

# Useful contacts

## Kent County Council

Responsible for the maintenance of the 'Way'.

☎ 03000 418181

[www.kent.gov.uk/roads\\_and\\_transport.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport.aspx)

## Canterbury City Council

[www.canterbury.gov.uk/parking-travel-roads/walking-cycling/](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/parking-travel-roads/walking-cycling/)

## The Crab and Winkle Line Trust

[contact@crabandwinkle.org](mailto:contact@crabandwinkle.org)

[www.crabandwinkle.org](http://www.crabandwinkle.org)

## Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership

Undertakes conservation, access and art based projects on and adjacent to the 'Way'.

☎ 0300 333 6490

[kentishstour@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentishstour@kent.gov.uk)

[www.kentishstour.org.uk](http://www.kentishstour.org.uk)

## Spokes - East Kent Cycle Campaign

Campaign for better cycling facilities in East Kent.

[spokes@spokeseastkent.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokeseastkent.org.uk)

[www.spokeseastkent.org.uk](http://www.spokeseastkent.org.uk)

## Explore Kent

For more information on walking and cycling in Kent.

[www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent)

## Sustrans and the National Cycle Network

The UK's leading sustainable transport charity.

☎ 0845 1130065

[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and its supporters and sponsors will not be held liable for any injury or loss caused on or near the Crab & Winkle Way. You are advised to check the safety of all equipment before setting out and to wear clothing appropriate to the prevailing conditions.

Leaflet feedback to KSCP at [kentishstour@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentishstour@kent.gov.uk)

PDF large format version available [www.kentishstour.org.uk](http://www.kentishstour.org.uk)

To report criminal activity or misuse contact Kent Police

☎ 01622 690690.

# Visitor information

## Canterbury Visitor Information Centre and Accommodation

The Beany House of Art and Knowledge, 18 High Street, Canterbury CT1 2RA

☎ 01227 378100

Email [canterburyinformation@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:canterburyinformation@canterbury.gov.uk)

<http://www.canterbury.co.uk/tourist-information/Visitor-Information-Centre.aspx>

There are also electronic information points in Whitstable Harbour CT5 1AB and Whitstable Horsebridge Arts & Community Centre CT5 1AF.

## Trains

**Canterbury West** – trains to London Charing Cross and St. Pancras, Ramsgate and Margate.

**Whitstable** - trains to London Victoria and St. Pancras, Margate and Ramsgate.

A short bicycle ride or walk across Canterbury takes you to **Canterbury East** - trains to London Victoria and Dover.

**National Rail Enquiries** ☎ 08457 484950 or [www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk)

## Buses

[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

**Traveline** ☎ 0871 2002233

[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

The Crab and Winkle Way has been made possible by a number of individuals and organisations, some of which are:



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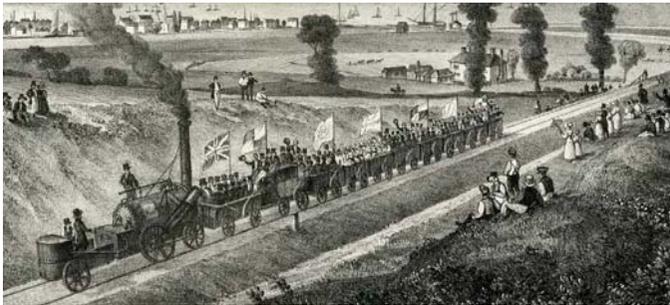
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January 2014 (edition 5). First published 2000.  
Photos KSCP unless stated.

**An attractive, eight mile, almost traffic free route, following part of the old Canterbury & Whitstable Railway, known affectionately as the Crab & Winkle Line.**

# A short history of the Crab & Winkle

The **'Crab & Winkle Way'** takes its name from the six mile railway line which ran between the towns of Canterbury and Whitstable.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1830, a clanking passenger locomotive, the 'Invicta' pulled into the platform near Whitstable Harbour carrying nearly 300 excited passengers from Canterbury. The 'Crab and Winkle Line', as it affectionately became known, had become the 'first regular steam passenger railway in the world' as stated in the Guinness Book of Records.



