



# A Land for all Seasons

A RURAL TOUR ON  
THE DOWNS

Explore  
KENT

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**FAVERSHAM**  
MARKET TOWN OF KINGS

SHELDWICH - SELLING - PERRY WOOD - BADLESHERE



# A rural tour on the Downs

*“Love is a fruit in season at all times, and in reach of every hand.”*

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

## Rural retreat...

### PERRY WOOD PANORAMA



Historic Perry Wood is a truly unique place, covered by 150 acres of mature trees and glades alive with heathland wildlife amid the rolling North Downs.

Part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the wood is set aside for nature lovers and walkers. The delightful woodland attracts a wide variety of wildlife, from birds such as nightjars and woodpeckers to foxes, badgers and many insects. Walkers might also spot the heathers that cling to some of the wood's steep slopes and its jutting mounds of pebbles and sand.

Discover the area's rich history by using a wealth of footpaths leading to a suspected Roman encampment, Windmill Bank, once graced by flour mills, and one of the area's highest vantage points, The Pulpit. Elevated above the tree tops, the famous platform offers unparalleled, panoramic views of this unspoilt and deeply rural part of the North Downs.

Owned by Swale Borough Council, the wood has recently been the scene of fascinating community archaeological events run by the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership and the Trust for Thanet Archaeology that are helping to piece together its ancient and enigmatic history.

## Crops Nouveau . . .

### CUTTING EDGE AGRICULTURE

The area's impressive Lees Court Estate has been farmed by the Sondes family for 800 years.

You pass much of the estate's extensive 4,500 acres in and around Sheldwich and Badlesmere.

As well as traditional cereals, the estate grows non-food crops, such as marigolds and linseed, for oils and natural skin care products.

Explore one of Kent's most picturesque and appealing farming landscapes; nestling in the chalk slopes of the North Downs, an area of outstanding natural beauty in the heart of the Garden of England.

Your Land for All Seasons walk takes you through spring meadows grazed by dairy herds, sun-drenched fields of marigolds in summer, abundant orchards in autumn and ancient woodlands alive with wildfowl in winter.

Whatever the time of year, you'll be captivated by the tranquil beauty of this remote rural haven, where rolling countryside is studded only by sleepy villages, historic churches, hop gardens and tractors at work in the fields and orchards.

Setting out from the picture-postcard village of Sheldwich, where the crack of leather on willow rings out in summer from its cricket pitch, you'll pass stunning homes as you make your way deep into farming country.

Through cornfields and along country lanes, discover remote hamlets and the farms that work these fertile downland foothills.

You'll pass hops in the hedgerows and apple orchards as you reach Saffrey Farm, where seasonal fruit and vegetables, such as asparagus, winter cabbage and squashes, are grown for the area's acclaimed chefs.

Then, as you travel into open countryside, with sheep grazing on the surrounding slopes, you pass fields where crops, such as linseed, are harvested. Calendula (marigolds), for skin care products, and the bright blue Echinium plant, rich in Omega 3, are among other novel crops you will see - providing a modern-day twist on the traditional crops grown in the area .

Then it's on to scenic Selling, where the parish church greets you at the mouth of the village. This glorious building has links to the Battle of Trafalgar and an ancient bier house, where bodies once laid in rest before burial.

Catch up on the fascinating history of the village with locals at The White Lion pub, where you can try Faversham-brewed Shepherd Neame ales, sit among hop vines in its remarkable garden and enjoy an inspired menu of produce from the area.

Apple and pear orchards line your route as you make your way to Perry Wood - home to a suspected Roman encampment and with panoramic views of the surrounding farmland from The Pulpit, some 500 feet above sea level.

Tucked away in the woods, you'll discover the 16th century Rose and Crown, the perfect place for walkers to relax in the garden on a warm summer's day or by a fire in the snug on a crisp winter's afternoon. The award-winning pub offers real ales and local fruit juices alongside a hearty choice of traditional favourites.

The next steps on your seasonal stroll take you through woods and farmland to a rolling valley of lush grass grazed by one of Kent's last remaining milking herds.

The dairy farm is a short distance away along a lane teeming with game birds as you climb to idyllic Badlesmere, with its historic church and farmhouse.

Then it's back to Sheldwich on the last stretch of your walk through unspoilt scenery, which is certain to whet your appetite for a longer stay in this productive and diverse farming landscape.





# 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 have included detours for those that wish to take this walk at a more leisurely pace and there are pubs offering a refreshing break along the way.

There are several places to leave your vehicle if you are arriving by car, including Sheldwich Lees, Sheldwich church and Perry Wood. Alternatively, you may like to start your walk at The White Lion in Selling or The Rose and Crown at Perry Wood,

where you can use the car parks and enjoy refreshments at the end of your walk.

