secret wildlife reserves and 21st century wind farms.

Your Earth, Wind and Water walk takes you through a magical mix of farming country, from medieval England to the modern day; an inspiring journey from past to present, from fertile countryside to the open coast.

Your walk begins in the historic town of Faversham, with Kent's oldest street market and quaint streets lined with tea rooms, restaurants and specialist shops - a great place to stock up on supplies.

Passing Shepherd Neame, the country's oldest brewer, you reach Abbey Street, famous for one of the country's finest collections of period homes, a grisly murder in 1551 and the vestiges of the town's medieval royal abbey. Remains of the monks' farm and the former fishing ponds that served this vast monastic community can still be seen, as can an iconic chimney of the town's once thriving brickfields.

As you make your way from Faversham and its historic waterway you reach open country, once the Larder of London that sent vital supplies of grain, fruit and hops to the capital by sailing barge.

Today you'll discover historic farmsteads and rural hamlets in a diverse landscape where modern-day farming skills rub shoulders with age-old traditions.

You'll pass wind caressed wheat fields, harvested using satellite technology, historic hop gardens and watercress beds of yesteryear.

At the ancient farmstead of Goodnestone, with its 12th century church, you'll find the area's celebrated covered strawberry fields, a major centre for UK soft fruit production, sending Kent fruit throughout the country for seven months of the year - a triumph over the elements and the ever-changing seasons.

Then it's on to the wide-open marshes at Graveney and Seasalter as you head for the coast, where the sweeping terrain is home to abundant wildlife and award-winning salt marsh lamb. You'll also learn about a historic secret of the marshes and its nearby pub that helped shorten the Second World War.

The sandy beach at Seasalter - regarded by Victorian sun-seekers as 'Faversham Plage' - remains a popular destination for those wishing to enjoy the stunning foreshore and admire the boats that fish beneath today's majestic wind farm.

As you walk the coastal path between earth and water you'll see under construction an on-shore substation set to provide the national grid with clean energy from a second wind farm way out in the Thames Estuary, before being greeted by the centuries-old scene of livestock grazing one of the country's premier reserves for wetland plants and birds. You may be lucky enough to spot lizards, buzzards and rare plants before turning back to the town and its creek, boat yards and busy maritime workshops.

Back in Faversham, you can mix with locals at The Anchor Inn - a haunt for water-boys to this day - before heading back along beautiful Abbey Street to busy Market Place, where a warm welcome awaits you in its shops, bars and restaurants.



# 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. We've also included a shortcut that allows you to enjoy part of this route at a more leisurely pace by following the detour listed below.

Many sections of the walk end at a spot where you'll find a pub, restaurant or tea room to help fortify you for the next stage of your walk – 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 Faversham railway station and near The Sportsman at Seasalter. If not driving, you can take a train to Faversham. See map for details.

Use our directory to find details of local restaurants, shops and accommodation and a wealth of additional information at [Faversham.org/walking](http://Faversham.org/walking).

### Ancient abbey...

#### ABBEY HABITS

Once dominating the town, Faversham's royal abbey was one of the country's largest monasteries, designed to become the burial place of royalty as Westminster is today.

Building work began on the great edifice in Abbey Place in 1148 under the direction of King Stephen and Queen Matilda, who were later buried here along with one of their sons.

The Benedictine abbey's fate at the hands of Henry VIII in the 1530s brought to an end a self-sufficient lifestyle for the monks, described at the time by townfolk as atrocious gluttons. Evidence supports the existence of an abbey grain mill, brewery and bakery. On its doorstep the lands that form Abbey Farm grew wheat and fruit, while cattle and sheep provided the monks with meat, milk, cheese, wool and hides. Two of its great barns can still be seen from your route today, as can the remains of its fishing ponds and the quay where local oysters and fish were brought ashore for the abbey.

#### FAVERSHAM TO GOODNESTONE

**A1.** Your walk begins in Faversham's bustling Market Place, lined with timber-framed buildings, restaurants and tea rooms and home to a busy street market on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. With the stilted Guildhall behind you, walk past Shepherd Neame, the country's oldest brewer, crossing the road ahead into Abbey Street where you will find one of the country's finest collections of period homes.

