

# TIMEBALL and TELEGRAPH TRAIL

## A 97 mile walk between Deal & Greenwich

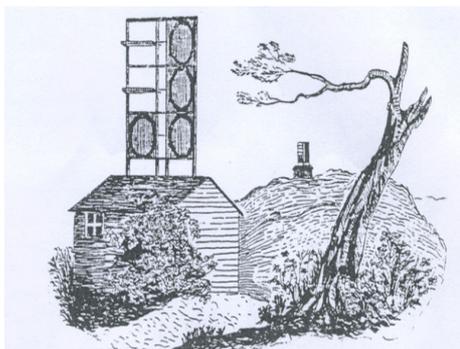


Prominent on Deal seafront is a tall building with a large black ball on the roof. This is the Timeball Tower. The current building was constructed in 1821 with a semaphore signal on the top that was used by the Coast Blockade for the Suppression of Smuggling to pass information along the coast. In 1855 it was converted to a timeball to signal to shipping in The Downs anchorage offshore which, in the time of sail, was much used by vessels waiting for a favourable wind to continue down The Channel or round into the Thames. Just before 1pm the ball would be raised to the top of the mast and at 1pm precisely the ball would drop so that

ships could set the chronometers they used for determining their longitude position accurately for navigation. The drop was triggered by an electric signal along the telegraph wires of the South Eastern Railway from the Royal Observatory at Greenwich on the roof of which there is a similar timeball that was used to signal to shipping in the Thames below. This walk connects these two timeballs.



The current building was preceded by one with a shutter telegraph which as *The Kentish Traveller's Companion* (1799) stated "At the south end of Beach Street, close to the sea, stands a telegraph, being the first of the series... conveying intelligence from The Downs to the Admiralty". The system



was set up during the French Revolutionary Wars when the Royal Navy stationed a fleet off Deal ready for operations across the Channel. The area between the Timeball Tower and the castle was an established Navy victualling yard serving their ships. Until it closed down following the peace of 1814 the series of telegraph relay stations stood on hills between Deal and London. This walk goes over each of those hills.

To preserve the integrity of the route's purpose it is necessarily aligned to some degree with the London – Dover transport corridor and although it crosses the A2/M2 four times it is less affected by traffic noise than the North Downs Way, a route that it shares in small parts. With the start and finish in built up areas some urban walking cannot be avoided but pavements never last for more than a mile before a green interlude through which the route has purposely been directed. To do so it includes

part of the Green Chain Walk in London and the Saxon Shore Way further out. As well as the telegraph hills the route includes the banks of the Thames, Medway and Darent rivers and three country parks.

It readily breaks down into 5 sections which can be tackled from railway station to railway station in around 20 miles, apart from the eastern section at 27 miles which can be split into two at a bus stop. The route unbroken is 97½ miles and the stations at Dartford which is visible from the route, Rochester where city finger posts point the way and Teynham which is on the route don't add very much but Chilham is a 2 mile detour so the 5 stages as recommended add up to over 100 miles. To get to the start from Deal station exit across the car park to go through the town centre ahead to the seafront then turn right for two blocks where there is a large anchor. Greenwich station is 2/3rds of a mile from the finish down through the park and to the left on exit.

An East - West direction is recommended only for the wow factor going over Callum Hill but directions are also given for anyone starting at Greenwich. Tourist finger posts point to the start at the Royal Observatory and you will have seen Deal station shortly before you get to the end. The points at which you leave the trail for a station are marked in the route description as is the bus stop below the bridge over the A2 from where you can get a bus to Dover or Canterbury to break up the eastern section. To get there take a No.15/15A to Ileden and be ready to get off when you see a green bridge over the road.

Deal to Chilham 24.8 miles on route (27.0 between stations)

Deal to Ileden (14.4 miles)

Ileden to Chilham (12.6 miles)

Chilham to Teynham 16.4 miles (18.6)

Teynham to Rochester 20.7 miles (20.9)

Rochester to Dartford 18.7 miles (19.0)

Dartford to Greenwich 16.7 miles (17.4)

To avoid breaking up the route description too much, details of the relay station locations are described here as if following the route east to west.

### **Telegraph Farm, Betteshanger**

4.3 miles from Deal as the crow flies or as the telescope saw, the location is marked by Telegraph Farm standing on the old Roman Road from Dover to Richborough. Sadly a telescope can now longer see to Deal with trees having grown in the way over the last 200 years. This is common across the county and the whole line of site is much impaired. The exact position of the wooden hut on top of which the telegraph shutter would have been mounted is not known.

### **Barham Down, Womenswold**

5.6 miles further on the bungalow across the road from the modern pole beacon has been said to have been the old building. It seems highly likely from a description of a similar station near Chessington Zoo on the line to Portsmouth that the property boundaries date from when the relay station was in use but the bungalow itself is hardly a "low building with two rooms for the personel". The extent of view to be had is better appreciated as you walk on, away from the road.

### **Shottenden Hill**

The height of both sites enabled the longest distance on the Kent line of 11.2 miles. Modern maps do not identify a Shottenden Hill and old records describe it as being in Selling parish which the hamlet of Shottenden is not or as Old Wives Lees which was its postal address. A windmill that stood on ground 462ft high was a landmark visible from the sea and a 1796 letter to the Gentleman's Magazine described the telegraph on a considerable eminence with a sketch showing the telegraph with the windmill inside the ditches of a Roman encampment. Those earthworks are marked on the map although invisible in the current undergrowth but it does confirm the station was not on the previous hill passed with the current lookout point which still has a view. The same letter notes the crew roles with one observing the signals at the first station, the second making the necessary movements, the third noticing when they are repeated at the next station and the superior entering the observations in a journal.

### **Telegraph Bank, Ospringe**

Described at the time by the Navy Board as being on Beacon Hill of which there are unhelpfully many unrelated namesakes, the nearest being a continuation of the ridge the other side of the A2 which may explain the use of the name. At the time, use of telegraph in a place name wouldn't have been adopted but that Telegraph Bank has persisted as a name to be used on modern maps seems conclusive as to location. The exact position cannot be identified but the buildings near the bottom the the telephone mast may identify an area carved out of a field and never reincorporated. Views remain 5 miles back to Shottenden from a little further along the ridge as well as to the Sheerness branch, for which this was the junction, and London the other way.

### **Tonge**

Although lower than the hill to the east the hill to the west of the road is the one called Telegraph Hill. This station being so close to the line of sight on the main line it is unknown what conditions caused messages to almost go back on themselves to get to Sheerness for The Nore anchorage. Although the walk includes this hill it a diversion onto the branch line only to avoid Sittingbourne or a longer route round it to the south.

### **Callum Hill**

8 miles along the main route there is no trace from where the footpath crests the ridge of Callum Hill where the station might have been. What appear to be good views across to the Isle of Sheppey are a further puzzle to why Tonge was necessary. There is no evidence that signals were sent down into Chatham which had by that time become a building and repair centre rather than an operational fleet base and therefore in less need of urgent messages from the Admiralty.

### **Gad's Hill**

10 miles across the Medway, Gad's Hill is better known as the later residence of Charles Dickens. Telegraph Road leads down to the Sir John Falstaff on the Rochester – Gravesend road but it cannot be guessed which of the houses and trees that now lie beside it obscure the original position.

