

## **Saved haven**

A self guided walk around Sandwich in Kent



Explore the streets of England's best-preserved medieval town  
Find out how Sandwich survived sieges, earthquakes and pandemics  
Discover a unique landscape shaped by people and nature  
See the evidence of Sandwich's former role as a coastal port

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Dedicated to the late Keith A Wells  
Chairman of The Sandwich Society  
whose knowledge and enthusiam was invaluable in creating this walk  
and whose efforts did so much to support the town



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Cover image: Sandwich Weavers building by Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

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# Saved haven

## Discover why Sandwich is England's best-preserved medieval town

Sandwich in East Kent is one of England's most picturesque towns. Visitors can explore winding streets lined with timber-framed buildings. Yet behind the charming sights is a fascinating story. Sandwich has survived sieges, earthquakes, pandemics and the loss of a major port.

Medieval Sandwich was a prestigious and prosperous port beside a major shipping channel. The town welcomed pilgrims, launched armies of soldiers and hosted generations of royalty.

By the sixteenth century however Sandwich port was cut off from the coast. The town was left behind, almost frozen in time.



The Admiral Owen pub and The Barbican  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain



Sandwich Folk Festival in full swing  
© Open Sandwich

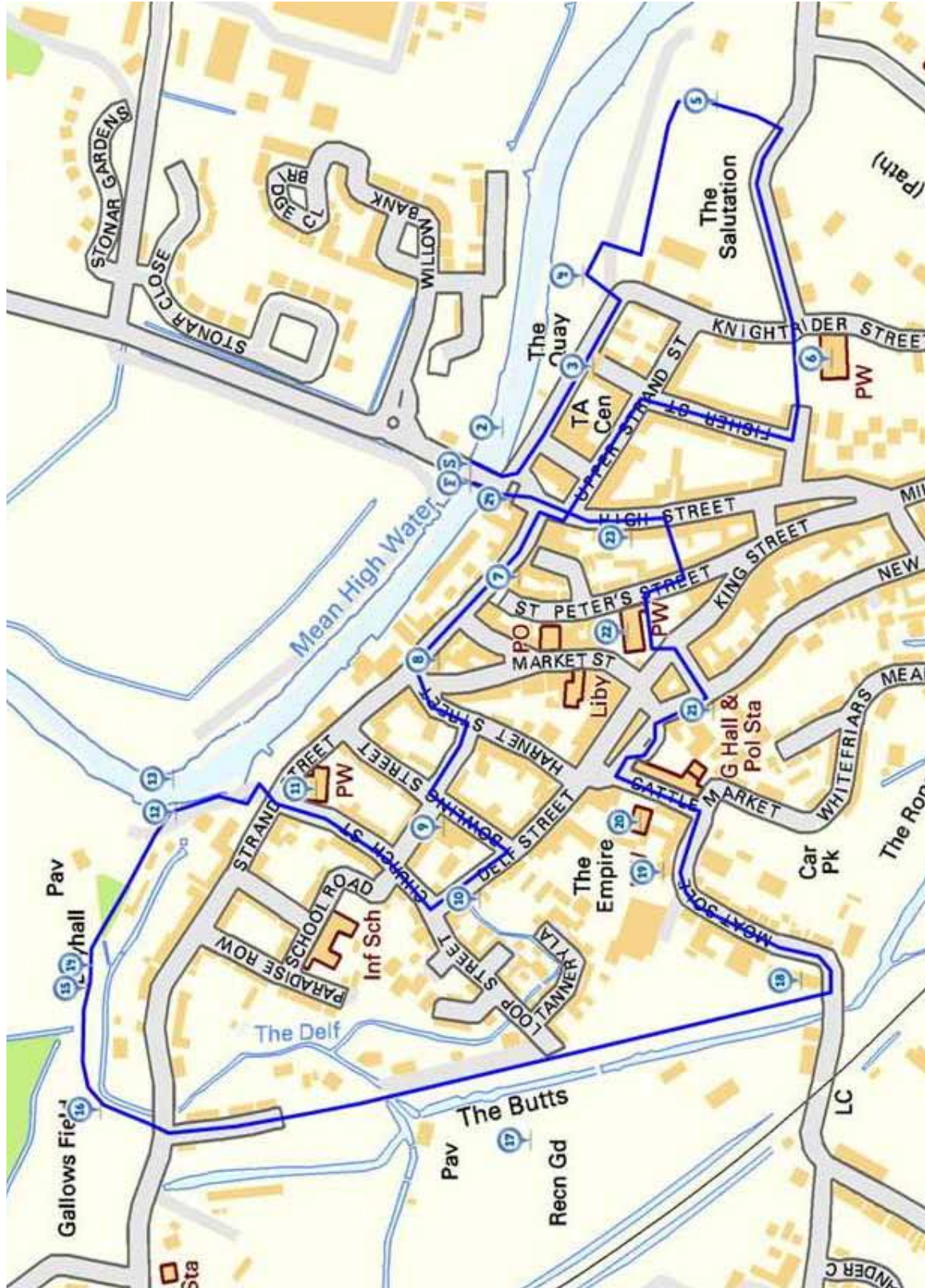
Using the latest research, this walk explores how this process happened and how Sandwich survived and adapted.