If not arriving by car, there are mainline stations at Selling and Faversham, with local buses to Sheldwich and Badlesmere.

There are no public toilets, but you can use the facilities at the pubs on this route.

Use our directory to find a list of local accommodation, food producers, retailers and restaurants. Also, check out the wealth of additional information at [Faversham.org/walking](http://Faversham.org/walking).

## SHELDWICH TO SELLING

**A1.** From Sheldwich Lees walk by cricket ground towards the Ashford Road. Turn right into Hunters Way and continue on bridleway, following path through arable fields. Here you'll catch views of The Swale, Sheldwich church on your left, and an oasthouse on the horizon to your right – a lasting reminder of the area's hop growing history.

### Village gems ...

#### SERMONS IN STONES



Your walk is blessed by some of the county's most beautiful parish churches.

St Mary the Virgin at Selling (settlement in the woods) was first mentioned in 1054, when it was granted to the Benedictine Abbey of St Augustine, Canterbury. The St Mary's you see today is based on a larger replacement from 1190 and boasts a 14th century bier house – used as a mortuary until 1939 - and a two-seater privy in its grounds! Its majestic medieval north window was reinstated in the 1940s after being discovered behind a wall in the church, and until recently two flags from the battle of Trafalgar were displayed.

The neighbouring church of St Leonard at Badlesmere (pictured) looks, with its Georgian box pews, much as it did 200 years ago. It once served the nearby home of Bartholomew de Badlesmere, one of England's most powerful men during the reign of King Edward II.

The 11th century church of St James at Sheldwich boasts an ancient window by Thomas Willement, one of the most important stained glass artists of the 19th century, who lived in nearby Davington.

**A2.** Turn right at country lane, skirted on either side by fields, with Lees Court Estate and Gosmere Farm on your left. The Lees Court Estate grows non-food crops for cosmetics, such as marigolds, which you may see in the fields around you. Look out for the dates on properties you pass in the tiny hamlet ahead. Turn left at junction opposite postbox in wall, following signpost to Boughton and Hernhill. You'll notice hops and berries in the hedgerow, in season, and abundant orchards. Fine views across rolling countryside greet you on your right as you make your way through these foothills of the North Downs.

**A3.** With Owens Court Farm on your left, turn right at junction and follow public right of way to Saffrey Farm. There's a chance to buy local fruit and vegetables at the farm, which supplies restaurants, pubs and shops in the area. Take path ahead at way-marker as path bends left to apple orchards. Continue on path flanked by open countryside and farm buildings to road. Cross straight over, following bridleway opposite into wood. Pass through garden of house in front of you and turn right on to lane. Take bridleway on your right uphill through woods. Continue on through arable fields to gate, keeping hedgerow on your right.

## SELLING TO PERRY WOOD

**A4.** Pass through gate and turn right, following road downhill into Selling. If it's open, do take a look around St Mary the Virgin church. Note the bier house

## The White Lion



The White Lion at Selling sources its ingredients from the surrounding area and cooks everything from fresh on the premises.

As well as traditional meals, such as steak from Brogdale Farm and home-baked ham, egg and chips, the pub's Fuggles Fish Restaurant serves local catch at weekends. Favourites include Dover Sole, brill and cod. Delicious desserts range from brulee to satisfying steamed treacle pudding.

Warren and his wife Isaura look forward to serving you with food and beers from the nearby Shepherd Neame brewery from noon to 3pm and 6 to 11pm weekdays, noon to 11pm Saturdays, and noon to 10pm Sundays.

by the gate, used as a mortuary until 1939. Turn left at crossroads. Turn left at next T-junction and walk past apple orchards on your right to The White Lion pub on your left. This Shepherd Neame pub is a great place to enjoy a break, local food and the many beers brewed in nearby Faversham. Continue on this road, passing cricket ground on your left, keeping flint wall to your right.





*“Life on a farm is a school of patience; you can’t hurry crops or make an ox in two days.”*

Henri Alain

**B1.** At junction, turn right to Perry Wood - named after a pear orchard planted here by monks. The 150-acre wood is believed to have once been home to a Roman encampment and now hosts a wealth of wildlife. Turn left at crossroads to car park.

**B2.** Turn right at car park on to bridleway through woods. Cross wooden bridge and at fingerpost turn left and pass through gate towards Keeper’s Cottage. Turn right after next gate and walk uphill, passing apple orchards on your left. Continue ahead, following track around Perry Wood.