**Swanscombe**

The water works would seem to be the most likely position for this station 6.7 miles on, now separated from the village of the same name by the modern A2.

**Shooters Hill**

Not on the summit but its south shoulder this station was in Hazelwoods Fields as it was then known and is now part of the hospital grounds. A print of a highwayman being hanged on Blackheath shows what is meant to be the telegraph in the background. 10.5 miles from Swanscombe the route from here was 4.5 miles down to Nunhead then across roofs to a last relay at West Square before the Admiralty.

## TIMEBALL and TELEGRAPH TRAIL

Route description

[TR987987] = Ordnance survey grid reference (100) = compass bearing. Continue = approximately same direction as before crossing stile or other minor deviation

Explorer maps 150 Canterbury, 149 Sittingbourne, 163 Gravesend & Rochester and 162 Greenwich & Gravesend cover almost the whole route apart from a little over a mile on 138 Dover

### DEAL to GREENWICH

From the Timeball Tower forecourt [TR378534] take the road to it's left downhill. At the junction turn right and take the first left. At the junction turn right. At the junction use the pedestrian crossing to turn left over the railway bridge. Follow the pavement to pass in front of the fire station. Cross 2 roads diagonally left into Tar Path enclosed footpath. Straight ahead at 1<sup>st</sup> road and bear left at 2<sup>nd</sup>. At cross roads turn right. At the junction cross to the left then turn right into footpath. Straight ahead at the first road and cross diagonally left at the second into footpath. At road turn left and then right. Continue onto footpath across field. At road bear left. After Sportsman pub turn right into footpath beside scout hut. At road turn left. Cross main road with care into track. Becomes footpath between fields. At hedge turn right. At gap in hedge [TR350521] turn left down steps and across bridge.

Straight ahead across field. At power pole bear left to kissing gate. Cross paddock to enter churchyard by kissing gate. Straight ahead to lychgate. Turn right past church and exit through gate onto road. At junction turn left on opposite pavement. At junction turn right. At junction turn right. Road becomes track. At road cross onto footpath along field edge. Just before field boundary [TR339504] turn right up bank. Straight ahead across field and to left of tree when it comes into view. Exit field on track. At road turn left for 1 mile. At 2<sup>nd</sup> junction bear right from finger post across field towards buildings just visible. Turn right on track.

5.5 miles 5.5

Telegraph Farm, Betteshanger [TR311511]

Under 2<sup>nd</sup> power line turn left along field edge. Through gate cross A256 bridge. At road turn left. At field bear right past outside corner and exit field to left of white bungalow. At road turn right. At bend turn left on track. Becomes path between fields. At trees turn right into woods. Trough low fence at end of wood [TR297510] turn left with fence to right. After end of field pass through trees and turn right on path. At road straight across onto track. Becomes footpath over field. At track turn right. Shortly at end of field on left turn left off track then right into next field and left with hedge on left. At crossing track [TR279520] turn left.

At road turn left briefly then right on path between trees. At road turn right. At junction straight ahead on bridleway. At road straight ahead and shortly turn left beside village hall. At road turn left. Immediately after chapel turn right on enclosed footpath. At field continue straight ahead to power pole. Bear left towards the left of

the houses to the left of the church. Pass end of bank and straight on to gate in hedge [TR254522]

Cross paddock to gate in fence and turn left on track. At road turn right and then left at the junction. At the junction straight ahead on track which becomes path. Under the railway continue straight ahead to the road. Cross to the left and continue on bridleway with bank on left. Enter woods on track. Follow track to right beside wood and then between fields. At end of field [TR230508] turn right on track past gate. At road turn left. Just past thatched cottage turn right on track. Keep ahead to main road and turn left to modern basket beacon on a pole.

7.7 miles 13.2

Barham Downs, Womenswold [TR220506]

Continue beyond the beacon to turn right through gate at finger post. Cross field towards shed. At far side continue between fences. At track cross into footpath. Join track and continue. At marker post level with end of wood on right turn left across field. Turn right beside main road to cross A2 at footbridge [TR207513].

{Ileden bus Stop at bottom of approach slopes, near side for Dover, far side for Canterbury.}

Turn right and just after end of fence on left turn sharp left to cross field towards the left of the nearest house. At road turn right. At junction cross straight ahead onto track. When track turns right straight ahead through kissing gate. Enter woods through gate [TR199506] and immediately turn left on footpath. Join track and continue. In front of Hearts Delight sign turn right on track. Before large white building turn right on track. When track bends right [TR195498] turn left into field and follow left hand edge. Becomes track and at road turn right. Into woods pass Bridleway and Byeway signs then turn right past barrier through woods. Follow main path/track until 50m before barrier [TR177492] turn right on faint footpath to road.

Turn right and then left at junction. 100m into wood turn left between two short posts on unmarked footpath. When path joins track, straight ahead. At junction turn right on track. At road turn right for 100m then left at finger post. Cross stile and field towards stile to left of largest tree. Cross stile and field to gate at edge of wood. Cross next field to gate in front of pylon. When footpath reaches road straight ahead downhill. Shortly after bridlepath sign turn right at finger post [TR165495] on footpath.

At road straight ahead. At corner turn left on tarmac drive. After thatched house turn right over stile. Cross field diagonally and after gate bear right beside trees. Go through kissing gate to follow path through wood. From kissing gate pass tree ahead across field. Through kissing gate turn left to follow field edge. Just after second right turn, turn left to follow path which becomes track. Halfway through third field cross stile on left and continue on path which becomes track. At road cross stile opposite and cross field almost diagonally to opposite kissing gate [TR150487]. Turn left on road and immediately after village hall turn right over stile. Cross field beside power line. After stile continue to corner. Through corners cross field up towards church. At road turn left. At corner straight ahead on track and immediately turn right to field. Cross field to middle of opposite trees [TR138484].

Follow path through wood & cross stile. Straight ahead across field to stile. Cross onto main road with care and continue on opposite track. Keep hedge on left for two fields and immediately after stile into third, turn left to follow path through wood. At end of wood continue along field edge. At corner go through gap and keep right through farmyard. Cross stile & road and continue on opposite track. Cross grass to take path ahead through orchard. Bear left to stile [TR123484] into wood.

Exit over stile & straight ahead to outside corner. Through gate at corner and continue with fence on left. Exit through gate and use track to road. Cross into field opposite and follow hedge on left. At corner turn right. At corner climb slope and continue to gate. Turn left on road and follow round corner. Before garage cross stile on right and cross field to corner. Cross stile and follow hedge on right. Becomes fence and after end of field go through gate on right. Continue with fence on left. Through another gate and exit farm yard on concrete drive. At road turn right. After salt bin & two houses bear left into field. Head towards end of hedge. At corner bear slightly left towards left of building behind hedge. Go through hedge [TR109494] to follow track.

At road straight over to take footpath ahead. Follow footpath to left then right. At crossing track turn left. At crossing track turn right. At crossing track straight ahead between hedges. In wood fork right to marker post. Straight ahead to track. Turn right then shortly bear left on path to left. At crossing track turn right then shortly turn left on track. At crossing track turn right then shortly fork left on track. In 520m after track bends right for 2<sup>nd</sup> time turn left at marker post [TR096511] on path through trees. At field straight ahead towards left end of house. Through hedge turn left on road. When road bends left turn right at finger post [TR093511] on byway.