The locomotive Invicta hauls a train from Whitstable on the opening day of the Canterbury & Whitstable Railway on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1830. Lithograph by Thomas Baynes. © Canterbury Museums.

The locomotive and the line were engineered by the famous George Stephenson and his son Robert, at their works in Newcastle upon Tyne. The 'Invicta' was based on Stephenson's more famous 'Rocket' which came into service four months later on the Liverpool to Manchester line. Unfortunately with just 12 horse power the 'Invicta' could not cope with the gradients and was only used on the section of line between Bogshole and South Street. The rest of the line was hauled by cables using steam driven engines at the Winding Pond in Clowes Wood and the Halt on Tyler Hill Road. By 1836 the 'Invicta' was replaced and a third winding engine was built at South Street. Railway engineering was pioneered on the line with embankments, cuttings, level crossings, bridges and an 836 yard (764 metres) tunnel through the high ground at Tyler Hill.

From 1846 the railway was worked with old engines and ancient carriages always blackened by soot from the journey through the tunnel. It was said goods trains tended to slow down for their crews to check pheasant traps in the woods and to pick mushrooms in the fields.

Passengers were carried until 1931 after which the line was used for goods only. The line closed entirely in 1952. It re-opened for several weeks in 1953 after the great floods cut the main coastal line on 31<sup>st</sup> January. The line was offered for sale in the late 1950s and the tunnel was blocked up when the university was built above it. You can see the 'Invicta' on view at the Museum of Canterbury, Stour Street.

## The 'Way'

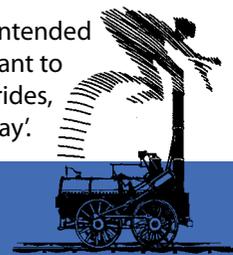
The need for a cycle route between the two towns had been recognised for some time but it was not until 1997 that a working group from Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and Sustrans was formed. In the same year, a charity, the Crab & Winkle Line Trust was created to promote the line and to make it accessible to the public. The construction of the route took place in 1999 and it was formally launched on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Winding Pond with 400 people attending the event. The 'Way' only uses about 20% of the old railway line, although the Crab and Winkle Line Trust is working with local landowners and organisations to bring more of the land into use.

It is part of Route 1 (Inverness to Dover) of the National Cycle Network.



Because of the gradients and the short road sections the route is generally not suitable for wheelchair users; however the improved path surface has made access easier for less mobile people.

The 'Way' is well signed and this leaflet is intended to provide information to all those who want to explore it! Look out for locally advertised rides, walks and events happening along the 'Way'.



'Canterbury from the Railway' lithograph by N. Whitlock, c. 1835, showing the Crab and Winkle Line on its approach to the city. (Canterbury Museum)



One of the specially adapted 'R' class engines burst out of Tyler Hill tunnel. © NRM Collection.



Celebrating the opening of the Crab & Winkle Way at the Winding Pond, October 1999.

# A bit about Whitstable, Canterbury and the Blean Woods

**Whitstable** is famous, of course for its oysters, but other claims to fame are boat building, deep sea divers and spectacular sunsets. Many people visit the Old Neptune on the sea front to watch the sun go down. Turner painted seascapes at Whitstable and artists are still very much associated with the town.

The diving suit was developed in Whitstable in 1828 which led to a number of Whitstable men entering this dangerous profession for many years. Dollar Row along the seafront is said to have been built on the treasure found from deep sea dives. At the height of the Whitstable Oyster industry in the 1860s and 1870s millions of oysters were raised annually. It is estimated that London alone consumed 700 million oysters in 1864. More than a 100 oyster boats would be seen offshore. Most of the industry collapsed after the oyster deaths of 1921-22 due to an imported parasite. Today Whitstable has the largest commercial hatchery of oyster spat (young oysters) in the country and some of these are placed out on the lower shore on oyster racks to mature before being cleaned up in tanks on land.

