



# TURNER & DICKENS WALK

A creative connection of

## Margate & Broadstairs

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



# TURNER & DICKENS WALK

The Turner and Dickens walk connects Margate and Broadstairs. It is named in recognition of the two towns' respective links with the world renowned artist JMW Turner and author Charles Dickens. It is a four mile signposted route that can be walked in either direction and is designed to be accessible for all.

Local people identified the walk as a priority following the publication of the Thanet Walking Strategy. Much of the walk is based on the ancient path linking St Peter's Church, Broadstairs with St John's Church in Margate. It combines urban and rural Thanet, starting and finishing at the two harbours which date back to the Tudor period, one facing north and the other east.

A key feature of the walk is art inspired by Turner and Dickens. Mosaic panels have been installed in each town. Broadstairs mosaic artist, Martin Cheek, worked with children from two schools close to the walk to create the mosaics.

A different artistic approach was taken where the walk crosses the railway at the edge of Margate. Here local youngsters, led by Street Art Studio, have created a Turner and Dickens inspired mural using spray cans. Take time to identify the Dickens characters, Turner paintings and local landmarks represented at each location.

The map shows various points of interest along the way, with references to sources of further information on Thanet past and present.

Enjoy the walk!



Artist's impression of the new gallery for Turner Contemporary  
© David Chipperfield Architects Ltd



# TURNER & DICKENS WALK

For more information visit  
[www.turneranddickenswalk.co.uk](http://www.turneranddickenswalk.co.uk)  
or call Thanet Tourist Information on  
0870 264 6111





Our thanks and appreciation to two particularly useful sources of information used to compile this leaflet. Bob Cawthorne's "Isle of Thanet Compendium" is a mine of information, facts and figures and the Trust for Thanet Archaeology's website - [www.thanetarch.co.uk](http://www.thanetarch.co.uk) - is equally fascinating

While every effort has been made to ensure that the content of this leaflet is accurate and up to date at the time of printing, no liability can be accepted for any errors, omissions or misrepresentations of fact contained herein.

## A Breath of Fresh Air

Walking is now recognised as one of the most pleasant ways to improve your health – enhancing stamina and energy, lowering blood pressure, easing back pain and reducing the risk of a heart attack. As walking requires very little equipment it can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. It is surely the most economical and fun way to keep fit.

## Planning Your Walk

- The walk measures four miles from one end to the other. Most people average two miles per hour, at this speed it would take two hours – but of course this can vary depending upon whether you are undertaking a brisk stroll or a gentle amble with stops along the way. Remember to allow time for rests, refreshment breaks and simply stopping to take in the view.
- If you are not used to walking, you might want to start with a shorter walk of around one and a half to two miles. The map overleaf highlights the route in half mile sections so that you can plan a shorter trip.
- Select strong, comfortable shoes with a good gripping sole or walking boots.
- Check the weather forecast for the day. Wear loose fitting, comfortable and bright clothing appropriate for the weather and crossing roads. Sun cream is always advisable, especially during spring and summer.
- You will need to cross some roads along the way. Extra care needs to be taken here, especially at the points on the map marked  Please follow the highway code, see [www.highwaycode.gov.uk](http://www.highwaycode.gov.uk)
- Drink plenty of water and take snacks with you. Refreshments are available along the route during normal opening hours. If you need a comfort break public toilets are marked by  and opening times are listed on [www.thanet.gov.uk](http://www.thanet.gov.uk)
- Carry a mobile phone and let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. In cases of emergency when you need to dial 999,

six lettered marker posts have been erected every 250 metres along the middle section of St Peter's Footpath (marked by letters )

- And don't forget the Countryside Code: Respect - Protect - Enjoy.

## Access for All

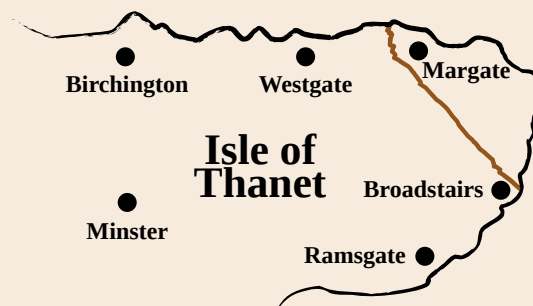
The Turner and Dickens Walk has been designed to be accessible for everyone. At all road crossings drop kerbs and tactile paving have been installed to assist wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and the visually impaired. All footways are at least a metre wide and the entire route has been laid in hard surfacing. Marker posts have been put up every 250m along the middle section of St Peter's Footpath and distinctive black and white signs with the "T&D" logo can be found along the way, to help keep you on the right track!



## Discover more ways to walk Kent

If you enjoy this walk, Kent County Council's Explore Kent web pages are the perfect place to check for up-to-date information about the many walking opportunities, taking in the history and diverse landscapes of this unique county. You can download popular walks for people of all ages and abilities, find out about Kent's numerous parks and nature reserves, or plan your own more adventurous routes.