**A2.** Pass the welcoming Phoenix Tavern before turning right into Abbey Place. At its corner is Arden's House (No 80) where Thomas Arden was murdered in 1551 on the direction of his unfaithful wife. The chilling tale is still told in the stage drama Arden of Faversham. Take the public footpath ahead, with the grammar school on your right. (The footpath to

your right provides a short detour to Faversham's impressive parish church). On your left are playing fields, once the site of Faversham's great royal abbey, destroyed under Henry VIII. You can see the barns of the ancient Abbey Farm on your left. Continue ahead through Park Place and Gordon Road, taking the path behind houses on your right. Look out for the chimney on your left, a remnant of Faversham's once flourishing Abbey Brickfield, in operation from around 1850 to 1910. The footpath now opens on to grain fields. Keep the hedge on your left, climbing uphill to another corn field. Cross field to hedge line on your left.

**A3.** Continue on footpath with railway line on your right to kissing gate and cross track. Cross arable field, heading left to gap in willow hedge. Note the glistening polytunnels to your left. Continue on public footpath through hop garden. As you emerge you will see the old oast house through the trees on your right at School Farm. Follow path beside former watercress beds, passing hedges of seasonal berries and cherry plums. Continue on across arable ground into field with polytunnels left and right owned by B R Brooks and Son. Using plastic covers, the family grows strawberries and raspberries on 100 acres in and around Graveney seven months of the year. The area is a major centre for UK soft fruit production, supplying all the main supermarkets. Workers pick 10-14 tonnes of strawberries a day on this farm alone. Continue on, keeping poplar trees to your right. Look out for the oast house as you turn right over a stile to the tiny Norman church of St Bartholomew's at Goodnestone (farm, or ton, belonging to the Godwine family).

#### GOODNESTONE TO SEASALTER

**B1.** Leave St Bartholomew's on churchyard track to tarmac lane and turn left. Pass through gate ahead. Continue on grass path to open gateway and head left across pastures to gate. Cross railway track and walk diagonally right across field to gap in reeds and then ahead to stile. Continue straight ahead uphill across field to road. From here you

**The Four Horseshoes in Graveney is a typical English village pub and a great place to relax once you've finished your walk. A freehouse, it serves a variety of beers and good food using local ingredients.**

have a fantastic view of farmland, with polytunnels glinting in the sunshine and Faversham parish church in the distance.

**B2.** At road, with apple orchard ahead, turn right and then left just past Graveney Village Hall across open farmland. You will see Graveney Church ahead and Whitstable clinging to the hillside in the distance as tractors work the surrounding countryside. At grass track turn left, keeping hedge on your right (the fine medieval church at Graveney is a short detour to your right).

#### Seasalter Lamb



Seasalter lamb is reared exclusively on the grazing marshes at Graveney and Seasalter – giving the meat its distinctive flavour.

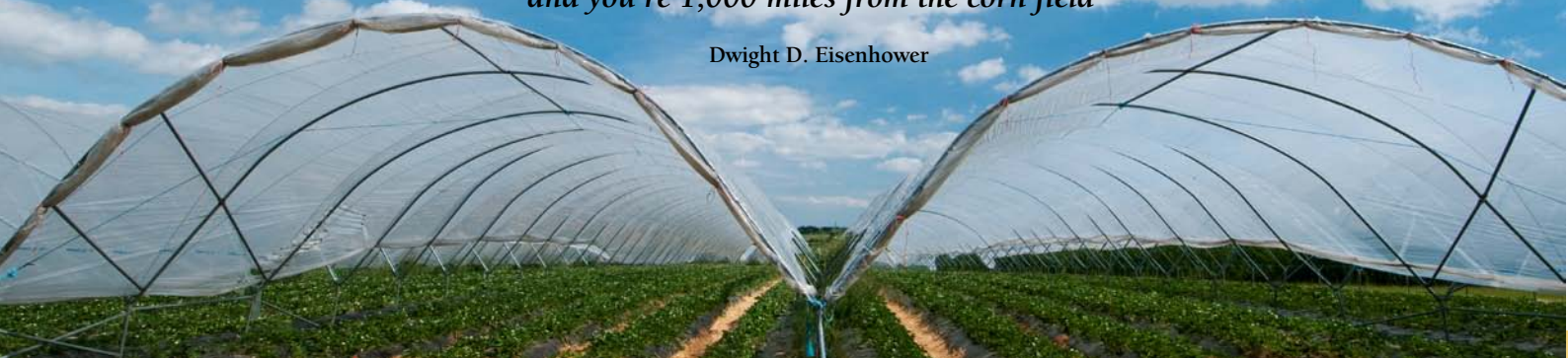
The land is managed to the highest environmental standards, which ensures the best natural grazing conditions for the sheep and helps to preserve the wetlands international status as a haven for wildfowl and wading birds.

