

Boats, bangs, bricks and beer

A self-guided walk along Faversham Creek



Explore a town at the head of a creek
Discover how creek water influenced the town's prosperity
Find out about the industries that helped to build Britain

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*the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks*







This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

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Discover how Faversham Creek helped to build Britain

Faversham on the East Kent coast boasts the best-preserved medieval street in England, the country's oldest brewery, helped us win the Battle of Trafalgar and has a justifiable claim to be 'the town that built Britain'.

So what's its secret?

Early settlers were the first to recognise its prime waterside location and a settlement quickly grew up here at the head of the navigable creek, with quick and easy access to Europe in one direction and London in the other.

The soil around the creeks and rivers was rich and fertile, pure spring water was readily available from local aquifers, and the climate was dry and temperate.



Sailing ships in Faversham Creek
Caroline Millar © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

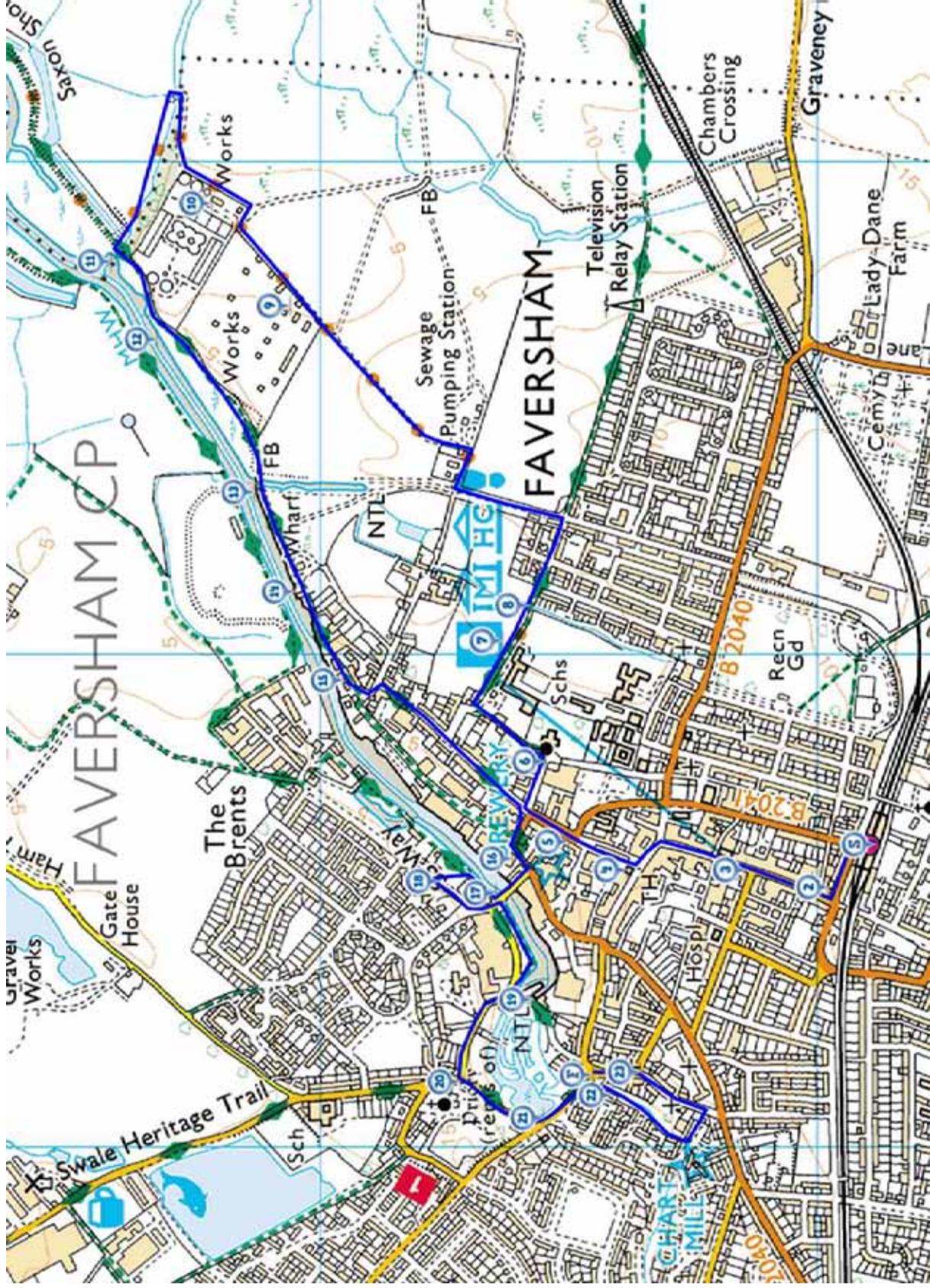


T S Hazard building
Caroline Millar © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

This gentle creekside walk takes you on a journey of discovery from the grand Victorian station through the medieval centre of town then out through its post-industrial edgelands to encounter the bleak beauty of the Kent marshes.