Visit: [www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent) or call 08458 247600.



## 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 the signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home or use bins and dog bins along the way
- Keep dogs under control
- Consider other people

For further information visit [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)

## How to get there


### Train services

Margate station is located a 10-15 minute walk from one end of the route, and Broadstairs station is located on the walk itself. Tel: 08457 484950 or visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

### Coach services

National Express services run from both Margate and Broadstairs Tel: 08705 808080 or visit [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

### Local buses

Frequent bus services including the 'Thanet Loop' and 'The Breeze' run between Margate and Broadstairs, and frequent bus service stops are marked 

For more information visit:

[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) or [www.eastonways.co.uk](http://www.eastonways.co.uk)

### Route planning

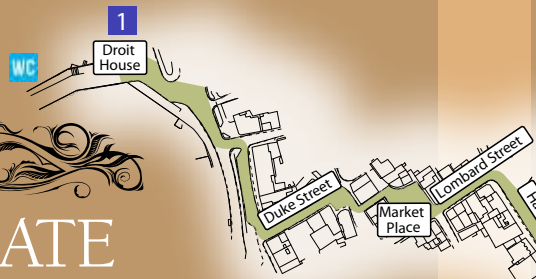
[www.theaa.com](http://www.theaa.com), [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com), [www.kenttourism.co.uk](http://www.kenttourism.co.uk), [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) (or call 0871 200 2233)

### Taxis

Hackney carriages operate from taxi ranks at Cecil Square in Margate, the High Street in Broadstairs and at other places in both towns. For details of local private hire operators visit [www.yell.com](http://www.yell.com) or [www.thomsonlocal.com](http://www.thomsonlocal.com)

# MARGATE

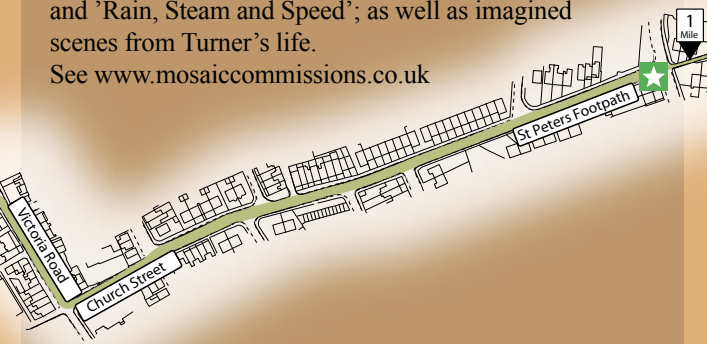
**1** JMW Turner was 11 when he first came to Margate, later becoming a frequent visitor to the town. He produced more than 30,000 drawings and paintings in his lifetime, over 100 of which can be traced to the time he spent in Margate, where he was inspired by the unique quality of light. The new gallery for Turner Contemporary is being built where once stood the guest house in which Turner stayed. The gallery will exhibit work by Turner and there will be a focus on twentieth century and contemporary practice, featuring work by nationally and internationally renowned artists. Opposite the Harbour is Margate Old Town, the busiest area in town during the 18th and 19th centuries, and now undergoing a renaissance as a cultural and artistic hub.



Cecil Square and Hawley Square were laid out in the Georgian period when Margate first became a popular and fashionable seaside town. In the 13th century what was then referred to as 'Meregate' was a small fishing hamlet by a wooden jetty, with a separate farming community by St John's Church. The church was first built in 1050 but destroyed by fire in 1250. During the Middle Ages peasants were buried outside but local dignitaries were buried under the church floor.

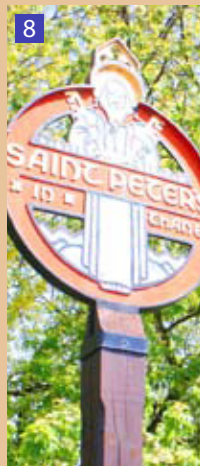


Outside Holy Trinity and St John's CEP School are the Margate mosaics. Children from the school, their parents and other local people worked with mosaic artist Martin Cheek to create the ten mosaic panels. Each is made with Bizassa vitreous glass, embedded in an aluminium frame. They depict a number of Turner's most famous paintings, including 'The Fighting Temeraire' and 'Rain, Steam and Speed'; as well as imagined scenes from Turner's life. See [www.mosaiccommissions.co.uk](http://www.mosaiccommissions.co.uk)

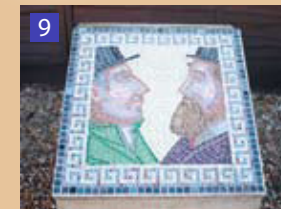


**7** St Peter's Church was built in the late Norman style in 1070 and later enlarged. The wooden roof dates from a refurbishment of 1687. In the reign of Henry VIII, archery practise