Lambs are born and reared on the marshes and butchered locally to reduce food miles and minimise any stress to the animals. Farmer Jamie Neaves received the Countryside Alliance Award for his Seasalter Lamb in 2009.



*“Farming looks easy when your plough is a pencil,  
and you’re 1,000 miles from the corn field”*

Dwight D. Eisenhower



### The Anchor Crabshack



Seafood fans will love The Anchor Crabshack in Abbey Street, Faversham. Using locally-caught fish, the ‘shack’s extensive menu includes lobster and chips, spaghetti and mussels, whitebait, potted prawns and crab salad. There’s also a sumptuous range of meat dishes as well as roast dinners on Sunday. Serving lunchtime and evenings from Wednesday to Sunday, you’ll find the seafood restaurant within the 17th century Anchor Inn, a popular haunt for local fishermen and boat builders to this day, boasting the largest range of locally-brewed Shepherd Neame ales in the town. (Orders taken noon-2.30pm, 6.30-9pm weekdays, 12.30-3pm, 6.30-9pm weekends. Lunch snacks Monday and Tuesday)

**B3.** At tarmac, you may take a shortcut to Faversham via Broom Street (see directions in Nagden Loop panel) or continue on the main route, by turning right after 25 yards through gate into blackcurrant field. Keep hedge on your right and pass through marked gateway on your right. Follow path diagonally to the left, cutting the corner off field, to

gap in hedge. Continue straight ahead through pastures, keeping ditch to your left. Cross wooden bridge and bear right to second bridge, bearing diagonally right uphill across field to lane. Cross lane to gap in hedge and follow footpath diagonally right, downhill across arable field towards pylon. Here you will see The Kentish Flats wind farm owned by Vattenfall standing proudly out in the Thames Estuary. At wooden shed continue on through scrubland to gate on right.

wildlife - and sandy Castle Coote nature reserve on your right. Cornfields, grazing cattle and birds accompany you as you make your way along the sea wall from where you will spy Harty Church across The Swale on the Isle of Sheppey. On this side you may see contractors working on a substation for a new wind farm out in the estuary, set to be the largest in the world.

**C2.** Continue on sea wall, now with Faversham Creek on your right and cereal fields on your left. Then follow the diverted path left behind a bungalow, emerging on track. Pass through gate and then a kissing gate on your right into paddock.

**C3.** Continue uphill to kissing gate on your right. Follow the path, keeping the creek on your right as it winds its way back to Faversham. Creekside moorings now lie ahead. Cross footbridge into Iron Wharf boatyard, keeping the creek on your right to Standard Quay. Boat workshops line the waterfront to your right while the ancient Monk’s Granary - built from the Abbey’s dismantled refectory - has a tea room and shops. Turn left out of the quay, passing The Anchor and Crabshack restaurant on your left. Turn right into Abbey Street as you return to Faversham, with its welcome supply of specialist shops and places to eat and drink.

### Battle scene...

#### VICTORY ON THE MARSHES

The last military action on British soil against invading forces took place at Seasalter on 27 September, 1940.