This walk uncovers the clues in the landscape to reveal how the town's geography and its creekside location has shaped its past and future prosperity.

Route overview



Practical information

Location	Faversham, Kent, Southeast England
Getting there	<p>Train - Served by trains from London Victoria and London St Pancras</p> <p>Car - Easily accessible from the M2 and M20. Parking available at Bank Street, Forbes Road and railway station (charges apply)</p> <p>Bus - Served by local bus services running from Canterbury and Sittingbourne</p> <p>Bicycle - National Cycle Route 1 passes through Faversham</p>
Start point	Faversham railway station, Station Road, ME13 8EB
Finish point	The Bull Inn, Tanners Street, ME13 7JL
Onward journey	The walk route is almost circular. It is a short distance from the finish point back to the railway station.
Distance	4 miles
Level	Gentle - A mostly flat route through the town and along Faversham Creek.
Conditions	After wet weather the creekside can be muddy so wear suitable footwear

Suitable for

Families - A small section of the walk is along busy roads. Also take care with young children at the water's edge

Dogs - Should be kept on a lead in the town centre

Refreshments

Various cafes, pubs and restaurants in the town centre.

Try the café at Creek Creative for great cakes and a quiet, reflective space (between Stops 14 and 15)

Facilities

Public toilets available at Bank Street car park in the town centre

Places to visit

The **Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre** contains the fascinating Faversham Museum, The Kentish Bookshop and the Fleur de Lis Art Gallery. Open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 10am to 1pm.

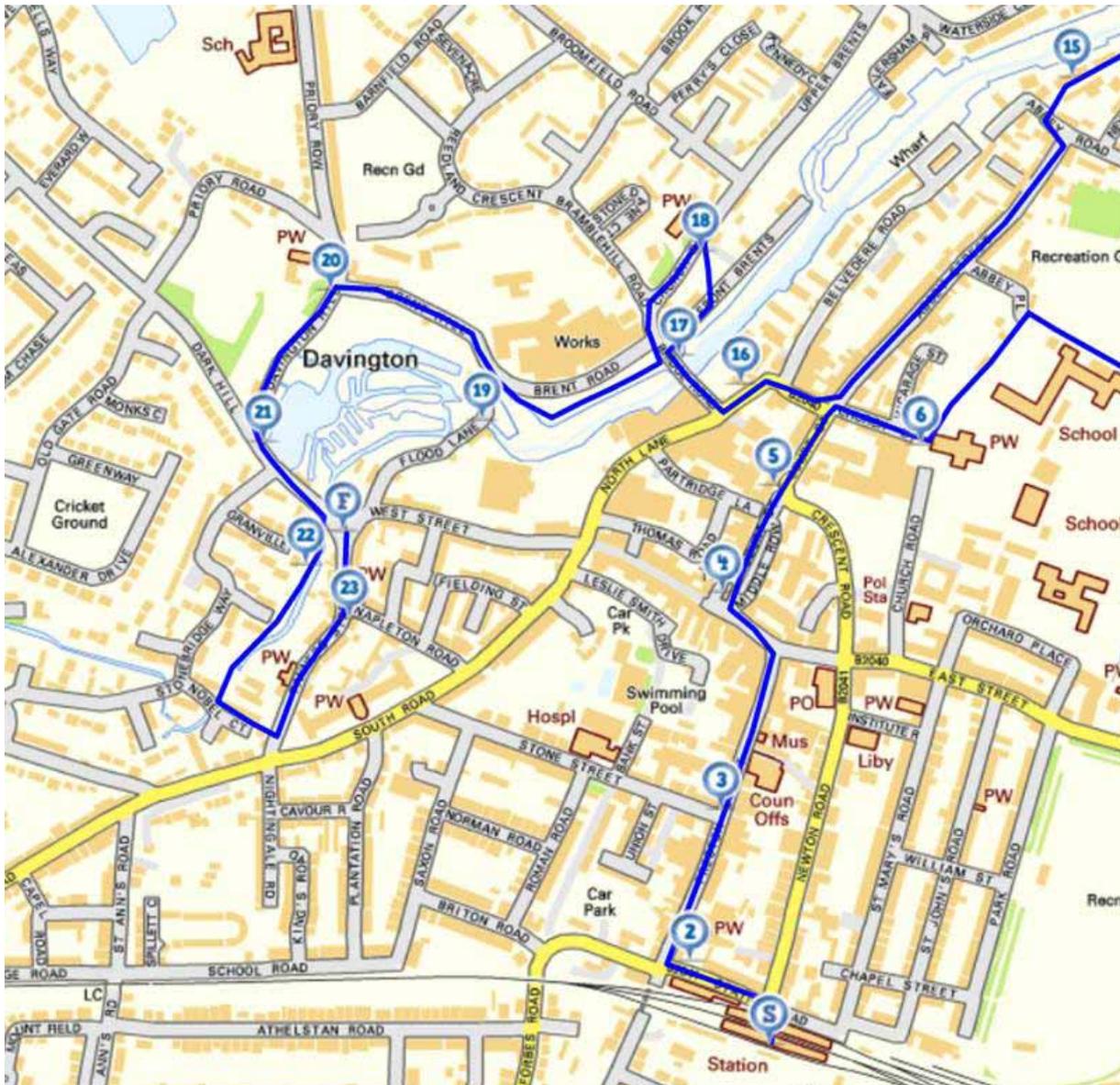
Brewery tours and tasting events are available at the **Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre** at 17 Court Street. Advance booking required (Tel: 01795 542016)