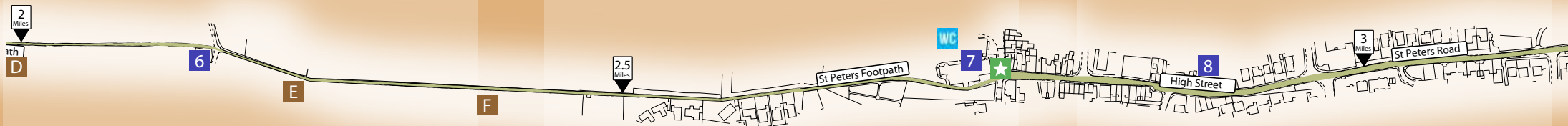
was compulsory and took place near to the church. The church tower is 82ft high and four men kept a daily watch from it during the Napoleonic Wars. St Peter's churchyard is said to be the longest in the country. Very heavy rains in June 1966 caused around 100 graves to sink about 18 inches.



**8** The historic village of St Peter's is brought to life in regular, award-winning village tours. These take place on Thursdays in groups of around ten and take up to two and a half hours. Costumed characters from past centuries help bring the past to life as you hear about conditions in the local workhouse, famous and infamous local residents and much more. Monthly churchyard and World War One and Two graves tours are also organised and take up to 90 minutes. See [www.villagetour.co.uk](http://www.villagetour.co.uk)



**9** There are 24 Dickens inspired mosaic panels in St Peter's, set within a landscaped area. Children from Upton Junior School and other members of the local community worked with mosaic artist Martin Cheek to design the panels. Look out for some of Dickens' most famous characters, including Scrooge, Magwitch, Bill Sykes, Mr Bumble and Fagin. One panel shows Dickens and Turner face to face. They were contemporaries but Turner was already in his 30s when Dickens was born in 1812.





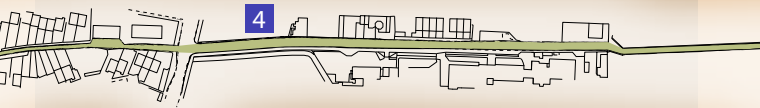
One of only two surviving windmills in Thanet (the other is at Sarre), Drapers Mill is a smock mill built by John Holman in 1847. It was saved from demolition in the 1960s by the then headmaster of the school which shares its name. The mill is open to visitors on Sunday afternoons in June and July and Saturday and Sunday afternoons in August. It has been



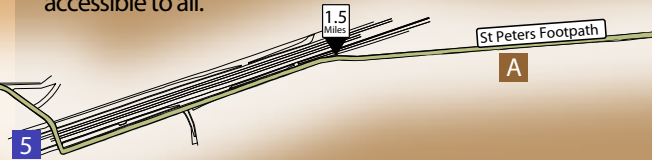
The footbridge crossing the Broadstairs to Margate railway was formerly a magnet for graffiti. With the support of Network Rail and the Thanet Community Safety Partnership, Street Art Studio worked with local youngsters to produce a spray can mural. Dickens characters and local landmarks along the route are depicted on a Turner-style background to create a colourful, friendly, clean mural in an art form accessible to all.



The area where the footpath crosses Shallows Road apparently derives its name from an underground stream that surfaced here, hence 'The Shallows'. In the 17th century, the land was owned by the Churchwarden of St Peter's Church. It was bought for ten shillings (50p) by Stephen Shallows, a local Baptist, partly because of the coincidence of name. However, his main purpose for buying the land was to establish a place where he and his fellow Baptists could worship in safety, as Baptists were persecuted in England at that time.



restored to working order and houses 18th and 19th century milling artefacts.



Close to Broadstairs railway station is Crampton Tower Museum, part of which is actually housed in the tower. The museum commemorates the work of Thomas Russell Crampton, born in Broadstairs in 1816. Crampton was an eminent engineer in his time and the museum contains working drawings, models, graphics, patents, awards and artefacts connected to his life and works. The tower was designed by Crampton for his own water company, the Broadstairs Water Company, and built in 1959. See [www.cramptontower.co.uk](http://www.cramptontower.co.uk)



The name Pierremont derives from the French for St Peter's Mount. Pierremont Hall was built in 1785 and had grounds that extended to 30 acres. Queen Victoria stayed at Pierremont Hall as an 8-year old princess in 1827. She had her own white donkey, Dicky, for rides on the beach. Broadstairs and St Peter's Urban District Council bought the building for £5,500 in 1927 and it now houses the Town Council offices.



The building which is now home to the Dickens House Museum was originally a small Tudor building, later extended in Victorian times. Miss Mary Pearson Strong was the owner when Dickens was a frequent visitor to Broadstairs. He later based the character of Betsey Trotwood in his novel David Copperfield on her. The house was named Dickens House at the end of the 19th century and opened as a museum in 1973. It houses Dickens' memorabilia, including his writing slope, and displays on the history of Broadstairs.