Involving a brief but ferocious exchange of gunfire, the ‘Battle of Graveney Marshes’ is now credited with shortening the length of the Second World War.

The prize seized by the soldiers billeted at The Sportsman pub was the Luftwaffe’s latest bomber – fitted with secret technology that was recovered and later used in Lancaster and Halifax planes to devastating effect on its makers.

No-one was killed in the battle between the 1st Battalion London Irish Rifles and the downed German crew, set on safeguarding the secrets of their Junkers 88 bomber, although one of the enemy was shot in the foot.

In fact, it is reported that the two sides later exchanged souvenirs and a few pints in The Sportsman before the four German airmen were taken away as prisoners of war.

**B4.** Go through kissing gate and turn left on to road. Follow road beside marshes where cattle and sheep graze on your right to The Sportsman on your left – a great place to enjoy a refreshing drink, but, remember, you must book in advance if you want to try its Michelin-starred restaurant.

#### SEASALTER TO FAVERSHAM

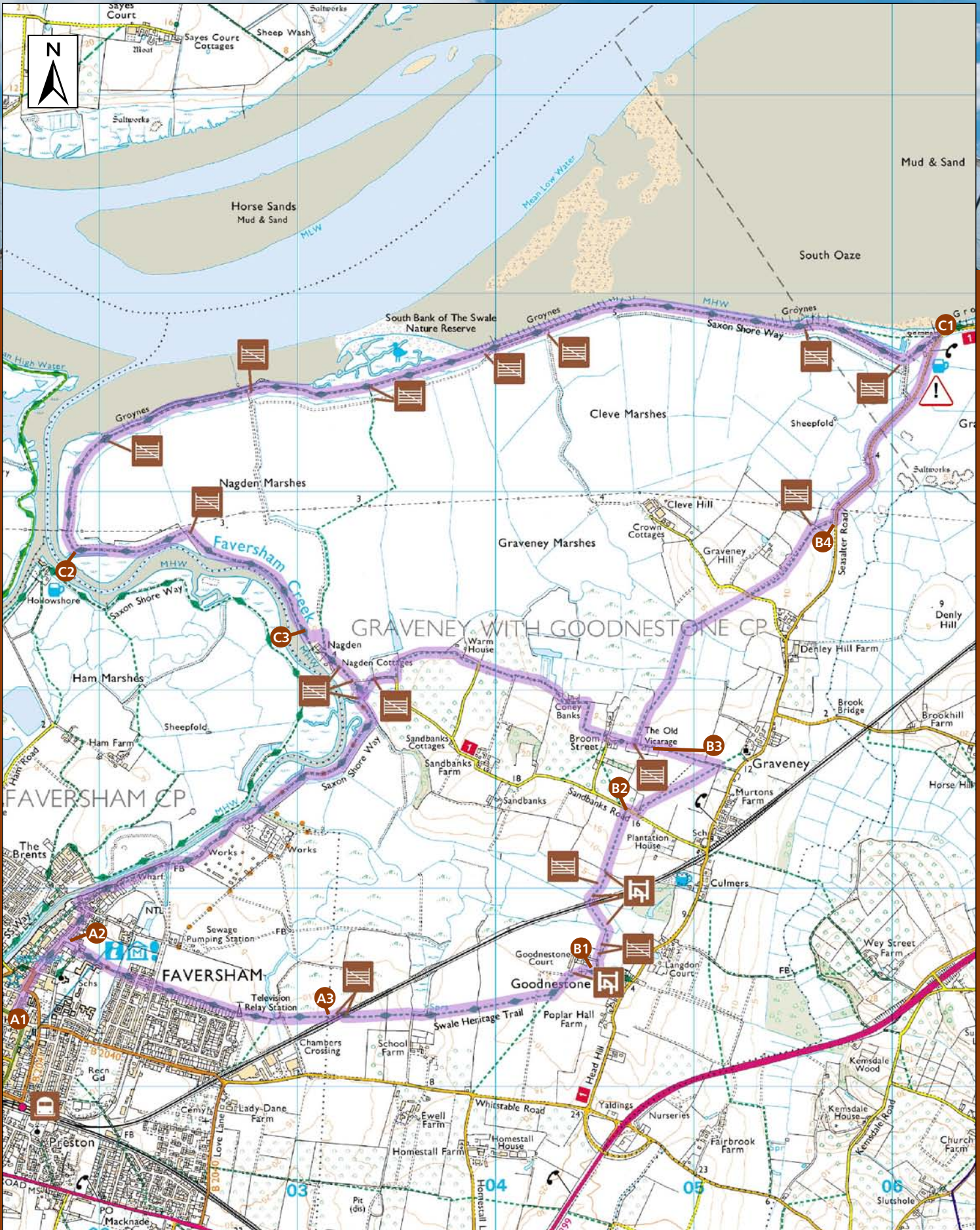
**C1.** Continue past pub and take steps on left to sea wall. Turn left at top and continue along sea wall, passing through kissing gates along your way. Look out for golden samphire, sea lavender and lizards on the foreshore - an internationally-acclaimed haven for