Boat building was the backbone of Whitstable's prosperity from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century until the 20<sup>th</sup> century and many of the car parks and new housing developments along the sea front mark the areas where boat yards used to be.



Peter Cushing, the actor, loved Whitstable and is remembered by a seat on the seafront. Whitstable has now become a fashionable seaside resort, often a gateway for Londoners, known affectionately as DFL's - Down From London.

Visitors to the harbour can try out this diver's helmet!



**The Blean** is one of the largest and most distinctive areas of ancient woodland in England, covering some 3000 hectares –over 11 square miles! It is recognised through conservation designations as being nationally and even internationally important for wildlife.

The Blean has remained wooded for over a thousand years. One of the reasons lies in its wet and acidic clay soil which makes it less suitable for agriculture than the fertile lands to the north and south. Mostly owned by the church and its institutions until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it has a rich and unusually well documented history as working woodland with coppice materials supplying many important local industries.

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century the woods were planted with sweet chestnut which is particularly good for hop poles amongst other uses. In recent years several conservation organisations have come to own the majority of the woodlands and now manage them for both wildlife and visitors.

The Big Blean Walk is a 25 mile (40km) waymarked route through the Blean, for more information on it and The Blean visit [www.theblean.co.uk](http://www.theblean.co.uk)



**Canterbury** is a good stopping off point for anyone cycling the 'Way' as part of the National Cycle Network. As well as the cathedral and museums, leave time to explore the backways. Here is a whistle stop tour of 2000 years of history!

Canterbury was settled by Iron Age people and became the regional capital of the tribe Cantiaci before the Romans arrived and made it the cantonal capital. Roman authority collapsed at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and the Anglo Saxon invaders arrived soon after. By the late 6<sup>th</sup> century Canterbury was home to Ethelbert, King of Kent, and in 597 when St Augustine arrived, he was converted to Christianity.

During the medieval period Canterbury developed as an important ecclesiastical centre, as well as a trading and commercial centre and, after the murder of Thomas à Becket in the Cathedral in 1170 as a place of pilgrimage. In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries the city gained a reputation for producing fine silk and later woollen cloth due to being so close to European neighbours, garrisoned soldiers accounted for one third of the population. Although the 'Baedeker' air raid of 1942 destroyed a great deal of property, the city today offers much for the visitor with historic buildings and vibrant shops and cafes.