**B3.** Take the chance to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding countryside from The Pulpit by taking a small detour uphill to your right at the Fox way-marker post. Standing some 500 feet above sea level, The Pulpit offers unparalleled views across this

deeply rural landscape, broken only by the solitary hamlet of Shottenden below. Take care on the steep path with its loose pebbles. On returning to bridleway continue alongside fruit orchards and fields of grazing sheep. Turn left at Lavender Cottage on to gravel track and continue to the idyllic Rose and Crown pub – another great place to sample local food, ale and apple juice produced just a few miles away.

### PERRY WOOD TO SHELDWICH

**C1.** From Rose and Crown car park turn left along road and immediately right along bridleway through woods. At crossroads in path continue straight on. At road, turn left, passing houses on your left and right and then arable fields on either side. Turn right at T-junction and continue along road, with rasperry fields on your right.

**C2.** Turn left through wooden gate on your left at Hogben’s Hill. Continue along bridleway through wooded valley - part of the Sondes Estate. Keep to your left and pass through cattle gate and holding pen on your left, continuing along bottom of valley. (For a slightly longer walk, taking in the Red Lion pub and Badlesmere Common, follow Badlesmere Loop from C3).

**C3.** At gate, turn left on to road and turn right uphill into Fisher Street Road. Continue on lane to Badlesmere Court Farm.

**C4.** Keeping green barn to your left, pass round side of barn through yard of dairy cows – one of Kent’s last remaining milking herds - to concrete track. Continue along track to road. Turn left for Sheldwich Lees.

### BADLESMERE LOOP

**C3.** Turn left at gate on to road, cross over, and take footpath immediately to the right of Fisher Street Road sign. Continue forward uphill along track into woods.

**D1.** Turn right after gate to road and right again at T-junction. Walk along Beacon Hill and turn right after woods along bridleway. Continue on uphill to Badlesmere Common.

**D2.** You can follow the track here to the Red Lion pub or cross diagonally over the common to your right and take bridleway on your right in front of a house just before road (A251, Ashford Road). Follow this track through arable fields. At fork in path take left hand footpath to road and continue forwards to Badlesmere church. Turn right at church and follow road to Badlesmere Court Farm and its farmhouse. Rejoin main route at C4.

### The Rose and Crown

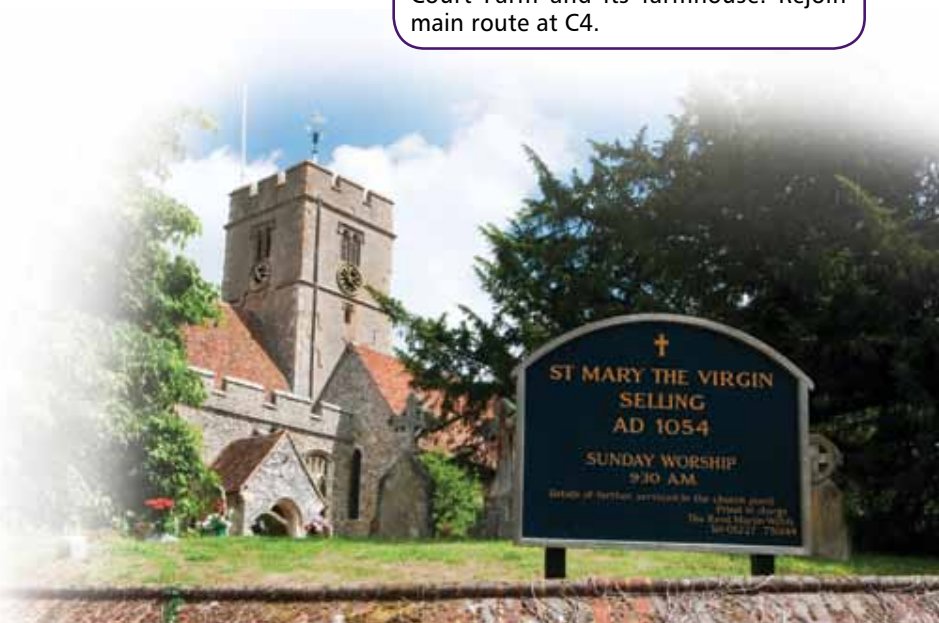


A warm welcome awaits you at the beautiful 16th century Rose and Crown pub, set in the heart of Perry Wood near Selling.