Follow Sandwich's changing fortunes over the centuries. See how different elements shaped the landscape. Find out about the people who lived, worked and visited here - from a famous martyr to the man who named the United States of America.

Also discover how modern Sandwich faces new challenges from an ever-changing environment.



## Route overview



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## Practical information

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Location</b>                                 | Sandwich, Kent, Southeast England  |
| <b>Getting there</b>                            | <p><b>Train</b> - Direct services run from Ashford International, Dover, Ramsgate and Folkestone. Some direct services from London (Charing Cross, Waterloo East, London Bridge, St Pancras).</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - Local and regional services run to Canterbury, Ramsgate, Dover and Deal. Most routes stop by the Guildhall.</p> <p><b>Car</b> - Access via the A256 between Dover and Thanet or the A257 from Canterbury. Limited parking at The Quay, Cattle Market and Gazen Salts (charges apply).</p> <p><b>Bicycle</b> - Sandwich is on National Cycle Route Number 1 (Canterbury to Dover)</p> |
| <b>Start &amp; finish point</b>                 | Sandwich Town Bridge, Ramsgate Road, CT13 9EA  |
| <b>Distance</b>                                 | 2 miles  |
| <b>Directions from railway station to start</b> | <p>From the station turn left and follow the path beside the railway line. Turn right at the road (New Street). Continue along New Street then take the first right (Galliard Street). At the end, cross over and bear left into The Chain.</p> <p>Take the first right (Church Street St Clement's) then turn left into Fisher Street. At the end continue ahead onto the cobbled street and go through the stone archway. Turn left at the quayside. The river and the town bridge will be on your right.</p>  |
| <b>Level</b>                                    | <b>Moderate</b> – A relatively easy stroll around the town; some narrow streets, minor ascents and descents  |
| <b>Conditions</b>                               | Many narrow pavements so watch your footing. A short section is on open land and can be muddy after rain. Take care of children by the river and ditches.  |

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### Suitable for

**Families** – Plenty of stories and sights for all ages

**Wheelchairs / Pushchairs** – Some slopes and narrow pavements

**Dogs** - Keep on a lead; not allowed in Gazen Salts Nature Reserve

### Refreshments

Plenty of cafés and shops in the town, especially on Strand Street and around the Guildhall. Tea Room at The Salutation (by Stop 5).

### Toilets

The Quay, by Fisher Gate (Stop 3) 20p charge

In the supermarket after The Butts (Stop 17)

Moat Sole, opposite the Red Cow Inn (Stop 19)

### Places to visit

**Sandwich Guildhall Museum** is open April to November. Closed Mondays and lunchtimes (12.30-2pm). Nominal entry fees.

**The Secret Gardens** are open daily from 10am. Closing time varies seasonally. Entry £6.50 adults, £3 children, £16 families.  
Tel: 01304 619 919

**Gazen Salts Nature Reserve** is open all year round. Free entry, no dogs allowed.

**Richborough Roman Fort** (2 miles from Sandwich) is maintained by English Heritage. Museum open daily from 10am. Closing time varies seasonally. Entry £5 adults, £3 children, £13 families.  
Tel: 01304 612 013

### Other info

Sandwich hosts many festivals throughout the year, often linked to the history of the town. They include **The Sandwich Celebration** food festival (May), **Le Weekend** French festival (June), **Sandwich Medieval Fayre** (June) and **Sandwich Folk Festival** (July). All lead up to the **Sandwich Festival** (August Bank Holiday).