11.6 miles 24.8

{Detour to Chilham railway station. 2.2 miles in each direction }

Turn sharp right on path through woods. Switch left for path inside edge of wood. Through gate straight across field towards outside corner then gate. Straight ahead on path between fields. At marker post bear left across field towards gap in trees. Cross stile and straight ahead on track. Cross stile to continue on track then bear right on path. From 2<sup>nd</sup> gate straight across open space into trees. At fence corner bear left with path. At crossing track straight ahead. From gate continue with fence on left. Through gate follow path through woods. At field bear left toward entrance to right of bottom corner. Continue on track to next corner where straight ahead along field edge. Just before corner bear right into trees. Follow path down to river and turn right on track over bridge. Stay on drive to cross another bridge and level crossing. At road turn right. At junction bear right for station entrance on right. [TR078536]

From the station approach turn left on road. At junction bear left. Opposite side turning on right turn left over level crossing then river. Keep right over another bridge then turn left on path. Follow up away from river. At field turn left along edge. Inside wood bear left on track. At next corner enter field and bear left towards marker post to right of top corner. Follow path through woods. Through gate continue with fence on right. Through gate straight ahead. At crossing path straight ahead. At fence bear right with path. Cross

open space into wood through gate. Follow fence on left and after gate continue to join track to the left. Cross stile & continue on track towards field. Cross stile and straight across field. At marker post bear (not turn) right between fields. From gate cross field between power poles to gate into wood. Keep ahead to road and turn sharp right on byway.

{An alternative to the detour is to stay on route to Godmersham from where buses go to Canterbury or Ashford.}

At field cross to gate opposite and continue on track. At junction bear left across stile and climb field to diagonal corner. Cross stile and follow hedge on right. Before crest bear right on path into trees. At field follow edge to left. Round corner at finger post [TR080510] bear right across field (250) towards middle of arched tree line seen across valley. Through trees continue to diagonal corner of next fields. At road turn right. At junction turn right under railway bridge.

{Godmersham [TR066566] for buses to Ashford & Canterbury.}

At main road cross into opposite road. After river bridge straight ahead to ornamental gates and immediately inside turn right. Cross field towards right hand end of hedge ahead. At hedge turn left on track. At crossing track straight ahead. After gates bear right. As track turns away from trees straight ahead on faint path to stile [TR056518].

Cross stile and straight across field to stile at right end of low wall. Bear right on path ahead. At crossing track turn left. After track starts to descend and bends left turn left on path where trees on left narrow. Follow path with woods on left and cross stile. Cross field towards right end of trees below hill. Cross stile to left of gates and continue on track. At main road turn right on grass verge then shortly cross road to bear left on track. Follow to the left and up through trees. After top of climb follow to the right. Shortly after 2<sup>nd</sup> gate into fields on the right turn right through hidden gap [TR045536] on path between fences.

Cross stile and field to far end on hedge on left. From corner cross field to left end of hedge ahead. At corner turn right to cross stile through hedge. Turn left to follow hedge on left. Through corners bear left along left edge of orchard. Keep left to exit on track to road. Turn right then left at junction. At junction bear left and cross diagonally left to go through gap in hedge. Keep to left edge of orchard as it climbs to top corner. Exit on path. At crossing path straight ahead to climb steps. Pass to right of lookout point and continue on path. As it starts to descend turn left on path at waymark post. At crossing track turn right. At pub cross into path to right of salt bin. Follow uphill to 1<sup>st</sup> picnic bench.

6.2 miles 31.0

Shottenden Hill [TR041553]

Behind picnic bench take right hand path through ferns. At crossing path turn right. At crossing path straight ahead to road and turn left. Follow out of hamlet. At junction turn right. After houses on left [TR032560] bear left across field on alignment indicated by finger post (320). Through kissing gate to pass through wood. From kissing gate pass under tree and cross valley to kissing gate on opposite side. Go

through woods and kissing gate. Bear left across field (260) towards largest gap in tree line. Through trees bear slightly right (300) to cross field towards tallest tree in next tree line. At crossing path straight ahead and from trees [TR014567] straight ahead across field towards right of churchyard trees. Follow field edge with churchyard on left to main road. Turn right on opposite pavement then left at junction. At junction follow road to right. Shortly turn left at finger post into woods on track. In 370m opposite gate on left [TR001579] turn right to field.

At field follow track with wood on right. At corner go through to continue with trees on left. At road bear left and follow to junction. Turn right then left at junction. Follow road to go over M2 bridge and immediately turn left on path behind railings. At road turn right then shortly cross stile on right [TQ999598]. Cross diagonally left and two more stiles to follow path through wood. Emerge to reach road and bear right. Pass church into village. Before school turn left on footpath to pass between allotments. At end at crossing track [TQ000697] turn left.

At crossing track turn right. In corner go through kissing gate and immediately kissing gate on right. Cross parkland diagonally left to kissing gate behind young trees. Bear slightly left to kissing gate in fence then straight ahead to kissing gate near road end of motel drive. Cross through kissing gates and bear left with several trees aligned on left. Head for where power line crosses trees at bottom of parkland and go through kissing gate. When in sight, bear left towards right of house. Go through kissing gate to reach road at drive. Cross through opposite gate and follow track between hop gardens. At top turn left. At gate go through to continue with fence on left.

7.2 miles 38.2

Telegraph Bank, Ospringe [TQ983609]

Through gate near corner continue on woodland path. At crossing path turn right to go through kissing gate ahead. Turn left to follow field edge past end of tall trees. Continue into corner. Through corner continue with trees on right. Follow path to left to join track to right. Pass oast house to road and turn right. Shortly [TQ973608] turn left on footpath. At blackcurrant field continue towards church. Pass church and continue with hedge on right. Continue by edge of playing field to road. Continue on road ahead. At corner beyond pub [TQ961614] bear right across stile.

Pass under tree to stiles in middle of hedge. Continue through gate in fence to cross stile in next fence. Continue to corner and bear right on path. At field follow edge to corner and bear left. Straight ahead across track towards gap. Down low bank continue to narrow gap in middle of hedge ahead. Turn right on road. At main road turn left on opposite pavement. At end of tall trees turn right into field and keep to left hand edge. At start of tall trees bear left cutting across corners towards last tree. Pass under tree and continue along field edge with hedge on left. At road turn left. At 2<sup>nd</sup> junction turn right into station yard and cross footbridge.

3.0 miles 41.2

Teynham railway station [TQ957631]

Turn right and follow track to left. After houses becomes path. Follow to right then past allotments At crossing track straight ahead to go through kissing gate. From gap

into next field bear slightly left to kissing gate. Keep to right edge on field. From kissing gate veer gently away from hedge to opposite kissing gate. Cross footbridge then keep right to road. Turn left into marina drive. Before gates bear left up slope. Follow path round marina. Immediately after kissing gate [TQ958646] turn left down steps. Straight across pasture to steps up bank to right of railings. At top turn left to cross grating over sluice. Down bank bear left on track ahead. Before large barns turn left on track. At end of field on right turn right on path. At road turn left. At junction turn right to top of hill.