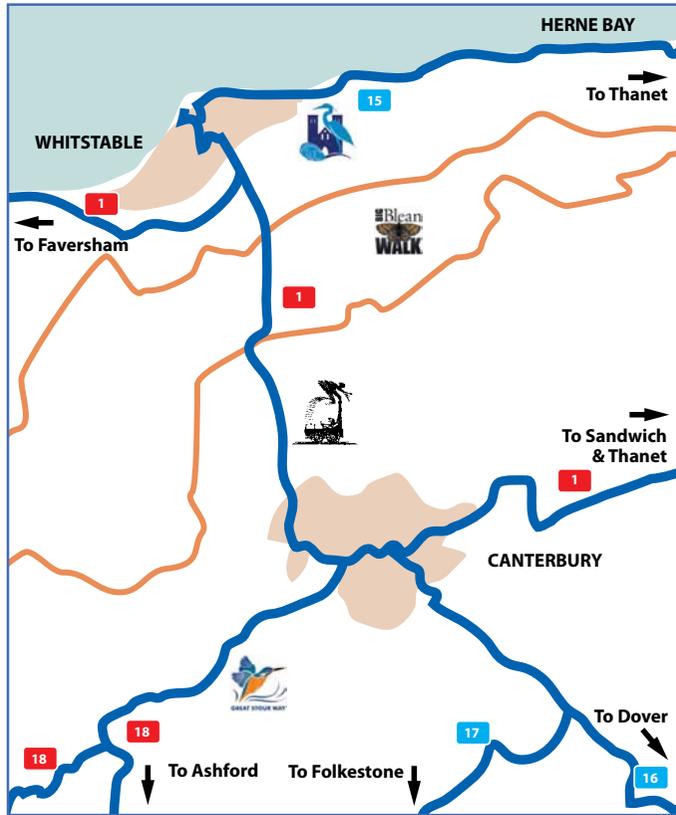
## Events

There are many annual and one-off events in both **Whitstable** and **Canterbury**. Two of the best known are the Whitstable Oyster Festival, usually held during the last week in July, and the Canterbury Festival held over a fortnight in October. For details of these and other events contact the Visitor Information Centre.

Having an ice-cream at the Oyster Festival



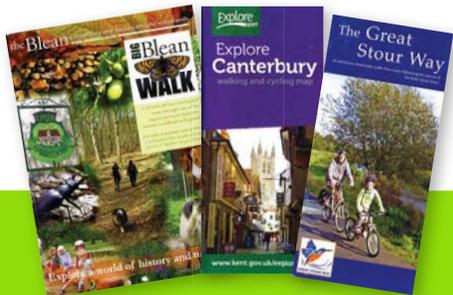
# Walking and Cycling around the Way



## Key

- Cycle route
- Big Blean Walk

## Other local cycling and walking maps



Leaflets available from  
Canterbury Visitor  
Information Centre



Download the  
Explore Kent app  
on iPhone and  
Android phones  
for free.

## Cycle Safety

### Be seen

Wear a hi-viz yellow vest or jacket. The law requires you to have front and rear lights and a red reflector.

### Be heard

Fit bell or horn.

### Be Safe

Look after your bike. Get it serviced regularly.

### Be Protected

Wear a cycle helmet.

### Be Wise

Always lock your bike.

### Be Courteous

Cycle paths make your journey safer, but on shared facilities **cyclists must give priority to pedestrians. Keep left as you pass other cyclists and walkers. Be aware that some pedestrians may not be able to see or hear cyclists approaching.**

## The Countryside Code

### Respect-Protect-Enjoy

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you will enjoy walking and cycling as well as helping to protect the environment now and for future generations:

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals
- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under control
- Consider other people



The Crab and Winkle Line Trust was formed in 1997 by local residents, walkers, and cyclists to protect the partly disused and overgrown Crab and Winkle Line. The Trust became a registered charity in 1999. The vision of the Crab and Winkle Line Trust was, and is, of a path along the old railway line, taking residents over six, traffic-free miles of unspoilt woodland from Canterbury to Whitstable. The role of the Trust is to generate local support to persuade councils and others to invest in its future.

### The Trust has:

- Worked with Canterbury City Council to designate the whole of the line as a conservation area, protecting it for future generations.
- Won Grade II\* listed status for the tunnel from English Heritage in December 2007 and the arch at Beverley Meadow in 2010.
- Won planning approval for bridges to extend the route into the centre of Whitstable.
- Stopped planning applications from developers wanting to build on the historic line with new developments being built around, but not on, the route of the original railway.
- Installed interpretive panels at Whitstable and Canterbury West railway stations.
- Promoted the history and the future of the Crab and Winkle Line through seminars, events and a huge amount of publicity.
- Worked with the Kent Bat Group, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and the Archbishop's school to research the bats living along the line and in the tunnel.

### Major Projects ahead include:

1. The construction of two new bridges over two roads and the railway line in Whitstable, and then along the old line to the sea, bringing a major section back into public use. The Trust is working with its local authority partners, Sustrans and the local community to implement this.
2. Investigations into opening up the tunnel beneath the university.

### So how can I help?

If you would like to become a member of the Crab & Winkle Line Trust, add your details below and send the appropriate subscription. Members receive regular newsletters of meetings and progress.