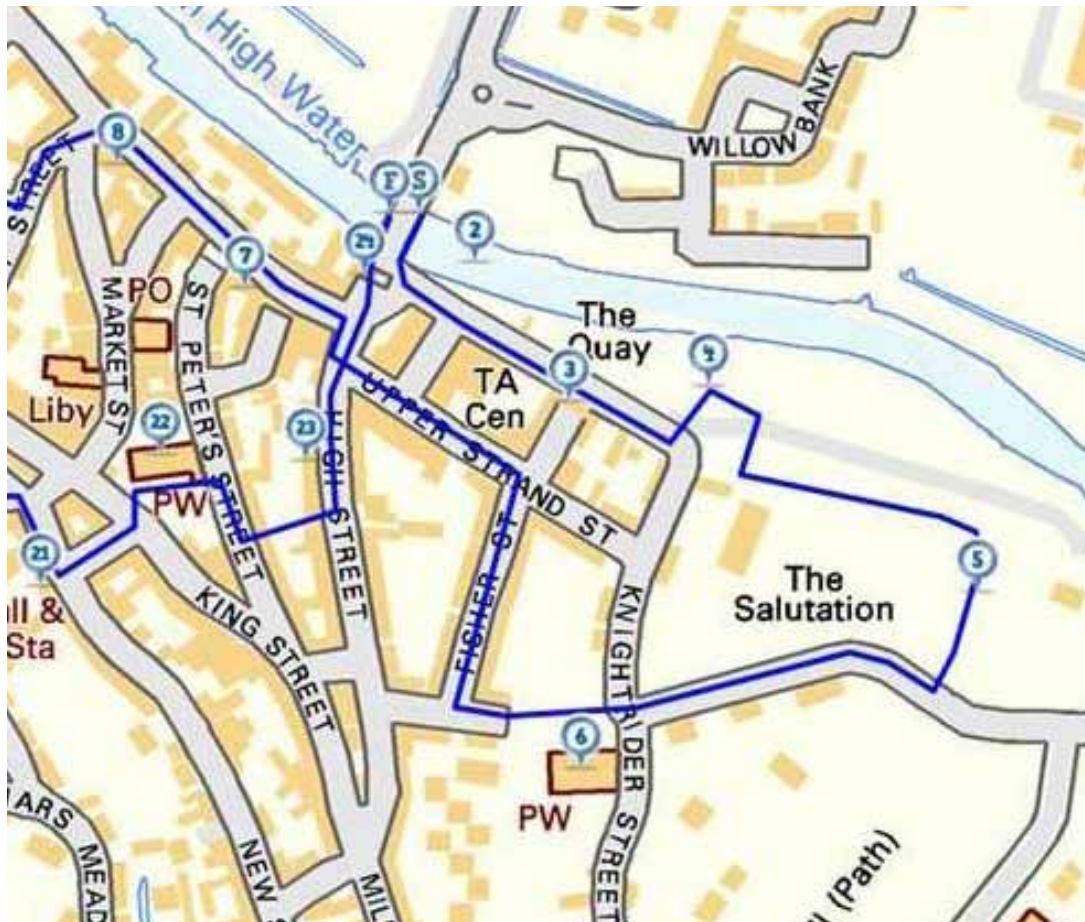
### Tourist information

Visitor Information Centre inside The Guildhall (next to Stop 20). Cattle Market, CT13 9AH. Tel: 01304 613 565



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## Start and end of the route