3.4 miles 44.6

Telegraph Hill, Tonge [TQ937647]

Continue and follow road to left past farm. At end pass barrier onto track. After lakes turn right at junction. Keep left past caravan site to road and turn right. At roundabout straight ahead. Over bridge fence become wooden. Go through barriers on left [TQ918653] to continue on gravel track to go over level crossing. Climbing slope bear right on path. Straight ahead at two crossing paths. At road cross through barriers. In 200m [TQ933659] turn right down steps to cross bridge.

Turn left on path. At playing field bear right across grass to pass to right of playground. Exit through hedge and turn left on road. At roundabout turn right to go over railway bridge. At crossroads turn left. At end continue on path to go over bridge. At road turn left. After crematorium turn right at junction. Keep ahead until crossing road where turn left. Just before pylon turn right through gap into field. Cross field to top of ridge.

5.8 miles 50.4

Callum Hill [TQ870664]

Continue over hill passing two isolated trees to stile in hedge. From stile cross field to stile beside opposite gate. Continue on track beside orchard. Becomes road. At junction turn left. Follow road to right to pass school. Cut across corner on pavement to continue on road. At corner by playing field turn left on path. After power pole turn right under tree [TQ857669] on path. At road cross into opposite track. Becomes path then track again. At road turn left. Before drive on right under trees turn right over stile. Follow hedge on left. In corner turn left over stile. At field bear right to diagonal corner. At track [TQ844666] cross into parallel path.

At road continue on road ahead. At junction turn right. At junction turn left. At junction turn left. After road bends right and tarmac drive turn right on concrete drive. At gates [TQ828671] pass to left into orchard. Keep right out of orchard to follow path beside factory fence. Becomes path atop flood bank. Immediately after second small fenced enclosure in bank [TQ827679] turn left on path to go over footbridge.

Keep left to road. Turn left on path atop flood bank. At end turn right on left hand path. Straight across base of disused quay to continue on path. After barrier continue on track. After right turn bear left in front of slipway on path through bollards. After lookout point on left fork left. At crossing path straight ahead to join path from right. Through barrier continue across parking area. When path turns right [TQ804685] straight ahead through barrier then bear left on wide path. At end turn right. Shortly

turn left on path. At crossing path straight ahead through fences. At river turn left. Through barrier turn right on path atop flood bank. When ground on left comes level [TQ793690] turn left to follow bushes on right.

At crossing path turn left. At road straight ahead then to right Turn left in front of gates on riverside path. Keep ahead through boatyard. In front of beacon pole follow path to left. Fork left to pass toilet block. Take enclosed footpath beside car park. At road cross to take steps opposite. At road turn left then keep left into enclosed footpath. Before houses turn right into cleared cemetery. Bear right beside hedge then bottom of bank to turn right on path. Pass to left of church and exit through lychgate on road. At junction turn left then right. At school continue past barrier on path downhill. After barriers bear left into park. Keep to right hand edge and exit through barriers to road. Turn left over railway bridge. At junction turn left into East Street. At junction turn right then left. At junction turn right. At junction turn left. At junction turn right to go through pedestrian precinct. At road turn left. At junction turn right towards playing field. At road cross and step over low wall. Bear left to outside corner. From corner continue to join path uphill. At crossing path bear right to pass to right of war memorial [TQ763680].

Continue downhill passing steps on right. On level go through barriers and immediately turn left down steps. Bear right. At crossing path straight ahead. At road bear right. At end turn left. At road cross to right to get into park. Follow path to left and pass behind brick building over steps. Continue beside river to turn left at pier. At road continue to junction and turn right. Just after tower block on right turn left up steep hill. At junction cross and take steps to right. At 2<sup>nd</sup> junction bear left on path. Bear right along top of grass bank to right of sculpture. When bank gets low bear right across road into drive to right of university building. After end of building bear left on path through park. At end of playground bear right down bank towards clocktower. At roundabout cross onto pavement leading to right of clocktower. At end of wall turn left across small car park. At road straight across then bear right into path downhill.

11.5 miles 61.9

{Rochester [TR744680] for railway station go right then via city finger posts. From railway station turn right towards the city then left at major junction into Victoria Street.}

At junction straight ahead uphill. At junction bear right to take diagonal path across park. At exit turn right on road then turn left. At end turn right to follow road to left. Bear right on path round castle walls. (If open turn right into Castle park and exit through diagonal left corner.) Turn left on bridge over river Medway. Continue under railway bridge, past traffic lights and shops. Bear right under railway bridge. At junction turn left and shortly turn right into Brompton Lane. When road ends continue on footpath beside park. At road turn right. At junction turn left. At main road cross diagonally left to footpath between 128 & 126a [TQ731704]. Continue along field edge with hedge on right. Immediately after kink in boundary bear right into enclosed footpath. At road turn right over A289 bridge. At finger post turn left to follow bridlepath. At drive turn left. At road turn left. Shortly before church turn left into Telegraph Hill to top of hill.

3.4 miles 65.3

## Gad's Hill [TQ712710]

Continue to main road and turn right. Take first left. At bottom of hill just after water works turn right into woods. Stay on path near bottom edge to exit through kissing gate on footpath. At kissing gate turn right on path which becomes road. At junction turn left. 50m after junction turn right on footpath in front of old chapel. At road straight ahead. At road turn left. Shortly turn right into woods and follow path to right. At gates straight ahead. At junction straight ahead round pond below on left. Immediately after pond turn right on gravel path. Follow path past side turnings until where several paths meet bear left on unmarked path near marker post with blue arrow [TQ680703].

Shortly after path bends away from fence on right, straight ahead at crossing path. Follow path to right. At marker post with red arrow fork left. At crossing path turn left. Pass path on left then fork right at black arrow markers. Exit wood at kissing gate and cross A2 bridge ahead. Turn right over railway bridge. At corner straight ahead on track through woods keeping downhill. Shortly after exit [TQ670693] turn right through gate to follow path beside wood. Keep to main path to wooden play fort. Cross to follow grass path on other side. At crossing path straight ahead. At crossing path ahead right. Follow path to right under power lines. Through gate turn left to reach road at car park entrance. Turn left. At pylon turn right on footpath beside field. Continue between fields until track turns right [TQ652698].

Bear left and follow field edge to road ahead. Cross into opposite footpath. Follow through old orchard and on exit bear left to gate. Cross paddock diagonally to gate. Follow track to left and bear right by house on right. At junction straight ahead passing under power lines. At road turn right then left. At top of rise turn right in front of shops. At bend turn right and follow opposite pavement onto grass. Keep left into bridleway. Keep ahead through wood. On exit continue between pylons. At next field continue towards road sign. Nearly halfway across field level with gap in hedge to right [TQ635709] turn left on crossing path towards pylon.

Straight across next field to kissing gate. Cross road through kissing gates. Cross valley to opposite gate in front of pylon. From top of steps cross field to small gate to right of pylon. Bear left on road. Just before right hand bend turn right through field entrance. Immediately bear left towards left end of hedged garden. Follow field edge to road. Turn right then left. Follow road into village. At junction straight ahead. At end bear right on path through churchyard. Cross drive and continue on enclosed footpath. Under railway bridge continue on enclosed footpath. Through kissing gate cross track into enclosed footpath. At road turn left. At junction straight ahead. Bear right into side road [TQ604715].

