

North Downs Way - Section 15: Folkestone to Dover

8.5 miles (13.6 km) allow 4 hours

Stroll along this stunning coastline discovering the history of the Battle of Britain, the Abbots Sound Mirror and view Samphire Hoe Nature Reserve from high above.









Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel

How to get there -

Parking: Limited on-street parking on Crete Road West, Folkestone. Car parks and on-street in Dover.

Train: Nearest stations: Dover Priory, Folkestone West.

Bus: 102 from Folkestone to Dover.

S	Start	Crete Road West, Folkestone Nearest postcode CT18 7AB
///	what3words	sung.forklift.bubble
F	Finish	Dover seafront CT16 1LA
///	what3words	lashed.sprinkle.stolen
	Gates	18
	Stiles	0
	Steps	9
	Terrain	Bare earth, gravel tracks, grass, surfaced tarmac roads, chalk.
	Views	Amazing views from clifftops
	Refreshments	Valiant Sailor and Cliff Top Cafe, Capel. Cafes in Dover.

Route description

1. Turn right onto the footpath next to the green electricity box and continue round the bend. Pass through a gate, under an electricity pylon and up a chalky hill. Follow the footpath round, passing a trig point. Keep on this path as it bends downhill to a gate.
2. Pass through this gate and the next gate. Continue straight up hill and then follow the footpath downhill as it narrows, then through the gate. Follow the footpath as it bends, pass a gate and stay in the field until you reach a gate onto a road.
3. Cross the road and continue straight up Crete Road East. When houses appear on your left, pass through the gate on your right and continue straight following the fence line. Keep straight passing a wooden gate and on through a metal gate to join the road.
4. Continue for a short distance and pass through gate on your right. Keep following the fence on your left in the field for 0.5 miles. Pass through a wooden gate and take care to cross straight over a busy road. Follow the narrow footpath down the right side of the pub.
5. The path will fork, continue straight and round the bend to your left, following the fence. After a short distance you will enter a grassy field. On your left is the Battle of Britain Memorial. Rejoin the path and take care on the next section as you will be walking very close to the cliff edge.
6. Continue straight with fence on your left as the path narrows with a drop on your right. Bend left and down some steps, and continue on to a short set of steps up to a small road. Turn left then and after a short distance turn right and up a few steps.
7. Keep on this narrow footpath as you travel up steps and weave right then left to walk on top of the cliffs. Follow this footpath as you pass through an open grassy area and on to the next area with benches.



View towards Folkestone from Capel cliffs

8. At the car park and cafe leave the cliff edge and walk between the road and cafe. Continue straight on the footpath winding through open land, passing in front of a caravan park until you reach a small road.
9. Turn right and take the road leading uphill signposted Abbots Cliffe House. Continue straight as road narrows to a path. Pass Abbot's Cliff Sound Mirror on your right. Continue walking and at the gate walk to your right and follow the fenceline to the gate.
10. Keep walking with fence on your right, passing a cylindrical structure. After a short distance pass through a gate on your right. Continue Straight for 1 mile along coastline with fence now on your left. Pass several abandoned buildings and look down to your right to see Samphire Hoe Country Park.
11. Keep walking along this ridge, passing through a gate and walking downhill with the fence on your right. Pass through the gate beside the cylindrical structure and continue straight keeping the fence on your right. Keep walking for 0.5 miles through the woodland, pass through the gate on your right.

12. Continue on path downhill with railings on your right. Turn left down steps and through the tunnel. Turn right up steps and continue straight. After a short distance cross the road and turn left up King Lear's Way and right onto Kings Ropewalk. Walk to the end of the road turn left on a footpath that leads uphill.
13. Walk up steps and turn right through gate at top. Continue on main footpath across hill and through gate. Continue straight and keep right as a footpath joins from left. Turn right on road and keep right as a road joins from left.
14. Turn left on Centre Road and continue downhill. As the road bends cross over to pass through gate and up steps. Turn left uphill with fence on your right and continue straight through a gate. Keep straight and shortly footpath will narrow with a fence on either side and fortifications on your right.
15. Follow this footpath with fence on your right as it bends around the fortifications. At the sign to Western Heights follow footpath to your left leading down steps. Pass through a gate which leads down a set of concrete steps. At the end turn right to join a road.
16. Follow the road around the bend and continue straight passing houses on your left. As road bends to the left cross over and continue straight to a road. Turn left and continue to traffic lights. Cross the road here. Keep straight on Queen Street and turn right on Bench street.
17. Continue Straight and walk down underpass and up steps to street level again. Continue straight passing a roundabout to your left. Cross Waterloo Crescent to reach the North Downs Way Start/Finish marker on the floor. You have completed your walk.



Points of interest

5. Battle of Britain Memorial

The Battle of Britain was the successful defence of Great Britain by the RAF during the Second World war. It took place between July and September 1940. At the Wing Visitor Centre in Capel Le Ferne learn about the history of the Battle of Britain. Visit the Cockpit Cafe for refreshments and explore the surrounding site including the Memorial Wall, Pilot Statue and the replica planes.



9. Abbots Cliff Sound Mirror

The Abbots Cliff Sound Mirror was completed in 1928 and was one of seven structures built on the Kent coast between 1916 and the 1930s. These structures were nicknamed 'listening ears' and were used as an early warning system of incoming enemy planes. The concave shape helped to catch sound waves of approaching planes.



10. Samphire Hoe

Samphire Hoe Country Park opened in 1993 and was created using the chalk excavated during the construction of the Channel Tunnel. The 74 acre site is home to 200 species of plants and wildflowers and 220 species of bird. It has received 17 Green Flag Awards which rewards green spaces for their high environmental quality and biodiversity.