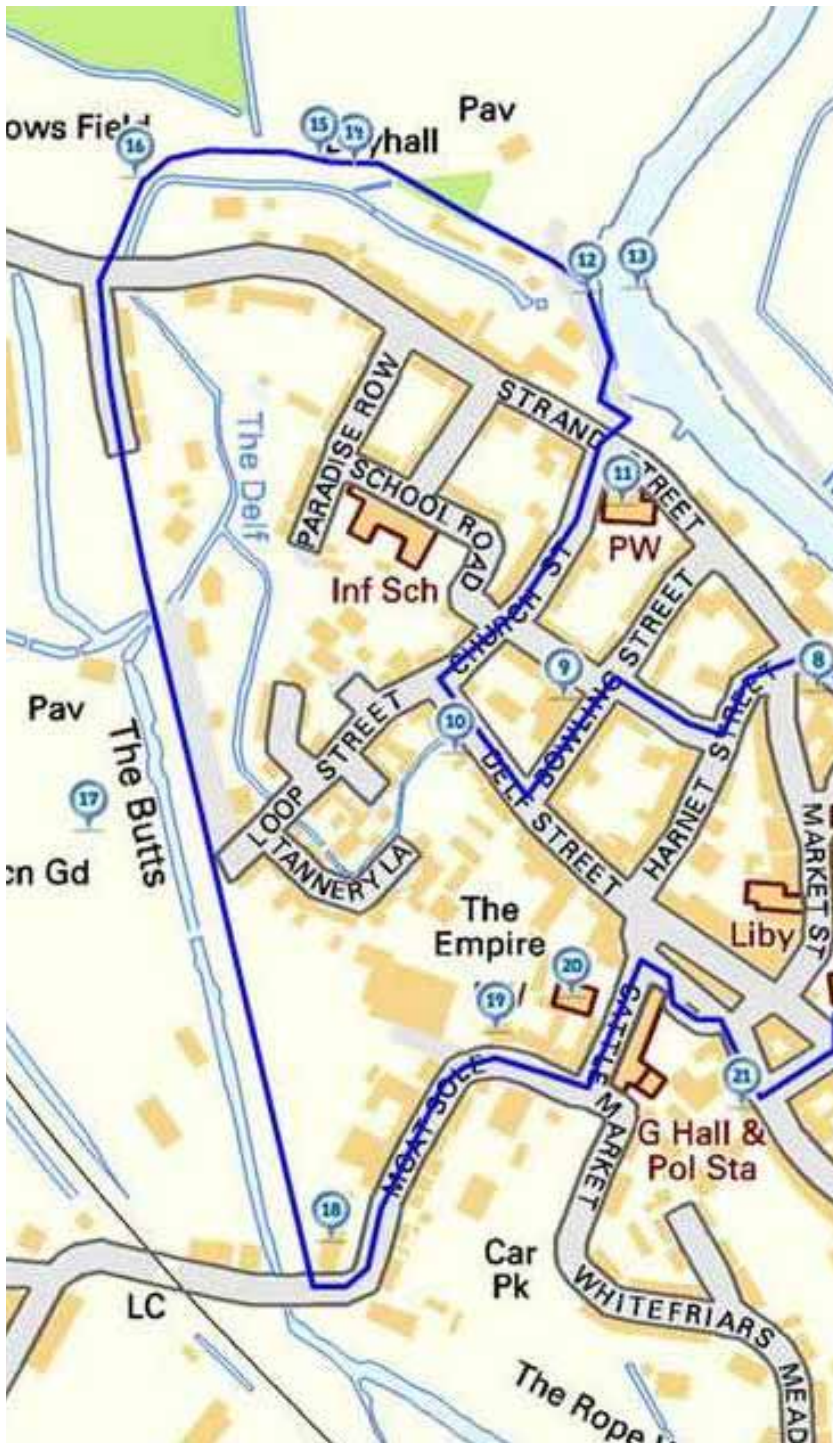


### Stopping points

- S.** Sandwich Town Bridge, Ramsgate Road
- 2.** View of the River Stour and The Quay from the bridge
- 3.** The Fisher Gate, The Quay
- 4.** Sandwich Millennium beacon
- 5.** The Bulwark
- 6.** St Clement's Church, Church Street St Clement's
- 7.** Sandwich Weavers, 15 Strand Street
- 8.** The Pilgrims, 39 and 41 Strand Street
- 21.** Thomas Paine's Cottage, 20 New Street
- 22.** St Peter's Church, Market Street
- 23.** Pellicane House, 22 High Street
- 24.** The Barbican / Davis Gate
- F.** Sandwich Town Bridge, Ramsgate Road