At end bear right on footpath behind end house. Footpath leads between hedge & fence. Just before corner in field edge bear left through gate. Cut across corner and bear right through gate to continue on path between fence & hedge. After hedge ends continue to treeline. Turn right on crossing path behind trees. Keep trees on right into corner. Turn right through gap to stile and road. Cross into opposite road. Climb hill to reservoir tower on right.

9.7 miles 75.0

Swanscombe. [TQ597724]

Opposite telephone mast turn left on path through wood. Stay in wood then cross grassed area to gate in far right corner. Through gates follow track to road and turn right. Pass barrier to continue on path. Under 2<sup>nd</sup> power line turn left up bank for path through woods. At crossing path straight ahead. In 160m turn left down into valley. At bottom turn right. At crossing path straight ahead then fork left to pass pylon. At crossing track turn right on path to reach field. Turn left along edge to outside curve in wood. Bear right towards barrier across field. Cross road onto track opposite. At farm pass to left of black barn. At crossing track straight across field to outside corner of wood. Follow field edge with wood on left. After the edge turns right turn left by tree with yellow mark on path through wood. From exit continue towards outside corner of opposite wood. Enter wood on path. At junction [TQ572718] turn right then left.

After barriers follow road downhill. At junction turn left then right. At top of hill cross to opposite pavement and continue. At bottom of hill turn right on road between walls. Before barrier turn left through gate. Follow path downhill then with stream on left. Under M25 bridge continue with river on left. Cross footbridge to follow footpath to road. Turn right to go under A2 bridge. Before recycling bins turn right over stile. Bear left to join gravel path. Cross bridge and continue with river on left. At road turn left over bridges then turn right across car park to reach path ahead with lake on left. At end of lake turn left then right past signs. Go through underpass to reach park. Follow park paths ahead with river off to right. At shops continue to pedestrian precinct and turn left. Follow precinct round to right.

5.6 miles 80.6

Dartford [TQ541742] railway station is ahead right

At traffic lights turn left. From opposite pavement turn right into car park and cross to far left side. Down steps turn right on road. Before bridge turn left on enclosed path. At top, fork right down to cross railway. At end straight ahead on track. At road cross to left onto tarmac path. At road bear left to barriers at end. Turn right on track to road. Turn left to go under railway bridge. From right hand pavement turn right in front of pub. Join road from left to go under railway bridge staying on pavement behind barriers. At end turn right through barriers to reach riverside path. Follow beside River Cray then River Darent and after flood barrier River Thames. Through barriers at end follow track to left. Turn right on road. Reach houses beyond industrial zone then turn right. Pass through bollards and continue to riverside [TQ519779].

Turn left to follow path. Bear left in front of blue building to take road up slope. At junction straight ahead then turn right. Follow road to left and turn right on path at finger post. Follow path beside river to beyond right turn after gated jetty. When parallel path comes level [TQ510787] switch to left.

At bottom of slope turn left to pass barrier. At junction turn left then right past church. At end turn left up steps to cross footbridge. At road turn left and then right. At end continue on path into woods. At open space pass playground to bear right on path in front of bench into woods. At bottom of steps exit trough gates and continue on road. Straight across two crossing roads. Turn right in front of pub. Shortly turn left into

track. At woods turn left through gates and immediately turn right on path. Follow waymarked path through woods. After top of climb turn right down steps. At finger post turn left. At road cross through opposite gates to follow path. Turn right in front of 2<sup>nd</sup> pond. At road turn right. At private road turn left and follow to right. At junction cross diagonally right into track. Before clinic entrance turn left on path. At road cross right towards grassed area. Cross grass to left of car park. Cross road to enter woods down steps. Follow waymarked path. At information board turn left to exit on track. Becomes road after cemetery gates. At junction turn left then right beside pub. At corner straight ahead through gates into park. At benches bear right with trees on right. At crossing path turn right. At junction bear left over grass. At 5 way junction [TQ461770] bear slightly right.

At crossing path straight ahead on tarmac path. Reach road through gates and turn left. Shortly turn right. At cross roads turn left and then 1<sup>st</sup> right. At top of hill turn right on footpath behind pub. At end follow road to junction. Turn right on opposite pavement. At woods on left enter to follow waymarked path. At bins turn right on path. At playground continue to pass café on the right and as path descends fork right into woods. Follow Capital Ring marker posts. When path divides fork right. Where path crests the ridge after glimpses of open grass to the right the relay station was on the slope behind the fence on the right.

13.1 miles 93.7

Shooters Hill [TQ432762]

Continue on path. At car park turn left. When path emerges from wood cross grass towards traffic lights. Turn right at lights and from left hand side fork left at finger post. Follow trees on right until just before open grassland turn left on crossing path. Shortly after path crests a small ridge bear left on grass path. At road turn left. By bus stop turn right on path. Follow to left through barrier into park. Turn right along right hand side of park. Exit through barrier and continue to junction. Turn left on opposite pavement and shortly turn right to reach minor road. At end of road turn right. At crossroads turn left. At junction bear left beside main road. After A102 bridge keep left to main junction. Use crossings to bear right on 3<sup>rd</sup> road clockwise. At grassed area straight ahead on road. At junction cross into park through gate. Follow path to junction. Bear slightly left across grass between paths towards statue under trees. Cross paved area ahead to reach gates in front of Timeball.

3.6 miles 97.3

Greenwich [TQ388773]

## GREENWICH to DEAL

With back to Timeball [TQ388773] pass Montcalm statue and straight across grass. Where tarmac paths join continue ahead on path marked as cycle track. Exit park through gate and cross into road straight ahead. At junction continue ahead. At main junction use crossings to bear left on 2<sup>nd</sup> road clockwise. Cross A102 bridge and at 2<sup>nd</sup> junction after rugby club & church bear right into Canberra Road. At cross roads turn right then shortly turn left into Montcalm Road. At end of road turn left on opposite pavement to take first right. At end of road pass barrier and follow left edge of park. In corner pass barrier and follow path to road. Turn left on opposite pavement. Turn right opposite crossing. At crossing path turn right. Follow path until, just before it goes through hedgeline ahead, bear right. When path divides fork left. At road follow to traffic lights and turn left. From right hand pavement bear slightly right on reaching grass to enter woods on path. By car park turn right. After fork to Severndroog Castle on the right the path curves left and as it crests the ridge the signal station was on the slope behind the fence on the left.

3.6 miles 3.6

Shooters Hill [TQ432762]

Continue on path through woods following Capital Ring marker posts. Leaving the woods the path rises to left. Pass café on the left to enter woods beside playground follow path ahead as it descends to a crossing track. Turn left to follow waymarked path to emerge at main road. Turn right on opposite pavement to take 2<sup>nd</sup> left. At end of road turn right into enclosed footpath. At road turn left. At end turn left then right. At end turn left then shortly turn right through gates into open space. Take tarmac path ahead. At crossing path straight ahead over grass. At 5 way junction [TQ461770] fork left.

