

# THE CINQUE PORTS 100



NEXT year's Cinque Ports 100, organised by Kent LDWA with help from our good friends from Sussex, will offer walkers the opportunity to discover some of the best coast and countryside walking in Kent and East Sussex.

The route then swings northwards, taking the High Weald Landscape Trail to join with the Sussex Border Path for a short time before going across some very pleasant countryside to reach Wittersham.

The Cinque Ports were a group of towns which from the 11th to the 14th centuries were responsible for protecting the coast and providing most of the English Navy. The old Norman French word for five, cinque, is pronounced 'sink' rather than 'sank' in this part of England.

The event will be based at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, just outside Dover, with entrants transported by bus to Sussex Coast College at Hastings, where the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral the Lord Boyce, will address them at the opening ceremony.

The walk will start on Hastings seafront, going to the Old Town and then up East Hill before entering Hastings Country Park, one of the highlights of the route. Walkers will take part of the Saxon Shore Way to Pett Level, where the first checkpoint - one of only two outdoor ones on the route - is by the Royal Military Canal.

The next leg follows the canal - built in the early 1800s to thwart a possible invasion from the French - before taking the 1066 Country Walk to Winchelsea, claimed to be the smallest town in Britain, and then Rye, a fascinating town which has its own harbour. These are both Ancient (or, as they were known then, Antient) Cinque Port Towns.

The route then swings northwards, and follows the River Rother for four miles to join the Sussex Border Path for a short time before going across some very pleasant countryside to reach Wittersham.

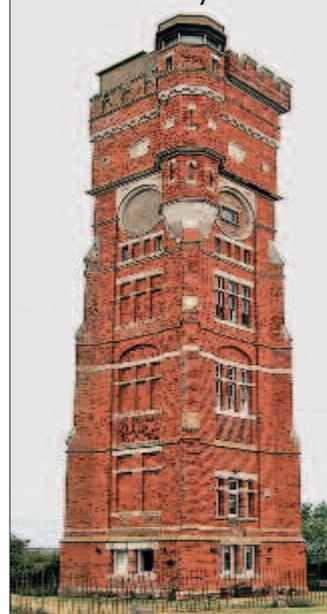
Then it is on to Tenterden via the Kentish Weald, following the High Weald Landscape Trail. Tenterden is one of Kent's gems, with an impressive Conservation Area.

The next leg takes walkers through more very nice countryside to Appledore, and then it's Romney Marsh, which is certainly flat but so interesting - it has been labelled 'wildest Kent'. The next town visited is Lydd, which is a Cinque Port Limb (meaning that at the time it was attached to the Cinque Port of Romney).

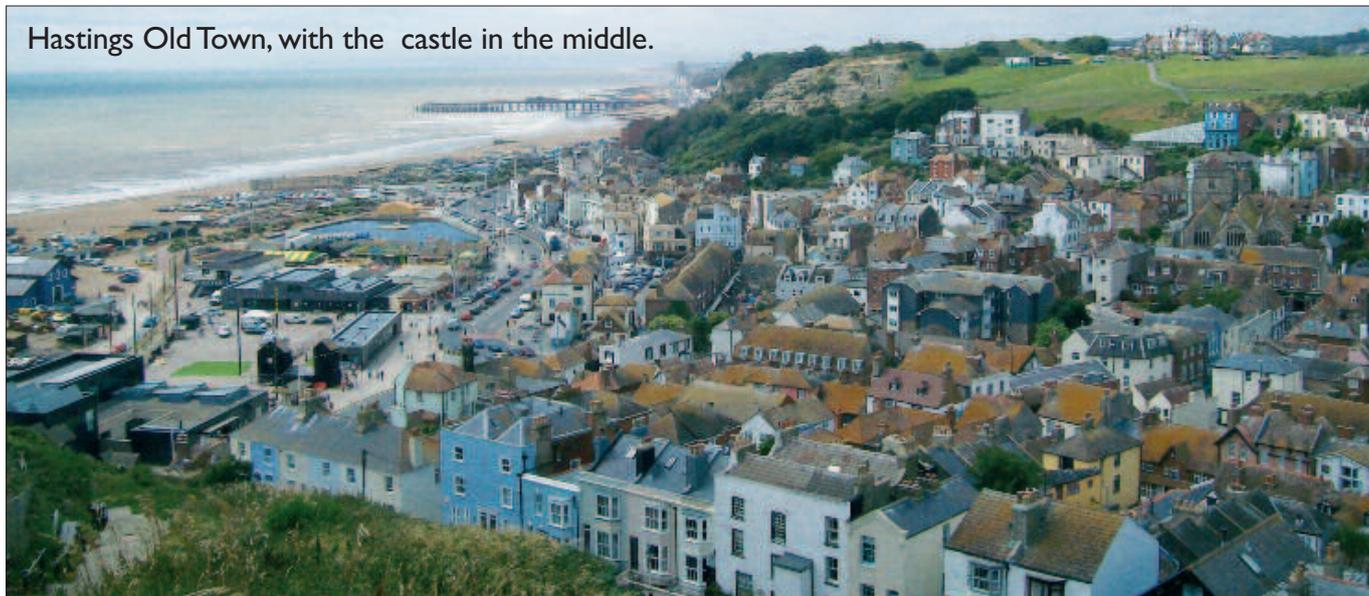
The next leg is 3.3 miles to New Romney - the second Cinque Port to be visited and which was called Romney when it was a sea port. The going, mainly across fields and using good paths, is easy.