## Middle part of the route



### Stopping points

8. The Pilgrims,  
39 and 41 Strand Street
9. Richborough House,  
7 Bowling Street
10. Horse Pond Sluice,  
Delf Street
11. St Mary's Church,  
Church Street St Mary's
12. Gazen Salts Car Park
13. View of the River Stour
14. Gazen Salts Recreation  
Ground
15. View of Discovery Park
16. Gallows Field
17. The Butts
18. St Thomas' Hospital,  
Moat Sole
19. The Red Cow Inn,  
12 Moat Sole
20. Sandwich United Reform  
Church, Cattle Market
21. Thomas Paine's Cottage,  
20 New Street

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## Directions

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

### 1. Welcome to Sandwich

#### **Sandwich Town bridge, Ramsgate Road**

##### **Directions 1**

Begin the walk from the Town Bridge by The Quay. Stop halfway across the bridge on the side facing the Bell Hotel and riverside buildings. Look across the river to the car park and quayside. Listen to Track 2.

### 2. A sandy place

#### **View of the River Stour and The Quay**

##### **Directions 2**

Cross over the bridge towards the Bell Hotel. Turn left then carefully cross over the road. Follow the pavement beside the quayside buildings. Stop when you reach a stone archway next to a white building. Listen to Track 3.

### 3. Fishy tales

#### **The Fisher Gate, The Quay**

##### **Directions 3**

From the Fisher Gate continue along The Quay. Cross over the road then turn left before the entrance to the Secret Garden. Head towards the river and stop by the beacon with a large coat of arms on it. Listen to Track 4.

### 4. A privileged port

#### **Sandwich Millennium Beacon**

##### **Directions 4**

From the beacon, head away from the river and cross the grassy area towards the stone wall. When you reach the wall, turn left. Follow the path, keeping the wall and fence on your right. At the playground the path bears right and climbs uphill lined with railings. Continue on this path until you reach a bench and noticeboard. You should be overlooking a ditch and tennis courts. Stop at the bench and listen to Track 5.

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## 5. Walls and wars

### The Bulwark

#### Directions 5

Continue along the path of The Bulwark up to the road bridge. This was the site of Sandown Gate, another of the town's medieval entrances. Recent research indicates that a royal castle may have existed nearby in the medieval period, opposite the Mill Bank. Turn right into Sandown Road and continue until you reach a church on the left. Cross the road and go into the church grounds. Stop by the church and Listen to Track 6.

## 6. Towering presence

### St Clement's Church, Church Street St Clement's

#### Directions 6

Keep the church on your left and follow the path through a set of metal gates. Follow the road ahead then turn right into Fisher Street. At the end note the slope down to the back of the Fisher Gate. Also note the Old Custom House to the right.

Turn left into Upper Strand Street. Pass the narrow passages that run down to the Quay. At the end turn right and then immediately left past The Admiral Owen pub. Continue on the left hand side of Strand Street. Stop outside a building with a sign for Sandwich Weavers. Listen to Track 7.

## 7. Weaving strands

### Sandwich Weavers building, 15 Strand Street

#### Directions 7

Continue along Strand Street and cross over narrow Potter Street. As the road curves to the left, stop outside the large timber-framed building opposite the boatyard. Listen to Track 8.

## 8. Timber!

### The Pilgrims, 39 & 41 Strand Street

#### Directions 8

Continue along Strand Street to the end of Harnet Street. Carefully cross over then turn left to continue along the right hand side of Harnet Street. Turn right into Guildcount Lane. When you reach the end turn left into Bowling Street. Look across the road at the large house with window shutters on the corner of Vicarage Lane. Listen to Track 9.