Individual membership costs £10 per year. Family membership £15 per year. Corporate membership £50 per year. Please make cheques payable to The Crab & Winkle Line Trust and send to:

The Membership Secretary, Crab & Winkle Line Trust, 69 Honey Hill, Blean, Whitstable CT5 3BP.

If you have any queries regarding membership, please send an email to:

contact@crabandwinkle.org or visit [www.crabandwinkle.org](http://www.crabandwinkle.org)

Registered charity number 1077110

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



**WHITSTABLE HARBOUR**, built by Thomas Telford, opened in 1832 to import coal, although other goods were increasingly traded in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today it principally trades in aggregates and timber. It must have been quite a site in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with all the large masted wooden boats moored. The fishmongers and restaurant offer something in addition to the harbour itself which retains its attractive character.

The original railway station was inside the harbour gates and crossed Harbour Street with a level crossing. It became derelict when a new station was built in 1894. This station was demolished after passenger traffic ceased in 1930 and the Whitstable health centre now occupies this space.



The Crab and Winkle way Mosaic

**THE CRAB & WINKLE WAY MOSAIC ①**

Albert Street, was designed by Oliver Budd and erected August 2002. Its theme combines the line, the seaside and cycling.

**THE NEW THANET WAY** was opened in 1998. From the bridge one can see, to the east, Convict's Wood, which lost its southern tip with the construction of the road. Road protesters camped out near here; however the road did create new landscapes and habitats such as the pond on the eastern side of the bridge and the planted trees and grassy verges. Kestrels can often be seen hovering overhead at the bridge. Swalecliffe Brook which flows under the bridge has its tributaries in Blean Woods. Also very visible to the south is Clowes Wood, part of the Blean Woods.

**CLOWESWOOD ④** is managed by the Forestry Commission. The main conifers likely to be seen along the 'Way' are Norway spruce, Western hemlock and Corsican pine. Scots pine, beech, larch and sweet chestnut also occur. Broad leaved trees have been planted or allowed to grow along the rides and paths and it is in these areas where most wildlife is found.

Visiting Clowes Wood at dusk during May and June, listen for the churring of the nightjar. This unusual summer visiting bird lives on heaths and young forestry plantations where it collects insects especially moths, in its gaping beak as it flies at night. Nightingale can be heard singing in May.



Nightjar

Some of the woodland plants to be seen include wood spurge, yellow archangel, dog-violet, wood rush, pendulous sedge, agrimony and devil's-bit scabious. In autumn look for the fly agaric mushroom, the red leaves of the uncommon wild service tree, and the crab apple. Clowes Wood is actively managed so please take notice of any operational signs in the wood.

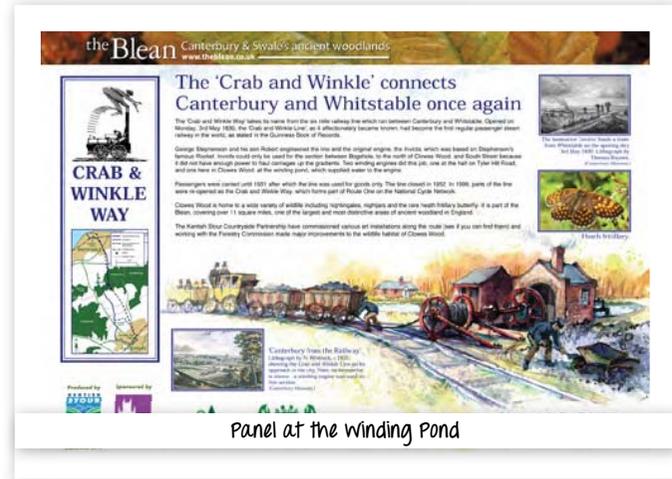


Devil's bit scabious alongside the 'way'

In a joint project with the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, the Forestry Commission in Clowes Wood has widened many rides by removing trees so that more light can enter the wood, encouraging more diverse habitat for flowers, butterflies and birds.