Then it's another short leg (excuse the cricket term - but a couple of Kent LDWA members do follow Kent County Cricket Club) of 4.5 miles as walkers leave Romney Marsh and march along the seafront to Dymchurch. There are extensive views across to Folkestone, and the speedsters will be in their element.

Littlestone water tower.  
*Photo theromneymarsh.net*



Hastings Old Town, with the castle in the middle.



East Sussex countryside near Winchelsea.



Deal Castle Photo Rob Riddle.



The White Cliffs of Dover, as seen from Folkestone Warren.



Next it's on to another Cinque Port, Hythe, on a leg of 8.7 miles, via some delightful South Kent countryside which takes in the village of Burmarsh and another stretch of the Royal Military Canal, before climbing up the escarpment to Lympne, with fine views across Romney Marsh, and past Port Lympne Wildlife Park. Then it's a brief visit to Brockhill Country Park before entering Hythe and the breakfast stop at the sports pavilion.

The next leg takes walkers onto the greensand ridge, taking woodland paths before dropping down to Folkestone Leas. Walkers will pass under the World War One Remembrance Arch and then visit The Warren, with fabulous views of the White Cliffs of Dover. They then ascend those famous White Cliffs to Capel before moving inland along some very nice paths which take them to the outskirts of Dover – the next Cinque Port and, of course, the only one still a port - where they ascend one of the town's many hills to the Western Heights and the Drop Redoubt, an intriguing fortification built in the 1800s against the threat of invasion.

Then it's up to those White Cliffs again via the Bleriot Memorial (which remembers the French aviator who in 1909 was the first person to fly across the Channel). The route goes away from the cliff edges to reach St Margaret's.

Then it's on to Kingsdown and Walmer – where the castle is the home to the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports – and Deal, passing the spot where it is believed Julius Caesar landed in BC55. The

seafront here is delightful, and walkers will pass the bandstand built as a memorial to the 11 Royal Marines who were killed by an IRA bomb in 1989 and which stages concerts during the summer. Deal is another Cinque Port Limb.

Walkers then return to the seafront, with extensive views ahead to Pegwell Bay and Thanet (which in medieval times was actually an island, as it was separated from the mainland) to turn left to cross Royal St George's Golf Course, where The Open has been held and will be staged again in 2020. Then it's on to the next and last Cinque Port, Sandwich, which in medieval times was a major port (the sea retreated centuries ago). Sandwich is another charming town, and the checkpoint is at its lovely Guildhall.

Then it's another short leg (4.7 miles) and easy going to Northbourne, passing a signpost which actually says HAM SANDWICH (Ham is a nearby hamlet), then it's 3.7 miles through more nice countryside to the last checkpoint (and only the second outdoor one) at Maydensole Farm.

The last leg is 3.4 miles and mainly follows the North Downs Way to Guston (pronounced Gusson by locals) and then the Duke of York's Royal Military School – where walkers will get a warm welcome, showers in the school's swish new sports complex and a fine meal prepared and served by Joy Davies and her catering team.

**Entries open on October 9.  
For Cinque Ports 100 news, visit  
[www.ldwa.org.uk/2018Hundred](http://www.ldwa.org.uk/2018Hundred)**