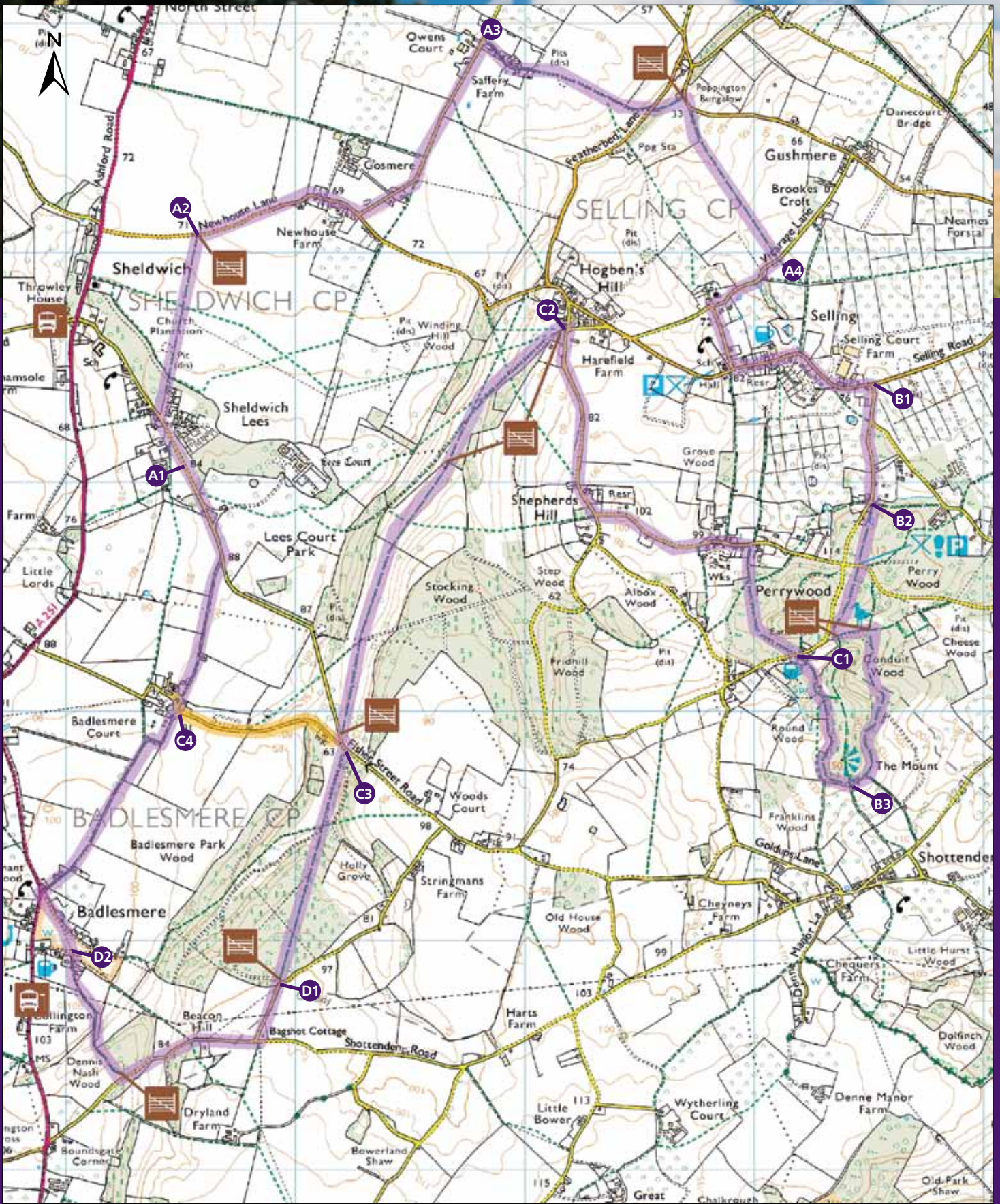
Inglenook fireplaces, real ales and a seasonal menu of locally-sourced favourites, including Kent fish pie, provide all the traditional trappings – with an eco twist.

A winner of the coveted Kent Environment Business of the Year award in 2009, the pub also boasts a Fair Trade Policy.









Owners Tim and Vanessa look forward to welcoming walkers, and their dogs, to this award-winning pub with its Wood Cottage Restaurant and relaxing gardens.

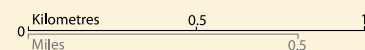






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-  Garden/Arboretum
-  Public house
-  Viewpoint
-  Place of worship
-  Telephone
-  Gate
-  Refreshments
-  Train



### Walk Overview

**Distance:** 9.25 miles (14.75 kms)

Route including the Badlesmere loop is 11.25 miles (18 kms)

**Fitness level:** A challenging walk in places, with steep inclines

**Toilets:** Pub facilities

**Refreshments:** Pubs

**Transport:** Mainline stations at

Faversham and Selling, with local buses to Sheldwich and Badlesmere [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**Pay phones:** Sheldwich, Selling, Badlesmere

**Parking:** Sheldwich Lees, Sheldwich church, Perry Wood, White Lion, Rose & Crown

**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.cheesemakersofcantisbury.co.uk](http://www.cheesemakersofcantisbury.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)

**Snoad 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