At crossing path turn right. Behind trees on left turn left across grass towards benches. At crossing path turn left to exit park on road. At junction turn left and then right. After cemetery gates road become track to the left. At end continue into woods and immediately turn right at signs. Follow waymarked path to exit woods up steps. Cross road to pass to right of car park. Cross grass diagonally to far corner. Follow road briefly to turn left on woodland path. At crossing track turn right. At road cross into private road opposite and follow to the left. At junction turn right. At gates turn left into woods. Follow waymarked path by turning left beside pond then keeping left. At road cross though opposite gates. Follow waymarked path turning right at finger post. At top of steps turn left to follow same waymarks. Exit wood through gates and turn right on track.

At road turn right then left opposite pub. Keep ahead at two crossing roads. Bear right through gates to follow path into woods up steps. At open space pass playground to bear left on path into woods. On exit continue on road. At junction turn left. At corner turn right to cross footbridge. At bottom of steps turn right. At junction turn left then right. Pass barrier to reach riverside [TQ510787] and turn right. Stay on riverside path until it turns inland. At road turn left. At junction after theatre turn left. Pass to right

of blue building and continue on riverside path. After it turns inland again [TQ519779] bear left through bollards.

At junction turn left. Shortly after mini roundabout turn left at finger post on track. Follow track to right then go straight ahead through barrier on path. Stay on path beside River Thames then River Darent after flood barrier and later River Cray. By industrial zone pass through barriers away from river. Keep to pavement under railway bridge and fork left. At main road turn left on opposite pavement. Follow pavement to the right and immediately before houses turn right between gates on track. Before bridge turn left at finger post through barriers. Bear right with right hand pavement into tarmac path. At road cross to left and continue on track. At end, keep ahead on path turning right over railway. Fork left. At road turn right. Turn left up steps and cross car park to far right corner. Join road to junction.

13.1 miles 16.7

Dartford [TQ541742] railway station ahead left.

At traffic lights turn right. Becomes pedestrian precinct which follow to left. At multi finger post turn right to enter park. Follow park paths to far left corner and exit through underpass. Turn left in front of lake and follow path with lake on right. At end of lake straight ahead to reach road across car park. Turn left over bridges then right on path with river on right. Eventually cross bridge and continue with river on left. At corner bear right across grass to stile in corner. Turn left on road under A2 bridge. Continue into 30mph zone. Turn left on footpath at speed camera sign. Cross footbridge to follow path with river on right. Under M25 bridge fork left with stream on right. Follow path away from stream to gate in top corner. Turn right on road. At junction turn left on opposite pavement. At top of hill cross to opposite pavement & continue. At junction turn left then right on road. At end straight ahead through barriers on path. Just before tarmac path [TQ572718] turn right then left on woodland path.

At exit bear left toward outside corner of wood ahead, Bear right to enter wood at inside corner. At exit follow field edge to right. When edge turns sharp right straight ahead across field to pass through farm with black barn on left. Leave farm on track. At road cross to pass opposite barrier & gate. Straight across field toward outside curve in wood. Turn left along edge. Turn right into wood and immediately fork right to follow path to right. In 70m bear left to pass pylon. At crossing path straight ahead. In 50m turn left up bank. At crossing path turn right. Fork left. At crossing path straight ahead to track outside wood. Turn right to pass barrier and join road. 100m past side turning on right turn left on track. Follow track to right to go through gates ahead. Bear left across grassed area to enter wood on path. Follow uphill to road and turn right.

5.6 miles 22.3

Swanscombe [TQ597724]

Continue downhill. At junction cross stile opposite. Follow field edge with trees on left. At corner turn left. Path continues between hedge & fence. At end go through gate on right. Turn left across corner to gate and continue on path between fence &

hedge. At house bear left to join road. At junction [TQ604715] turn left. At crossroads straight ahead. At barrier on right turn right on footpath beside wavy wall. At crossing track straight ahead through gate. Follow enclosed footpath to go under railway bridge. Continue on enclosed footpath. Cross drive then follow footpath through churchyard. Join road and straight ahead at junction to follow road out of village. At junction turn right then left at end of barn along field edge. At next field straight across to right hand corner. Exit to road to the left.

At corner bear right through gate across field towards far pylon. Down steps to gate and cross valley to gate opposite. Cross road and climb steps to gate. Straight ahead across field. At next field straight ahead towards gap in opposite hedge. Halfway across [TQ635709] turn right on crossing path to pass between pylons. Continue ahead left through wood. Emerge behind building and cross grass to right to join pavement. At junction turn left. At junction turn left. At junction turn right then left on track. Follow under power lines and straight ahead at junction. Through farm buildings bear right through gate to cross paddock diagonally. Shortly after gate bear right on path through old orchard. At road cross to follow field edge with fence on left. At end of hedge [TQ652698] join track and continue.

Becomes path between fields. At road turn left. At Jeskyns turn right into car park. Immediately turn right then turn right through gate to go under power line. At junction fork left. At crossing path ahead left. At crossing path straight ahead. At wooden play fort pass through to join path which will have wood on left. At crossing path [TQ670693] turn left into woods. At road straight ahead to end. Turn left to cross A2 bridge. After hotel entrance follow path on right into woods.

At crossing path turn left. Pass marked path to right and turn right at next. After path joins from left follow path to left and straight ahead at crossing path. Follow path to right with fence on left. When several paths meet [TQ680703] continue on gravel path ahead. Follow path ahead until pond ahead left. Turn left to climb above pond on right. Continue ahead past path on right and at kissing gate. At road turn left. At end of woods turn right on enclosed footpath. At road straight ahead. At road turn left. Turn right in front of pub. At bottom of hill turn left through kissing gate on footpath towards wood. Through kissing gate follow path between wood and fence. At road turn left. At junction turn right. Take 2<sup>nd</sup> left beside pub to climb Telegraph Hill.

9.7 miles 32.0

Gad's Hill [TQ712710]

Continue over hill. At junction turn right to follow road out of village. Immediately after high brick wall on right turn right on Hillyfield drive. Round corner turn right to follow path. At road turn right over A289 bridge. Immediately over bridge turn left into enclosed footpath. At field continue with hedge on left. At corner continue on path between gardens. At road [TQ731704] cross diagonally left into Lynette Avenue. At junction turn right. At park entrance turn left on path beside park. At road follow downhill to end then turn left. At junction turn right under railway bridge. Follow road to left on right hand pavement past shops, traffic lights and railway bridge to cross River Medway bridge. Immediately over bridge turn right on opposite pavement. (If open bear left into Castle park and exit to right of keep and turn left) Follow path round castle walls and continue on road ahead. As road bends right turn

left. At junction turn right and shortly turn left into park on diagonal path to far corner. Cross into opposite road downhill.

3.4 miles 35.4

{Rochester [TR744680] turn left for railway station via city finger posts. From railway station turn right towards the city then left at major junction into Victoria Street.}

At end straight ahead to follow path. At road cross to go though small car park. At next road turn right. Pass to left of clocktower. At roundabout cross into park. Climb bank to follow path on top with playground on right. To left of university building reach drive and continue uphill. At road cross into park opposite and follow top of bank towards bandstand. Join path and turn right at junction. Exit park down steps. Cross road into opposite road downhill. At junction turn right. At junction turn left then bear left between bollards towards pier. Beyond car park turn right down steps beside river. Continue over steps beside brick building. Bear right on paved path. At road turn right on opposite pavement. Turn left in front of clock tower. Turn right behind old town hall. At junction bear left into park. At crossing path straight ahead. At corner turn left up steps and immediately turn right through barriers. Bear left up steps. Pass steps on left and continue uphill to pass to left of war memorial [TQ763680].