**WINDING POND PICNIC AREA ② ③** Water from the winding pond was used by the steam engine that wound the locomotives up the gradient in Clowes Wood.

**TYLER HILL** gets its name from the production of tiles. The major production of pottery was during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Conditions were ideal with a good supply of clay and a ready supply of wood for charcoal.



Panel at the winding pond

**SALT WAY ④** is a very ancient track which was used to transport salt from the salt pans at Seasalter to Canterbury. It would have been a very busy trading route for this highly valued and much needed commodity and was the only good route through the Blean Woods. The Salt Way seat ④ was constructed by Georgia Wright, a Whitstable artist, in autumn 2001. The majority of the oak used came from Blean Woods. Take a seat and think back a few thousand years to the people who would have used the route!



The salt way seat

**THE VIEW FROM THE CHURCH GATE** This area has seen major agricultural changes; some of the arable fields used to hold hay meadows, hops, and orchards indicated by the shelterbelt trees lining some of the fields. To the south is the valley of Sarre Penn and beyond, on the high ground, the University of Kent, built in 1965. Listen for the skylarks when the fields are unploughed. Skylarks have declined by over 50% in the last 30 years due to changes in agriculture.



skylark

**THE SARRE PENN ⑤** is today a small stream which starts its journey in the parish of Dunkirk and flows eastwards through Blean Woods to join the River Stour at Sarre. Historically, it was only known as the Sarre Penn downstream and in fact at this location it is also known as the Fishbourne

Stream. Bullhead, gudgeon, roach, eels and three-spined sticklebacks populated the stream here 40 years ago. The railings  on the bridge were made by Julian Coode, a Whitstable artist.



Sarre Penn railings by Julian Coode

**THE TYLER HILL TUNNEL** built in 1826, was the world's first regular passenger railway tunnel and was inspected by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. In the 1960s the University of Kent built over the tunnel. Students from that time tell of walking right through it. In 1974 there was severe subsidence under one of the university buildings, apparently caused by a 30m stretch of the tunnel collapsing. No one was injured, but the building was damaged and all but a short section of the tunnel at the south end was filled in.

The Crab and Winkle Line Trust hope to re-open the tunnel for walkers, cyclists and wheel chair users so providing a gentler gradient than the present 1:5 climb.



Exiting the Tyler Hill tunnel in the 1930s

**REGENERATION & RETURN**

 is the title of the sculpture by Will Glanfield of Whitstable. 'From the earth all our industry and effort is drawn, including working of iron, coal and timber. Through usage these materials are transformed and returned – part of a greater cycle. The connecting line between Canterbury and Whitstable has been re-kindled.'



