

LITTLESTONE TO DYMCHURCH

KENT'S COAST THROUGH TIME

3.3 MILES (5.4KM)



[EXPLOREKENT.ORG](https://www.explorekent.org)

Take a journey of nostalgia on this walk through the ages and be greeted by the chirp of the steam railway. This is Kent's coast at its finest, where you can enjoy all the traditional seaside fun.

OVERVIEW

LOCATION: Start at the Victorian Drinking Fountain, Marine Parade, Littlestone, TN28 8QJ

DISTANCE: 3.3 miles (5.4km)

TIME: Allow 1 hour 30 minutes

EXPLORER MAP: 125

ACCESSIBILITY: No gates, no steps

PARKING: Pay and display parking in Littlestone

REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES: Tea shop and restaurants in Littlestone, pubs and cafés in Dymchurch.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Bus service Wave 102 runs from Dymchurch to Littlestone. Check kentconnected.org for times and services.

Exploring Hythe and Romney Marsh? ①

Experience a world-famous trip on a RHDR steam locomotive. Walking with your dog? Dogs are welcome and travel for free. The catering facilities at Hythe and Dungeness are popular with walkers who are keen to walk along the Royal Military Canal and explore the National Nature Reserve. See rhdr.org.uk for more information. Please be aware that there is limited or no service in the winter months.

WALK DESCRIPTION

Your walk starts at the **Victorian drinking fountain** ② where Grand Parade adjoins Littlestone Road. This well-known historical landmark has an air of Victorian gentility and is a great place to sit and look at the fine views out to sea. Head a little way along the King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIECP) and pause to admire the 120ft **Victorian Water Tower** ③ on your left, which is now a listed building. You will have an opportunity to admire it from afar later in your walk.

Littlestone is a small coastal village, established in the 1880s by Sir Robert Perks, as a resort for the gentry. There is a lifeboat station based here, the crew is formed of local men and women who respond to regular calls out to sea. The beach is beautifully peaceful, the perfect escape from the bustle of daily life and has excellent **views** ④ across the sea to Dungeness.

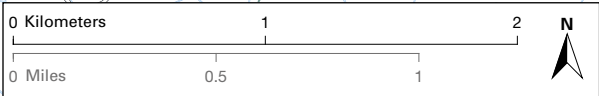
Out at sea is a concrete section of Mulberry Harbour, built in 1944 for the Dunkirk Landings. Another stark reminder of the military heritage in this area.

Continue, following the KCIIECP along the beach heading past **St Mary's Bay** ⑤, a popular sandy beach and village which is also known as 'The Bay'. **The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway** ⑥ has its own station here with direct access to this vast beach. Pack a kite, as the beach is great to catch the wind! This is a perfect beach to spend the day at, bring a picnic or treat yourself to snacks and drinks from the kiosk.

Don't miss the beautiful views out to sea stopping to admire the crystal clear blue waters. You will see a large red brick tower in the distance, it is the 120 ft Victorian Water Tower which you saw near the beginning of your walk.



St Mary's Bay offers fine views to Dungeness.



- 1 Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway (New Romney)
- 2 Victorian Drinking Fountain
- 3 Victorian Water Tower
- 4 Sea Views
- 5 St Mary's Bay
- 6 Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway (Dymchurch)
- 7 Martello Tower (English Heritage)
- 8 Dymchurch Beach

	Route
	Footpath
	Bridleway
	Parking
	Toilets



Martello towers, simply called 'Martellos', are small defensive forts.

Further inland on the beach you will see the groynes, wooden walls that extend out to sea. There has been a sea wall in Dymchurch since the Roman times. A very interesting plaque explains its history. Here you can also learn the derivation of the term 'Scot-free'.

Following the KCIIIECP towards Dymchurch aside the sandy beach you will pass a Martello tower located in a car park next to the path. It's a great opportunity to stand next to one and take in its vast size and proportion within the landscape.

Dymchurch Martello Tower **7** next to the slipway by the sea wall is the finishing point of your walk. The tower is part of a chain of small defensive forts built by the British government between 1805 and 1812 when faced with the threat of invasion by Napoleon. This tower has been restored to its original design and re-equipped with its cannon and is open to the public in the summer months.

There is plenty to do in the bustling coastal village of Dymchurch which has something for every taste; including a lovely sandy **beach** **8**. Why not try the Dymchurch Heritage Trail where you can discover the history of the buildings and people who once lived here? The trail street sign is opposite to the finish point.

Why not travel back to Littlestone in style on board a Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch steam train? On selected special event days, you can alight at the Romney Warren Station where you can visit the Romney Marsh Visitor Centre who welcome visitors to discover, explore and learn about the unique landscape of Romney Marsh.



Dymchurch beach has miles of fine sand.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House,
Maidstone ME14 1XX
[explorekent.org/activities/littlestone-to-dymchurch-kents-coast-through-time/](https://www.explorekent.org/activities/littlestone-to-dymchurch-kents-coast-through-time/)
<https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk>

Photography: John Miller.