At crossing path bear left. At crossing path bear right across football pitch towards left end of tree line. Step over low wall and cross into opposite road. At end turn left past shops. At traffic lights turn right into precinct. After end turn left in front of station. At junction turn right. At junction turn left. At junction turn right then left. At junction turn right over railway bridge. Continue downhill to bear right through barriers into park. Keep to left edge and exit through barriers. When path joins from left continue past school. At junction turn left then right. At end go though lychgate to pass church on left. At bollard bear left along bottom of bank then with hedge on left. Join path and at end turn left. On road turn right on path behind activity centre. Down steps to road. Cross into footpath behind opposite barrier. Keep ahead to pass toilet block on right. Follow path to right until river on left. Continue through boat yard then beside river. At end turn right then left. At corner bear left on path with fence on left. After corner turn right through bollards. Follow bushes to left then turn right on path atop flood bank. At end turn left through barrier. Just after end of fence on right turn right opposite finger post [TQ801689].

At crossing path straight ahead through fences. At crossing path turn right then keep right. Turn left behind fence on broad path. Bear right to end then straight ahead through parking area. Turn left through barrier. Fork left. Fork right then straight across crossing path. Continue on path with river on left. After bollards becomes track. When track turns right straight ahead through barrier on path. Straight across base of disused quay to continue on path. At fork take right hand path. At finger post turn left. Follow path on top of flood bank. Shortly before no entry signs [TQ825680] turn right on grass track across road.

Fork left then keep right. After footbridge turn right on path below bank. Sooner or later join path on top of flood bank and follow path beside factory fence. Bear left out of orchard and follow concrete drive to road. Turn left. Round bends turn right at

junction. At junction turn right. At junction turn left. At corner cross through kissing gate to right. At track [TQ844666] bear right to pass gate and cross field diagonally.

In corner cross stile in hedge. Turn right to follow hedge on right. Before corner turn right over stile. Turn left on road. Before house on right turn right on track. Becomes path. At road cross into opposite path. At crossing path [TQ857669] turn left. At road turn right, Over bridge cut across corner on pavement to continue past school. Follow road to left then turn right. Becomes track passing beside orchard. In corner cross stile beside gate. Cross field to opposite stile. Cross field passing two isolated tree to top of ridge.

11.5 miles 46.9

Callum Hill [TQ870664]

Continue downhill to gap to left of pylon. Turn left on road. At junction turn right. Keep ahead to end. Turn left on opposite pavement. Pass crematorium into hamlet. At far end of industrial unit on right turn right on track. Becomes path over bridge. At road continue to junction. Turn right over railway bridge. At roundabout turn left. Shortly turn right though gap in hedge onto recreation ground. From playground bear left under trees to far corner. Join path to exit through barriers. At bridge [TQ912659] turn right to climb steps.

Atop bank turn left. At road cross through barriers. Fork left on lower path. Straight across two crossing paths before forking left. Join track to cross level crossing. Straight ahead on track to join fence. Go through barriers on left to continue over bridge. At roundabout straight ahead. At end of pavement turn left. Keep right past caravan site on track. At junction turn left to pass lakes. At road straight ahead. Follow road to right past farm to top of hill.

5.8 miles 52.7

Telegraph Hill, Tonge [TQ937647]

Continue to junction and turn left. Under powerline and after houses on left turn right on path. At crossing track turn left. At crossing track turn right. At end of track climb bank to cross grating over sluice. Before first bend turn right down steps. Bear left across pasture towards steps in front of pylon. At top [TQ958646] turn right thorough kissing gate to follow path round marina. At drive turn right. At road turn right on path in front of telephone box. Fork left toward corner and cross footbridge. From kissing gate cross field to far left corner. From kissing gate follow left edge of field. From kissing gate cross field to far left corner. From kissing gate straight ahead on track. Becomes path with allotments on left. Becomes track in front of houses to railway station.

3.4 miles 56.1

Teynham [TQ957631]

Cross footbridge to road and turn left on opposite pavement. After end of houses turn right into field to follow edge with hedge on right. Pass through trees and bear left across corners towards far end tree. Bear right between fields to main road. Turn left on pavement. At junction turn right. Shortly turn left at finger post through hedge up

bank. Bear right to go through gap and straight ahead towards outside corner across track. At corner bear right into corner to follow path. At field bear left to cross stile. Through gate in fence ahead, straight ahead to stile in middle of hedge ahead [TQ961616].

Pass under tree to stile in corner. Turn left on road. At 2<sup>nd</sup> junction cross into playing field ahead and follow hedge on left. Continue past orchard to pass church. Continue with hedge on right. In corner follow path to road. Turn right and shortly turn left on drive in front of oast house. Enter woods ahead on track. When trees on left end bear left on path towards tree line. Go through corner and continue with hedge on right. After tall trees follow edge to left to go through kissing gate on right. Shortly turn left on path. Through gate continue with fence on right.

3.0 miles 59.1

Telegraph Bank, Ospringe [TQ983609]

In corner go through gate to continue on track. At telephone masts turn right past hop gardens. Reach road through farm gate. Cross to opposite drive and bear left through kissing gate. Cross field to where power line crosses trees. Through kissing gate bear left up bank. Cross parkland to kissing gate at road end of motel drive. Through kissing gates bear right to kissing gate in fence. Straight ahead under trees to kissing gate. Go through and ahead to corner. Through kissing gate bear left through kissing gate. Join track and continue with trees on left. Opposite barns turn left on track. Just after double power pole [TR000607] turn right on path between allotments.

At road turn right and leave village to go past church. After buildings on left bear left on grass path into wood. Follow path to cross two stiles. Bear right to stile and road. Turn left and before corner turn left on footpath through trees. Climb to road and turn right over M2 bridge. At junction turn right then shortly left. Pass farm on left and after cottages on right fork right on enclosed track. In far field corner go through to continue with wood on left. Follow track into wood and turn left on crossing track [TR000579].

At road turn right and follow to left. At main road turn right on pavement. At churchyard cross onto footpath with churchyard on right. From corner straight ahead across field towards tallest tree. Through trees straight ahead across field. At crossing path straight ahead. Through trees bear left across field a little to right of far corner. 150m to right of corner go through gap into wood [TR027565].

From kissing gate cross valley to kissing gate behind isolated tree. Follow path to kissing gate. Bear right across field to left of houses. At road turn right. At junction turn left. Pass footpath signs on right then left after which pass two houses on right and turn right in front of finger post on bridleway. At crossing track straight ahead. At top of slight rise turn left into trees to follow path through ferns climbing to picnic bench.

7.2 miles 66.3

Shottenden Hill [TR041553]

Turn right on path. At pub cross to its left on track. In front of gate turn right. At marker posts turn left uphill. At crossing track turn right. Pass lookout point and continue down steps. At crossing path straight ahead into orchard. Follow right hand edge passing behind two houses at bottom to reach road through gap in hedge. Cross to left into road opposite. At junction turn right. In front on houses on left turn left on track. Keep right in orchard to far corner [TR046541].