Will Glanfield's sculpture



Setting out from the Goods Shed

**Whitstable**

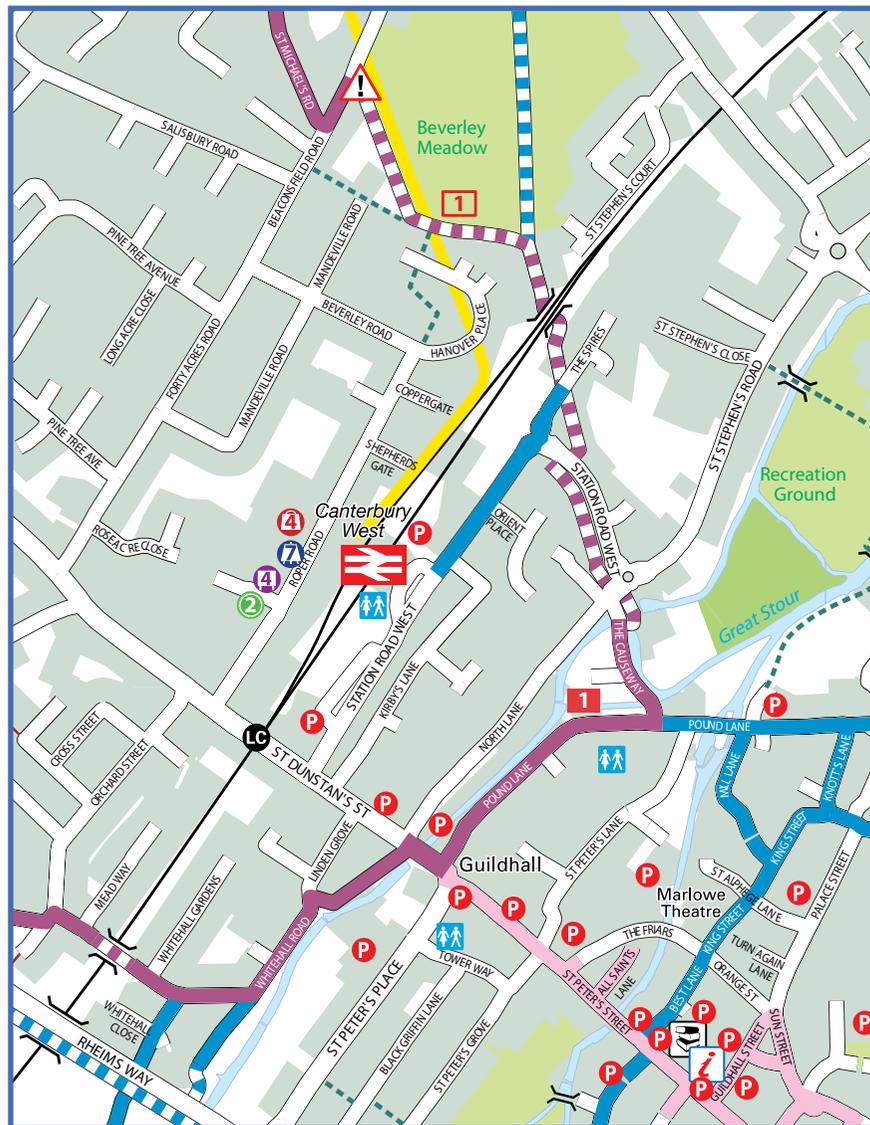


**Key to maps**

-  Crab and Winkle Way and link – on road
-  Crab and Winkle Way and link – off road
-  Crab and Winkle railway line (dismantled)
-  Cycle route - on road
-  Cycle route – off road
-  National/Regional cycle network route number
-  Great Stour Way
-  Oyster Bay Trail - on road
-  Oyster Bay Trail - off road
-  Railway tunnel (blocked)
-  Public footpath

-  Public bridleway
-  Public byway
-  Open access
-  Visitor Information
-  Toucan crossing
-  Motorbike inhibitor
-  Selected bus stops (to Canterbury 6 and 6A, to Whitstable 4 and 4A)
-  Gradient
-  Hazard
-  Toilet
-  Railway station
-  Cycle parking
-  Level crossing