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## 9. Strangers in town

### Richborough House, 7 Bowling Street

#### Directions 9

Continue along Bowling Street. At the end carefully cross the road and turn right into Delf Street. Continue up to Horse Pond Sluice, a small L-shaped area of water outside a grey house. Listen to Track 10.

## 10. Water, water everywhere...

### Horse Pond Sluice, Delf Street

#### Directions 10

Continue along Delf Street then turn right into Church Street (signposted Church Street St Marys). Take time to admire some of the fourteenth century houses. At the end of the road a church will appear on the right hand side. Stop when you have a good view of the church and listen to Track 11.

## 11. Earthquake!

### St Mary's Church, Church Street St Mary's

#### Directions 11

Pass the church - take care as there is no pavement on the right hand side of the road. Carefully cross over Strand Street and head towards the car park using the paths marked for pedestrians. Stop by the wooden gate overlooking the river and listen to Track 12.

## 12. Royal river

### Banks of the River Stour by Gazen Salts car park

#### Directions 12

Stay beside the River Stour and look along the river towards the bridge where the walk began. Listen to Track 13.



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### **13. Deposition and drainage**

#### **View of the River Stour from Gazen Salts car park**

##### **Directions 13**

Turn away from the river and head towards the former brewery buildings to the left of the car park. Go through the gates marked 'pedestrian access only' and follow the path through the trees. After a short distance there is a playing field on the right. Look over the playing field and listen to Track 14.

### **14. Salt and water**

#### **Playing fields, Gazen Salts Recreation Ground**

##### **Directions 14**

Remain facing the playing fields and look towards the complex of pale modern buildings on the horizon. Listen to Track 15.

### **15. Secrets and discoveries**

#### **View of Discovery Park**

##### **Directions 15**

Continue along the path as it sweeps to the left. Pass the entrance gate of the Gazen Salts Nature Reserve on the right. A fence will appear on your right and a stream on your left. Stop when you reach a concrete bunker on your left. Listen to Track 16.

### **16. A place of punishment**

#### **Gallows Field**

##### **Directions 16**

Continue along the path until you reach a road. Cross the road carefully and enter the lane to the left of Guestling Cottage. Pass the houses on the left and continue onto a raised path lined with trees. Pass through a pair of metal gate posts. A stream and cricket pavilion will appear on the right. Stop at one of the benches by the path and look at the flat land beyond the stream. Listen to Track 17.

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## 17. Bows and bats

### View of Sandwich Town Cricket Club pitch, The Butts

#### Directions 17

Continue along the path of The Butts. Pass a small bridge on the right and a supermarket car park on the left. At the end of the path, turn left. The start of the road (called Moat Sole) was the site of the Woodnesborough Gate, another of Sandwich's medieval entrances. Follow Moat Sole as it sweeps round to the left. Stop almost immediately opposite a large stone building with a porch by the road. Listen to Track 18.

## 18. Pilgrims' progress

### St Thomas' Hospital, Moat Sole

#### Directions 18

Continue along Moat Sole until you reach a mini roundabout. Use the supermarket crossing point to the left to cross the road. Continue along Moat Sole and stop outside the Red Cow Inn. Listen to Track 19.

## 19. Thirsty work

### The Red Cow Inn, 12 Moat Sole

#### Directions 19

Continue along Moat Sole. When you reach the car park on the right, turn into the road to the left. Continue a short distance and stop outside the pale building set back from the road. Listen to Track 20.

## 20. A place of shelter

### Sandwich United Reform Church, Cattle Market

#### Directions 20

Feel free to enter the church if it is open. When you are ready, leave the church and carefully cross the road. Keep the Guildhall on your right and follow the pavement into a market square. Continue across the square and onto the right hand side of New Street. Stop beside a small white house with a square plaque above the door. Listen to Track 21

**You now have the choice whether to take a small diversion and see the Old Dutch House. This house, at number 62 King Street, is one of the most striking buildings owned by Sandwich's Dutch settlers.**

**To visit this house simply follow the directions below.**

**To continue the walk, use Directions 21.**



Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

## **21. The great migration**

### **Thomas Paine's Cottage, 20 New Street**

#### **Directions 21**

Cross over the road and continue along Austin's Lane. The next stop is the church ahead. When you are ready, bear **left** and go into the church grounds. Stop with a view of the tower.

