

NORTH DOWNS WAY RAIL TRAIL No. 9

SHEPHERDSWELL to DOVER

9.5 MILES (15.3KM) ALLOW 3.5 to 4 HOURS



Explore an alternative route into Dover from Waldershare Park. Pass through an old deer park, a National Nature Reserve and follow the chalk stream of the Dour which powered many of the now defunct mills in Dover down to the English Channel. With plenty of local food and drink options on the route and some fascinating history as you enter Dover Town Centre this route has something for everyone.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND POINTS OF INTEREST

SHEPHERDSWELL: The Village Green at Shepherdswell is home to The Bell Inn and St Andrews Church. You can also find the North Downs Way Gateway sign on the Mill Lane side of the Green for a photo opportunity.

1. From Platform 2 take the main exit from the Shepherdswell Station, bearing right to a narrow path following metal railings. Carefully cross the road and pick up the same path running behind houses.
2. Turn left uphill onto Church Hill. At the top, with the pub and the green on the right, bear left keeping the church in front. Keep left on Mill Lane, then turn right onto the North Downs Way (NDW) and Via Francigena (VF). Keep ahead through another 2 gates, turning right keeping to the hedge line along this field.

3. Cross two fields and keep ahead between some small trees into the next field heading diagonally left up the next field to a small, wooded area. Pass through this following NDW/VF signs to Coldred Court Farm. Turn left through the gate with the farm and Coldred Church parallel on the right. Pass through a gate in the field bearing right to a gate in the corner of this field and onto the road, turning right.
4. At the crossroads, cross directly over onto Singledge Lane, turning immediately left up a bank into woodland on the Waldershare Estate. Follow this path through the woods on the NDW and VF to

HOW TO GET THERE -












By car: Shepherdswell is located just off the A2, around 9 miles north west of Dover.

Parking: Parking, including accessible parking is available at Shepherdswell Station, Kearsney Abbey and Dover Priory Station.

Train: Nearest stations: Shepherdswell, Kearsney, Dover Priory.

National Rail Enquiries: www.nationalrail.co.uk

Traveline: www.traveline.info

	Start	Shepherdswell Station
	what3words	///gifted.trial.giraffes
	Finish	Dover Priory Station
	what3words	///congratulations.reference.revived
	Stiles	1
	Gates	16
	Steps	5 flights
	Terrain	Mainly fields, tracks, some steep slopes. Steepish descent from Temple Ewell NNR. Pavements in Dover.
	Views	Views from Monumenta Romana sculpture and Temple Ewell NNR. Sea views at Dover seafront.
	Refreshments	Cafes at E. Kent Railway & Kearsney Abbey. Shop & pub in Shepherdswell. Many options in Dover.
	Toilets	At Shepherdswell Station. Accessible toilets at Kearsney Abbey.

THE VIA FRANCIGENA: A historic 1,200 mile (approx. 1,900 km) pilgrim route stretching from Canterbury through France and Switzerland to Rome. Often called the “Camino to Rome,” it takes about 90–100 days to complete, passing through UNESCO sites, the Alps and Tuscany.

COLDRED CHURCH: St Pancras Church Coldred is a wonderful rural church situated within the outer bailey of an early Norman motte and bailey castle, one of the few churches to be situated in the outer bailey of a castle.



Photo: Pam Fray

Monumenta Romana, part of the North Downs Way Arts Trail. Keep on this path through the woods, and onto a long path, which gradually ascends across a large field. At the end of this field, bear slightly left into another large field with old trees. Head diagonally left towards the main Waldershare House buildings ahead. Follow this path, crossing the service roads to a junction of tracks and paths. Keep ahead downhill with the main building to the right.

5. At a junction of paths with the main building now behind, turn hard right through a small avenue of trees. DO NOT follow the NDW/ VF signs. This is now the alternative route to Dover. Keeping the main house and gardens on the right, follow this bridleway through a series of fields. At a gate turn left then right to follow a path between two fields. Follow



MONUMENTA ROMANA: Take a break at the Monumenta Romana sculpture on the Waldershare Estate, an old deer park.

this long straight path to a hedge line, turn left then right through the hedge following the path to Newsole Farm. Bear left on the bridleway behind a hedge to the right to the corner of a field where the path meets Singledge Lane.