# Canterbury



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WHITSTABLE

Tankerton

Swalecliffe

Studd Hill

Lower Island

Church Street

South Tankerton

Chestfield

West End

Prospect Farm

Knowel Hill

Ruckinge Farm

Bleanbottom Shaw

Knockhindown Hill

Cripps Wood

Warren Farm

Sheepfold

Broomfield Gate

Thornden Wood

Mill Farm

Gypsy Corner

Cane Wood

Heathy Spot

Clowes Farm

Marley Wood

Pean Hill

Hempshall Wood

Nursery

Ellenden Wood

Lamberhurst

Highstreet

Yorkletts

Brook Dene Farm

Mount Pleasant

Whitebridge Farm

Sheepfold

Whitebridge Farm

Seasalter Dairy Farm

Wraik Hill Nature Reserve

Sunset Farm

Fox's Cross

Pyre Alley Lane

Elmcroft

Holme Lodge Farm

April Cottage

Court Lees Farm

Court Lees Manor

Burgess Farm

Seeshill Farm

Bogshole Lane

Lincey

Hillside Bungalow

Clapham Hill

Clapham Hill

The Oaks

Seasalter Levels Nature Reserve

Caravan Parks



ST GOSMUS AND ST DAMIAN IN THE BLEAN CP

HACKINGTON CP

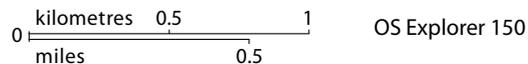
HARBLEDOWN CP

CANTERBURY

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### Scale of main map



### Route Overview

Neal's Place Route 7.9 miles (12.6kms); gentler gradient than the university route from Canterbury (signed Crab and Winkle Way/National Cycle Route one).

University Route 7.3 miles (11.75 kms); steep ascent to the university from Canterbury (signed Crab and Winkle Way Link).

Approx. cycle time: 1 hour (no stops). Walking 3.5 hours (no stops).

### Artwork along the route

- ① Crab & Winkle Mosaic (Albert Street) – Oliver Budd 2002
- ② Unicycle Shopper – Mark Fuller 2000
- ③ Winding Wheel seat - Tim Norris 1999
- ④ Salt Way seat – Georgia Wright 2001
- ⑤ The Fishbourne railings – Julian Coode 2000
- ⑥ Regeneration & Return – Will Glanfield 1999
- ⑦ Turn Around bike rack – Julian Coode & Will Glanfield 2005

### Shops – beware traffic when leaving the route

- ① Tesco
- ② Amery Court Farm Shop (May-July only)
- ③ Blean Village Stores
- ④ The Goods Shed, an original part of the line, is a restaurant and farmers' market

### Interpretive panels – theme

- ① Whitstable Railway Station (inside) – Crab and Winkle line
- ② Winding Pond – Crab and Winkle Line
- ③ Archbishop's school – Tyler Hill Tunnel
- ④ Canterbury West Railway Station (inside) – Crab and Winkle Line

### Cycle shops, sales and repair and hire where stated

- ① Herbets Cycles, 103-105 High Street, Whitstable - 01227 272072
- ② Brompton Dock, Canterbury West Station - 02008 2323931 [www.bromptondock.co.uk](http://www.bromptondock.co.uk)
- ③ Cycles UK (& hire), Whitefriars, Canterbury CT1 2SY - 01227 457956
- ④ Canterbury Cycle Centre, 22 Stour Street, Canterbury CT1 2NZ - 01227 787880
- ⑤ Whitstable/Canterbury/Herne Bay Cycle Hire [www.wcch.co.uk](http://www.wcch.co.uk) - 01227 388058

### Points of interest on or close to the route – beware traffic when leaving the route. For information contact the organisations shown below.

- ① Clowes Wood (Forestry Commission)
- ② Winding Pond in Clowes Wood (Forestry Commission/KSCP)
- ③ Druidstone Park (phone for opening hours and charges) 01227 765168
- ④ The Salt Way
- ⑤ Tyler Hill Meadow Local Nature Reserve (Hackington Parish Council/KSCP)
- ⑥ Keir's Meadow Nature Reserve (Blean Parish Council/KSCP)
- ⑦ The Church of SS Cosmos and Damian in the Blean
- ⑧ Sarre Penn/Fishbourne Stream
- ⑨ Blean Woods National Nature Reserve (RSPB)
- ⑩ Neal's Place Old Orchard (Canterbury City Council/KSCP)
- ⑪ Toddlers' Cove/Whitehall Meadows (Canterbury City Council/KSCP)

### Public Houses (distance from the route) - beware traffic when leaving the route

- ① Royal Oak (0.7 miles, 1.1 kms) - 01227 471247
- ② Ivy House (0.8 miles, 1.2 kms) - 01227 472200
- ③ Hare & Hounds (0.6 miles, 1 km) - 01227 471594
- ④ The Dog (0.5 miles, 0.8 km) - 01227 464825