#### NAGDEN LOOP

Continue on tarmac lane into farmyard, with polytunnels of strawberries on your left and right. Stay on the track, following way-markers ahead until you reach gap in hedge in front of you. Cross road and footbridge over ditch into orchards and bear right, with hedge line to your right. Stay on the path until you reach metal gate next to gap in hedge line ahead. Turn left. At gate turn right. Turn left into horse paddock through kissing gate and re-join main route at C3.







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Garden/Arboretum  
 Public house  
 Viewpoint  
 Place of worship  
 Telephone  
 Gate  
 Refreshments  
 Train  
 0 Kilometres 0.5 1  
 0 Miles 0.5 1

### Walk Overview

**Distance:** 11 miles full walk: 4.5 hours (no stops)  
 Shortcut 5 miles, 2 hours  
**Fitness level:** Suitable for all fitness levels  
**Toilets:** Town centre short-stay car park behind Market Place  
**Refreshments:** Restaurants, pubs and tea rooms en route

**Transport:** Mainline rail station, Faversham  
[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)  
**Pay phones:** Faversham town centre  
**Parking:** Queen's Hall long-stay car park, near Faversham station; The Sportsman, Seasalter  
**Map:** OS Explorer 149



# Directory of local businesses

## FOOD, DRINK AND PRODUCE

**A J Barkaway Butcher**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 532040. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Lamberhurst Farm Dairy**,  
Dargate ME13 9ES 01227 751741  
[www.cheesemakersofcanterbury.co.uk](http://www.cheesemakersofcanterbury.co.uk)

**Grow**, Brogdale Farm ME13 8XZ  
01795 531888. [www.brogdaleonline.co.uk](http://www.brogdaleonline.co.uk)

**Macknade Fine Foods**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 534497/53737. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Moor Organics**, Deerton Street ME9 9LJ  
01795 521341. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Pine Trees Juice**, Doddington ME9 0AX  
01795 886266. [www.pinetreesfarm.co.uk](http://www.pinetreesfarm.co.uk)

**Seasalter Lamb**, Eastling ME13 0BD  
07891 004474. [www.seasalterlamb.co.uk](http://www.seasalterlamb.co.uk)

**Snod Farm**, Otterden ME13 0DB  
01795 890700. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**SW Doughty Butcher**, Doddington ME9 0BH  
01795 886255. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

## PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

**Albion Taverna**, Faversham ME13 7DH  
01795 591411. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Anchor Inn and Crabshack**,  
Faversham ME13 7BP 01795 536471  
Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Ardennes Restaurant**, Faversham ME13 7JB  
01795 590008. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Black Lion**, Lynsted ME9 0RJ  
01795 521229.

**Courtyard Restaurant**,  
Brogdale Farm ME13 8XZ  
01795 530013. [www.courtyard-restaurant.co.uk](http://www.courtyard-restaurant.co.uk)

**Elephant**, Faversham ME13 7JN  
01795 590157. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**George Inn**, Newnham ME9 0LL  
01795 890237.

