

WHITSTABLE TO HERNE BAY LINEAR WALK



4.5MILES / 7.2KM



EXPLOREKENT.ORG

This gentle coastal walk from Whitstable to Herne Bay follows a flat, accessible path with sweeping sea views, colourful beach huts and rich wildlife along the way.

Start: Harbour Street, Whitstable CT5 1AB, W3W: ///pinch.fears.dynasties

Finish: Herne Bay Clock Tower, CT6 5JQ, W3W: ///dent.finds.icons

Distance: 4.5miles / 7.2km (linear)

Explorer Map: OS Map of Canterbury & The Isle of Thanet (Explorer 150)

Accessibility: Mostly flat and accessible, with some gentle slopes near Tankerton Slopes and the final stretch into Herne Bay. To see the route visit Google Maps Street View.

Parking: Available at either end of the walk. Gorrell Tank Car Park (CT5 1BZ) in Whitstable and Neptune Car Park (CT6 5JG) at Herne Bay.

Refreshments and Facilities: Frequent toilets, benches, cafés, shelters, and parking at both ends.

Public Transport: Whitstable train station (0.5 miles (0.8km) from start of walk). Herne Bay train station 0.8 miles (1.3km) from end of walk.



following the route towards Herne Bay. The path here is flat and suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Continue along the path with the sea to your left. You will soon spot Bubble Café and, just beyond it, one of the area's most extraordinary features: The Street **1**. This long, shingle spit stretches nearly 750 metres straight out into the sea. At low tide it is fully exposed, appearing like a secret pathway across the sea. A truly magical sight.

Continue along the wide coastal path where a row of colourful beach huts **2** brightens the shoreline. A little farther on, the green sweep of Tankerton Slopes **3** rises gently to your right – ideal for picnics, though the gradient may be challenging for some users.

The path remains flat, and you will soon pass the Tankerton Bay Sailing Club, where the grassy bank is dotted with sailing dinghies.

Passing Whitstable Skate Park, the landscape opens into Long Rock Nature Reserve **4** a rich mosaic of wetlands, shingle, grassland and coastal scrub, it is an important area

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Your walk begins on Harbour Street, just moments from the harbour. Parking is available at Gorrell Tank Car Park, where you'll find Blue Badge bays and EV charging. Cross at the zebra crossing and follow Harbour Street towards the coast path. You'll pass public toilets on your left.

Turn left towards the Oyster Indoor Bowling Centre and follow the path until the sea suddenly opens before you. As the road curves, you join the King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIECP). Turn right here,

for biodiversity. Keep an eye out for birdlife; this is a hotspot for waders and migrating species.

Follow the coast path as it bends gently inland, looping back toward the sea. Soon you reach Hampton Beach, where a playground sits on the grassy inland side and benches line the coast path.

Before reaching Hampton Pier, turn right into the car park area for more toilets. Continue along the coast path behind another set of beach huts.

As you continue you will see a slope which continues the coast path higher up alongside the road, giving you spectacular views over the bay. Ahead, the elegant shape of Herne Bay Pier **5** comes into view. This lively stretch features amusements, cafes and wide promenades. The pier itself is fully wheelchair accessible, offering a great rest stop or photo opportunity.

Continue east along the coast path to the striking Central Bandstand **6** a beautifully restored art deco landmark. This is wheelchair accessible and has two restaurants, public toilets and a stage area with open air public seating. There is regular live music and entertainment in the summer months. As you leave the bandstand you will see plenty of benches and shelters to take a rest stop.

Continue along the coast path with the children's play area to your right. Just a little further along is the **7** Grade II listed Clock Tower, believed to be one of the earliest free-standing clock towers in the UK. Built in 1837, it stands as a proud memorial and an icon of the seafront.

If you are not planning to walk back you will see bus stops on the map and Herne bay train station nearby.



This walk has been tested by Wild With Wheels.

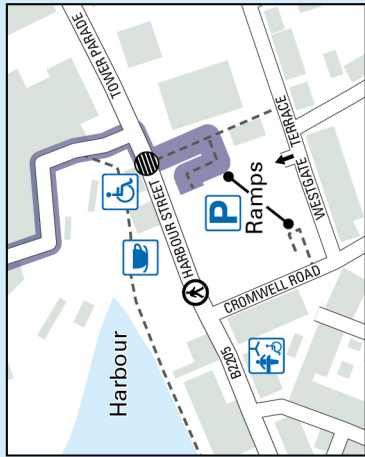
Wild With Wheels CIC advocate for equal access to green and blue spaces to improve physical health and mental wellbeing through connecting to nature and Kent's diverse landscape.

Introducing the Whitstable to Herne Bay Linear Walk:

"A wonderful coastal path along the Thames Estuary connecting towns with rich maritime heritage. Spot wading birds and Oyster beds dating back to Roman times."

Also available is the Folkestone circular and the Hythe circular walks.





HERNE BAY

WHITSTABLE

1 The Street	Route	Parking
2 Tankerton Beach Huts	Footpath	Café
3 Tankerton Slopes	Railway station	Restaurant
4 Long Rock Nature Reserve	Toilets	Pelican crossing
5 Herne Bay Pier	Disabled toilets	Zebra crossing
6 Central Bandstand	Changing places toilets	Bus stop
7 Herne Bay Clock Tower		



Start
See inset for more detail

Finish