6. Turn left onto Singledge Lane and follow this quiet road for a few hundred yards, keeping an eye out for traffic.
7. Pick up a footpath on the right heading up a bank into a field. Cross the field diagonally to the left (passing a house with a tall hedge) towards Temple Farm. Exit the field between trees and stay on the path with the farm on the right, bearing right on a wide track heading towards the A2. Follow this track to the underpass under the A2 and onto Lydden Temple Ewell National Nature Reserve (NNR).
8. Turn hard left, exiting the underpass and walking parallel for a short period alongside the A2. After a short while, the fence to the right turns downhill. Follow it to a wide field gate into the main NNR. The NNR is open access with numerous paths and tracks leading down to the village. The route described here is the most direct route, but do explore if there is time. Whichever route taken, aim to exit the NNR onto London Rd to Lower Road to pick up the remainder of the route.
9. Continue downhill through the NNR, bearing slightly left and picking up a track running behind allotments and out onto London Rd, Temple Ewell.

10. Cross the road carefully and take a right down Templar Road to Mill Street, bearing left to a junction. Turn right onto Lower Road, under the Railway Arches and onto Alkham Road. Either cross directly ahead into Kearsney Park or turn right and follow the pavement to the crossing.

11. Cross the road into Kearsney Abbey and Park and follow the path to the left of the car park over the stream with the cafe and tea rooms ahead. Follow this path, keeping the buildings to the left and the lakes ahead to the right. Walk alongside the lake to the end of the park and follow the Blue River Dour Greenway signs into Dover. Take the path that leads down out of the park and into the village of River.



LYDDEN TEMPLE EWELL: A National Nature Reserve located high above the villages in its name. This open access space is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is an excellent example of chalk grassland habitat. It has some great views across Dover.



KEARSNEY ABBEY: Although never a monastic estate, the history of the Abbey can be traced back to the Norman Conquest. The park as it exists today can be attributed to John Minet Fector, a local banker and merchant, who built a grand mansion on the site between 1820-1822. The park's Cedar of Lebanon is believed to be one of the oldest in the country.

15. Turn left on Lorne Road away from the brewery then right onto Buckland Avenue. Cross Cherry Tree Avenue and bear right, picking up the River Dour path on the left.

16. Follow the riverside path, carefully crossing a number of roads to Morrisons Supermarket. Take the path alongside the car park and pick up the path on Dour Street, turning right onto Park Street/ Ladywell.

17. To visit Maison Dieu follow Ladywell to the end of the road, turn left, then follow the High Street from Maison Dieu to rejoin the route.

If not visiting Maison Dieu take a left at the Police Station to pick up the riverside path again past the bowling club. Bear left over a bridge behind a college and exit onto Pencester Gardens, rejoining the main NDW/VF route. Follow signs through Pencester, turning right out of the park and then left at the church to come out onto Church St. Keep an eye out for the NDW/VF floor plaques through the town centre.

18. Bear right on Castle Street with Market Square and Dover Museum to the right. Follow the pavement over Queen Street to the subway under the A2.

MAISON DIEU: Founded in 1203 by Hubert de Burgh, the Constable of Dover Castle, as the "Hospital of the Maison Dieu" to accommodate pilgrims coming from the Continent to visit the shrine of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

DOVER MUSEUM: Pause here to learn more about the town's fascinating history, including the Dover Bronze Age boat, which dates to c.1575–1520 BC, which may make it one of the oldest substantially intact boats in the world.

19. Exit the subway and head for the sea, crossing Cambridge Rd roundabout, then Marine Parade to the North Downs Way Start/ Finish marker on the Seafront.

20. To get to Dover Priory Station, retrace the route to Market Square. Keep left on the pedestrianised Cannon St, continuing straight to Biggin Street until reaching a narrow lane on the left. Turn down here to St Edmund's Chapel then turn left to the lights to cross the main road safely.

21. Turn left towards the roundabout and head up Folkestone Road, with the road to the left, passing Dover College, the site of the old Dover Priory, until reaching Priory Station Approach Rd. Take the right branch and follow to the train station.



START/FINISH: Finish your journey at the North Downs Way Start/Finish and pose for pics on the "We are All Winners" podium sculpture with Dover Castle and the White Cliffs in the background.

12. Exit Kearsney Park by the old mill pool onto Lower Road. Pass terraced houses and the Royal Oak pub and reach Crabble Road. Cross the road right, then immediately left passing the Cricketers pub with a sports ground to the right.

13. At the end of this road, take a left under the railway arches onto a path that runs alongside the site of the old Buckland Mill with a church on the right.

14. At the end of this path, turn left crossing the river and turning right after the old toilet block onto Buckland Avenue. Pick up a path that joins Brookfield Place then bear right onto a path between houses onto Alfred Road. Follow this down to Lorne Road. The Breakwater Brewery, Taproom & Pizzeria is on the right.