Chart Gunpowder Mill museum is open weekends and Bank Holidays from 2pm to 5pm between April and October (Tel: 01795 534542)

Tourist information

Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, 10-11 Preston Street, ME13 8NS (Tel: 01795 590726)

Detail of first and last section of route



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Stopping points

1. Faversham railway station
2. The Railway Hotel
3. Junction of Preston Street & Stone Street
4. The Guildhall, Market Place
5. Shepherd Neame office, Court St
6. St Mary of Charity Church
16. T Z Hazard building, Quay Lane
17. Shepherd Neame brewery
18. The Brents former brickfield
19. Ordnance Wharf
20. Davington Priory
21. Stonebridge Pond
22. Westbrook Stream
23. Tanners Street
24. The Bull Inn

Detail of middle section of route



Stopping points

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 7. Footpath next to Queen Elizabeth's School | 12. View to Ham Farm |
| 8. Cooksditch Stream | 13. Chambers Dock |
| 9. Cardox factory | 14. Oyster Bay House |
| 10. Faversham sewage works | 15. Standard Quay |
| 11. Faversham Creek | |

Directions

These directions are for use with the Faversham walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Faversham

Faversham railway station

Directions 1

From the station cross over the road to the Railway Hotel. Look back at the station building (there is a bench here if you wish to sit down) and listen to Track 2.

2. Yellow brick station

The Railway Hotel

Directions 2

Walk down Preston Street until you reach the junction with Stone Street. Stop where the pavement changes to red bricks and listen to Track 3.

3. Time travel

Junction of Preston Street and Stone Street

Directions 3

Continue along Preston Street then turn left at the end into Market Street. Make your way to the Guildhall (the building in the Market Place with a clock tower) and listen to Track 4.

4. Medieval mayhem

The Guildhall, Market Place

Directions 4

With the Guildhall behind you cross the cobbled pavement (noting the red water pump) and walk down Court Street. Stop when you reach Number 17, the white building decorated with hop flowers and listen to Track 5.

5. Fancy a brew?

Shepherd Neame offices, Court Street

Directions 5

Continue straight along Court Street, which becomes Abbey Street. Turn right into Church Street. Stop just to the right of the church entrance and to listen to Track 6.

6. Built to inspire

St Mary of Charity Church

Directions 6

When you are ready leave the church by the main entrance. Turn right and walk back round the building to follow a path downhill through the churchyard. Pass the black and white timbered old grammar school on the left. Cross over the entrance to the new school and turn right down a footpath marked with a National Cycle Network symbol. After about 150 metres look for a gap in the hedge with a good view of two large sloping roofed barns on the left. Stop here and listen to Track 7.

7. A king's abbey

Footpath next to Queen Elizabeth's School

Directions 7

Continue along the path for a short distance until you reach a slight bump in the path with a brick wall to the right and a green fence to the left. Look down into the weed-filled stream and listen to Track 8.

8. Water of life

Cooksditch Stream

Directions 8

Follow the path until you emerge at a residential road called Gordon Square. Continue ahead into Gordon Road and up along the unpaved road. When you emerge at another residential road turn left past a row of red brick bungalows on the left. Follow the road round to the right keeping the red and yellow brick buildings of the old sewage works on your left. Follow the left bend past a white house and continue on the path with fields on both sides. Stop when you come to a group of low wooden buildings behind a fence on the left. and listen to Track 9.

