



NATIONAL TRAIL 

Co-financed by the European Union and the European Regional Development Fund



# Swanscombe Peninsula Trail

**4 miles (6.5km)** allow 2.5 hours

This walk from from Swanscombe High Street takes you out onto the marshes along the England Coast Path.

This is a hidden gem with great views across the river and a surprising mosaic of coastal wildlife habitats.



Views across the Thames from the England Coast Path in Swanscombe.

## How to get there:

**By Car:** From A2 take the exit for Ebbsfleet International and then follow signs for Swanscombe along B259.









**Parking:** On street parking in residential roads, please be considerate.

**Train:** Nearest station: Swanscombe (2 minutes from start point).

National Rail Enquiries: 03457 48 49 50

**Bus:** Services every day to Gravesend, Dartford, Meopham (B, 480, 490, 306 and more).

Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

	Start/Finish	On street parking
	what3words	///sugars.flame.larger
	Gates	2
	Stiles	0
	Steps	1
	Terrain	Uneven gravel and grass tracks, with some on road sections.
	Views	Some excellent views.
	Refreshments	Shops and refreshments on High Street near start point.

## Step-by-step Guide

1. Start your walk at the North end of the High Street, next to the former Church of All Saints, where it meets the A226 London Road. **Beware of traffic.**
2. Use the traffic lights to cross the London Road to the north and head straight, up a short road opposite. After a short distance the road will become a footpath straight ahead of you. Follow this footpath for about 300 metres. **This footpath has some uneven surfaces.**
3. The footpath will emerge on Manor Way. Go down the steps ahead of you, cross the road and continue through the gate opposite. Take the footpath on the right and follow this footpath for half a mile. The river will be on your left as you walk on.
4. You will emerge onto a gravel path – turn right and then take the footpath on the right. Continue along this path for about 500 metres.
5. Follow the path as it bends round to the left and then take the right-hand path.
6. After a short distance you will see some steps on your left. Go up the steps. You are now on the England Coast Path.
7. Follow the blue arrows for the England Coast Path. Cross over a small bridge and follow the path as it winds right and left. **Beware of uneven terrain.** Enjoy your first views across the River Thames towards Tilbury Docks, with its many boats and cranes.
8. Keep going until you reach a gravel path, then turn left.
9. Continue until you reach another gravel path then turn right. After a short distance take the left-hand fork. Ahead of you, you will see Broadness Radar, a shipping radar that keeps river traffic safe. Bend round to the left passing a small boatyard and keep walking along the coast.

10. Follow another bend to the left and walk along the coast passing underneath Swanscombe Pylon. Along with its twin across the river in Essex, this pylon is the tallest in the UK. Pause and enjoy views across the river towards the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge.

11. At the fork, keep right to continue.

*Alternatively, for a slightly shorter return to the start of this walk, take the left path. Turn left, cross over the first path and continue ahead. Turn left at the end to re-join a gravel path, this will bring you back to 4 where you can retrace your steps to the start point.*

12. If you did not take the shortcut and went right at the fork – keep following the coast around a slight bend until you reach the pier.
13. Turn left and walk along the path.
14. At a crossroad turn right and walk a short distance. Where the path meets the road, follow the path up a small hill to continue along the coast.
15. Go right down a small incline and continue along the coast.
16. Go up a small incline where the path ends. Cross the road and go through a metal barrier on the right-hand side of the fence opposite. Follow the path.
17. Where the footpath meets Tiltman Avenue, turn left. Follow Tiltman Avenue for about a quarter of a mile. **Beware of traffic.**
18. Follow the road to the right at the roundabout, and then cross at the traffic lights. Continue along the A226 London Road for half a mile. **Beware of traffic.**
19. You will find yourself back by the church, a short walk away from Swanscombe Station, shops and refreshments.

## Swanscombe Marshes: A Hidden Wildlife Haven

In November 2021, Natural England confirmed the Swanscombe Peninsula as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), recognising its national importance for breeding birds, invertebrates, plants and geological features.

Nightingales, cuckoos, herons, marsh harriers and different varieties of ducks are just some of the many birds you might spot on a walk around the marshes.



Swanscombe Peninsula is also home to rare plants such as the Man Orchid as well as bats, reptiles, water voles and an extraordinary variety of insects.

As well as its importance to wildlife, Swanscombe Marshes plays a significant role for local people as a precious greenspace. Hidden away behind warehouses, and taking in beautiful views of wild grasslands and wetlands, greenspaces like this one are vital for people's recreation and wellbeing.

### Keep Kent Clean

Help to protect this area for people and wildlife. Report fly-tipping to Dartford Borough Council:

[www.dartford.gov.uk/highways/fly-tipping](http://www.dartford.gov.uk/highways/fly-tipping)