**Osteria Posillipo**, Faversham ME13 7LD  
01795 590580. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Phoenix Tavern**, Faversham ME13 7BH  
01795 591462. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Plough**, Stalisfield Green ME13 0HY  
01795 890256. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Plough Inn**,  
Lewson Street ME9 9JJ 01795 521348  
Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Provenance**, Faversham ME13 8PE  
01795 539508. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Read's**, Faversham ME13 8XE  
01795 535344. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Rose and Crown**, Perry Wood ME13 9RY  
01227 752214. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Shipwrights' Arms**, Hollowshore ME13 7TU  
01795 590088.

**Spice Lounge**, Faversham ME13 8NU  
01795 533322. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Sun Inn**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 535098. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Three Horseshoes**, Hernhill ME13 9AX  
01227 750842. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**White Horse Inn**, Boughton ME13 9AX  
01227 751343. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**White Lion**, Selling ME13 9RQ  
01227 752211. [www.thewhitelion-selling.com](http://www.thewhitelion-selling.com)

**Woodrose Restaurant**, Hernhill ME13 9TX  
01227 751168. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

## ATTRACTIONS

**Beech Court Gardens**, Challock TN25 4DJ  
01223 740735. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Belmont House**, Throwley ME13 0HH  
01795 890202. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Brogdale Farm**, Ospringe ME13 8XZ  
01795 536250. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Doddington Place**, Doddington ME9 0BB  
01795 886101. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Farming World**, Boughton ME13 9SP  
01227 751144. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Fleur Museum**, Faversham ME13 8NY  
01795 534542. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Faversham Swimming Pools**, ME13 8PW  
01795 532426. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Sailing Barge Greta**, Standard Quay, Faversham  
07711 657919. [www.greta1892.co.uk](http://www.greta1892.co.uk)

**Mount Ephraim Gardens**, Hernhill ME13 9TX  
01227 751496. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**St Mary of Charity Church**,  
Faversham ME13 8JZ  
01795 530599. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Shepherd Neame Brewery Tours**,  
Faversham ME13 7AX  
01795 542016. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Shrine of St Jude**, Faversham ME13 7SE  
01795 539214. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

## ACCOMMODATION

**Barnsfield**, Fostal ME13 9JG  
01227 750973. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Black Lion**, Lynsted ME9 0RJ  
01795 521229. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Brenley Farm House**, Boughton ME13 9LY  
01227 751203. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Church Oast**, Hernhill ME13 9JW  
01227 750974. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Cot-Hoy**, Buckland ME13 0TP  
01795 535616. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Court Lodge**, Oare ME13 0QB  
01795 591543. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Fairlea**, Faversham ME13 8NH  
01795 539610. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Frith Farm Cottages**, Otterden ME13 0DD  
01795 890701. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Gladstone House**, Faversham ME13 8DZ  
01795 536432. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Judd's Folly Hotel**, Ospringe ME13 0RH  
01795 591818. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Leaveland Court**, Leaveland ME13 0NP  
01233 740596. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**March Cottage**, Faversham ME13 8NH  
01795 536514. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Old Vicarage**, Doddington ME9 0BD  
01795 886136. Find us on [faversham.org](http://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](http://faversham.org)

**Railway Hotel**, Faversham ME13 8PE  
01795 533173. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Read's**, Faversham ME13 8XE  
01795 535344. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Sandhurst Farm**, Newnham ME9 0NE  
01795 886854. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Sun Inn**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 535098. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Syndale Lodge**, Faversham ME13 0RH  
01795 531488. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Tenterden House**, Boughton ME13 0RH  
01227 751593. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**Uplees Farm**, Uplees ME13 0QR  
01795 532133. Find us on [faversham.org](http://faversham.org)

**White Horse Inn**, Boughton. ME13 9AX  
01227 751343. Find us on [faversham.org](http://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](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk) or Tel: 08451 003298

Remember to always follow the Highway Code.



For walking information: go to [faversham.org/walking](http://faversham.org/walking) Telephone: 01795 534542

Visit: Tourist Information Centre, Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, 10-13 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NS