9. Blast!

Cardox factory

Directions 9

Continue to the concrete building ahead. Stop by the Southern Water sign and to listen to Track 10.

10. Flushed away

Faversham Sewage Works

Directions 10

Turn right at three concrete bollards and follow the path around the sewage works. When you meet a line of trees on the left hand side, follow the path to a wooden footbridge. Cross the footbridge then turn left and follow the path along a watery ditch. Stop where the ditch meets the creek and listen to Track 11

11. Changing coastline

Faversham Creek

Directions 11

Turn left and walk along the creek. Stop when you reach some wooden stumps to the right half submerged in the water and listen to Track 12.

12. Marsh of mystery

View to Ham Farm, Faversham Creek

Directions 12

Continue along the path until you reach a footbridge. Cross the narrow footbridge. Stop in Chambers Dock and listen to Track 13.

13. Prosperous port

Chambers Dock

Directions 13

Continue through the boatyard following signs for the Saxon Shore Way. Stop in front of the large brick warehouse labelled United Fertiliser Co. Ltd and listen to Track 14.

14. Pearls of the sea

Oyster Bay House

Directions 14

Continue across the arched bridge and round the corner. Stop by the lock and listen to Track 15.

15. Shipbuilding

Standard Quay

Directions 15

Emerge from Standard Quay at the far end and walk up into Abbey Street, passing The Anchor pub on the left. Turn right and walk down Abbey Street noticing the large numbers of late medieval houses with their characteristic gabled roofs and first floor overhangs. Continue along this street before turning right at Creekside Arts to walk down Quay Lane. Stop at a distinctive black and white timber building and listen to Track 16.

16. Hazards of war

T S Hazard building, Quay Lane

Directions 16

Continue past the brewery buildings on the left. Turn right and cross the swing bridge over the creek. Look back across at the brewery complex and listen to Track 17.

17. England's oldest brewery

Shepherd Neame brewery

Directions 17

With the creek on your right walk along the road called Front Brents past the row of small terraced houses. When you reach a grassy area on the left, take the path which cuts across the grass. Stop at the end of this track next to the yellow clapperboard house and listen to Track 18.

18. The bricks that built Britain

Former brickfield, The Brents

Directions 18

Retrace your steps back across the grassy area to Front Brents. Turn right and walk back along the creek to meet the road. Cross the road and follow a footpath sign along the creek. At the end of the footpath emerge left onto a road then take the next left along a rougher path between two brick walls. Stop by the metal gates on the left with a view of the creek and listen to Track 19.

19. Head of the creek

Ordnance Wharf

Directions 19

Retrace your steps back to the road and turn left up Brents Hill. As the road bends keep an eye out on the left for views of the allotments at Stonebridge Pond. Stop on Davington Hill by the distinctive carved stone doorway of Davington Priory and listen to Track 20.

20. Village on a hill

Davington Priory

Directions 20

Descend the hill passing the Priory and white clapperboard houses. Enter a small green with a display board at Stonebridge Pond. Look over the pond and its islands and listen to Track 21.

21. The big bang

Stonebridge Pond

Directions 21

Leave Stonebridge Pond and turn left past a long cream building which was once the armoury of the gunpowder works. Carefully cross the road to enter the woodside path where signposted Chart Mills. Follow the riverside path. Stop when you reach a grassy area on the right and listen to Track 22.

22. A dangerous business

Westbrook Stream

Directions 22

Continue on the footpath with the river on your left until you emerge into a close called Nobel Court. You now have two options.

To visit the Chart Gunpowder Mill works, cross over the residential road and continue along the river for another few yards.

If you prefer to go straight to the next stop, cross the road ahead and walk slightly left keeping the river on your right. Find a small alleyway uphill marked with a no cycling sign. Walk through the blue gates to emerge at a main road. Turn left and walk up the hill then turn left again at the large red brick almshouses on Tanners Street. Descend Tanners Street. Stop when you reach The Three Tuns pub and listen to Track 23.

23. Tanners tales

Tanners Street

Directions 23

Walk a little further down the hill. Stop outside The Bull Inn and to listen to Track 24.

24. Forging a future

The Bull Inn, Tanners Street

Directions 24

From here you can turn right into West Street to return to Faversham town centre.

To return to the train station, at the end of West Street continue into Market Street. Then turn right into Preston Street. The train station is to the left at the end of Preston Street.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **Raymond Molony FRGS** for creating the walk and providing photographs
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