#### **To visit the Old Dutch House**

Cross over the road and continue along Austin's Lane. Turn **right** at the end and continue downhill. Pass Short Street on the left and a garage on the right. The Old Dutch House is the white building on the right hand side. When you are ready, retrace your way back uphill to the church.

## **22. Protection and plague**

### **St Peter's Church, Market Street**

#### **Directions 22**

With the church on your left, go through the gap in the wall onto St Peter's Street. Turn right and head toward the white building on the right hand side with the noticeboard on the end wall. This is where the town jail used to be.

Go into the narrow passage across the street called Holy Ghost Alley. This was originally a shortcut that allowed people to carry water from the Delf Stream. Walk through the alley to emerge on the High Street. Turn left and continue a short distance until you are outside a dark building on the left hand side called Pellicane House. Listen here to Track 23.

**Note:** the alley may be too narrow for pushchairs and wheelchairs. For an alternative route, turn right from the church and continue along St Peter's Street. Turn left into Short Street then left at the end to enter the High Street.

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## 23. Ups and downs

### Pellicane House, 22 High Street

#### Directions 23

Continue along the High Street. Stop beside The Admiral Owen pub and look at the arch ahead, next to The Crispin Inn. Listen to Track 24.

## 24. A haven again

### The Barbican, Ramsgate Road / The Quay

#### Directions 24

Carefully cross over the end of the High Street towards the Bell Hotel. Then cross over The Quay and bear left towards the town bridge where you started the walk. As before, stop halfway across the bridge and listen to Track 25.

**Note:** it is possible to access the bridge through The Barbican. Please take care though as the pavements inside are very narrow and traffic from the High Street goes through the arch. Use the traffic lights to go through safely. As you do, look inside for the toll charge board and a plaque commemorating Richborough Transit Camp.

## 25. Monks, monarch and migrants

### Sandwich Town bridge, Ramsgate Road

#### Directions 14

We hope you have enjoyed the walk! You may like to explore the town further or follow the town walls. To go to Sandwich railway station, make your way back along the High Street. Continue onto The Chain then bear right into Galliard Street. At the end turn left onto New Street. The station is on the left.



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## **Further information**

### **The Confederation of the Cinque Ports**

[www.cinqueports.org](http://www.cinqueports.org)

### **Discovery Park**

[www.discovery-park.co.uk](http://www.discovery-park.co.uk)

### **Gazen Salts Nature Reserve**

[www.gazensaltsnaturereserve.co.uk](http://www.gazensaltsnaturereserve.co.uk)

### **Harfleet House**

[www.harfleethouse.co.uk](http://www.harfleethouse.co.uk)

### **Open Sandwich**

[www.open-sandwich.co.uk](http://www.open-sandwich.co.uk)

### **Sandwich Events**

[www.sandwichevents.org.uk](http://www.sandwichevents.org.uk)

### **Sandwich Guildhall**

[www.sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk/guildhall/index.htm](http://www.sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk/guildhall/index.htm)

### **Sandwich Riverbus**

[www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk](http://www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk)

### **Sandwich Secret Gardens**

[www.the-secretgardens.co.uk](http://www.the-secretgardens.co.uk)

### **St Clement's Church**

[www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk](http://www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk)

### **St Mary's Art Centre**

[www.stmarysartscentre.org.uk](http://www.stmarysartscentre.org.uk)

### **St Peter's Church**

[www.stpeterschurch-sandwich.org.uk](http://www.stpeterschurch-sandwich.org.uk)

### **Thomas Paine's Cottage**

[www.thomaspaineshouse.co.uk](http://www.thomaspaineshouse.co.uk)

### **Visit Sandwich**

[www.visitsandwich.co.uk](http://www.visitsandwich.co.uk)

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## 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 the audio commentary
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- **Barbara Molony** for her advice and encouragement

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