Through corners bear right to follow field edge with hedge on right. In corner cross stile and turn left across field to outside corner. At corner bear slightly right to stile. Cross to follow path between fences. At crossing track turn left. Follow to go downhill through trees. At road cross onto opposite verge and continue to turn left on track. When track turns right cross stile and continue straight uphill. Cross stile into path beside wood. Just inside woods turn right on crossing track [TR057525].

With track taking long curve to left turn right on path opposite tree with large carved trunk. At crossing track straight ahead across stile at left end of wall. Straight across field to stile. From stile downhill towards right end of trees to join track and go through gates. At crossing track straight ahead. At field turn right towards front of house. At gates turn left to go over bridge. At main road cross into opposite road.

{Godmersham [TR066566] for buses towards Ashford and Canterbury.}

Immediately under railway bridge turn left. Follow road to the right and at open fields bear left to diagonal corner. Pass through trees and continue to top of field. At trees turn left to follow edge. Round corner turn right on path through trees. On exit follow edge to left. Pass gate to cross stile. Cross field down to diagonal corner. Bear right to stay on track over cattle grid. At gate in front of house go though and cross field to opposite gate. Follow track through wood. At road [TR093511] turn left.

6.2 miles 72.5

{Detour to Chilham railway station. 2.0 miles in each direction.

Turn sharp left on path through woods. Switch left for path along edge of wood. Through gate straight across field towards outside corner then gate. Straight ahead on path between fields. At marker post bear left across field towards gap in trees. Cross stile and straight ahead on track. Cross stile to continue on track then bear right on path. From gate straight across open space into trees. At fence bear left with path. At crossing track straight ahead. From gate continue with fence on left. Through gate follow path through woods. At field bear left toward entrance to right of bottom corner. Continue on track to next corner where straight ahead along field edge. Just before corner bear right into trees. Follow path down to river and turn right on track over bridge. Stay on track to cross another bridge and level crossing. At road turn right. At junction bear right for station entrance on right. [TR078536]

From the station approach turn left on road. At junction bear left. Opposite side turning on right turn left over level crossing then river. Keep right over another bridge then turn left on path. Follow up away from river. At field turn left along edge. Inside wood bear left on track. At next corner enter field and bear left towards marker post to right of top corner. Follow path through woods. Through gate continue with fence on right. Through gate straight

ahead. At crossing path straight ahead. At fence corner bear right with path. Cross open space into wood through gate. \Continue through gate then join track to the left. Cross stile & continue on track towards field. Cross stile and straight across field. At marker post bear (not turn) right on path between fields. From stile cross field between power poles to gate into wood. Keep ahead to road and turn left.

Opposite farmhouse conservatory turn right through hedge and cross field to marker post. In wood fork right at marker post. At track turn right. Join crossing track and shortly turn left on track. At crossing track turn right then shortly turn left on path. At crossing track turn right and shortly turn left at maker post on path. Exit woods between hedges. At crossing track straight ahead. Round corner turn left on grassy track. Before field turn right on footpath. After valley bottom follow path to left then right. At road straight over on opposite track which narrows until hedge at end with gap into field [TR109495].

Bear right towards end of hedge. At corner bear slightly right to corner. Turn right on road. Turn left on concrete drive to farmyard. Keep left to go through gate beside barn. Continue through next gate. Continue with fence on left. In corner bear left over stile and cross field towards left of nearest building. Cross stile and turn left on road. Round corner turn right at finger post through gate [TR118489].

Follow hedge on right into field and continue. In far corner turn left inside field. At road cross onto track briefly. In front of house gates turn left through gate into field. Follow fence on right. In corner go through gate and continue uphill. Cross stile into wood. Exit over stile and bear left to continue on path through orchard. Straight ahead to road and cross stile opposite. Keep left through farmyard and go though gap in corner to field. Continue with hedge on right and follow path as it bears left through wood. At end of wood turn right over stile and follow hedge on right through two fields to road. Cross opposite stile and straight across field to stile into wood [TR137485].

At field bear left towards right of church. At road turn left. At corner bear right over stile across field towards white house in trees across valley. Pass through corners and follow power line up hill. Continue over stile to corner. At road turn left. Turn right through kissing gate behind telephone box. Cross field to diagonal left corner. Cross road into opposite track. Becomes path to stile then continue with hedge on right. After track doglegs continue ahead on path. At field turn right to follow field edge. 100m after right turn, turn right through kissing gate [TR158494].

Cross field to left of isolated tree. Go through kissing gate into wood. From kissing gate follow hedge on left. At corner gate bear left to diagonal corner. Cross stile and turn left on drive. At road turn right. At corner straight ahead on enclosed footpath. At road turn left. When road turns left straight ahead on footpath to left of barn. Though gate and across field to opposite gate. Bear slightly left across field to stile. Cross next field into corner and cross stile through trees to road. Turn right and after 100m turn left past barrier into woods. At crossing track turn left [TR173492].

Before track bends left fork right on footpath. At road turn right. At junction turn right and after 100m turn left at finger post into woods. At crossing track turn left. Stay on

main track/path until road. Turn left and emerge into open country. At 2<sup>nd</sup> finger post on left turn left on track. Continue on right hand field edge to track. Turn right. At crossing track turn left then left again. When track enters wood fork right on footpath [TR198505]. At crossing path turn right through gate. At kissing gate straight ahead on track. At road cross straight ahead. At end of speed limit turn left through hedge. Cross field to diagonal corner. At path turn sharp right then left across A2 bridge and turn right.

{Ileden bus Stop at bottom of approach slopes, near side for Canterbury, far side for Dover.}

At end of tarmac turn left across field towards left hand end of wood. Halfway to wood at crossing track turn right. When track turns left go straight ahead on enclosed footpath. At track continue between fences. At field bear slightly left towards left end of trees on horizon. At road turn left to modern basket beacon on a pole.

11.6 miles 84.1

Barham Downs, Womenswold [TR220506]

Continue past cemetery and turn right on track at North Downs Way sign. Keep ahead to road and turn left. At left hand bend turn right on track. After gate turn left on crossing track between fields. Follow track into woods. At field straight ahead with bank on right. At road cross to the left and continue on bridleway under railway. At road straight ahead. At junction turn right and shortly turn left at finger post on track. Though gate on right and cross paddock to another gate. Cross field diagonally right to far end of bank and continue straight ahead to power pole. Bear right into corner for footpath to the road. Turn left and just after chapel bear right on tarmac path [TR259520].

At road turn right. At corner straight ahead on track. At road go straight ahead on road. At end of fields turn left on path between trees. At road turn left and immediately right on track. At woods turn right behind hedge along field edge. At end turn right then left in next field. At crossing track turn right. Shortly at gap in hedge [TR283514] turn left on footpath over field. Becomes track though trees. At road go straight over into footpath. Just after end of field turn left through trees. Keep fence on left to end of field. Turn right into wood and follow path between trees as they narrow. Turn left on path between fields. Becomes track. At road turn right for 150m. At finger post turn left into field. At field bear right to diagonal corner. At road turn left. Opposite post box turn right over A256 bridge. Bear right through gate and follow field edge with trees on left. At track turn right.

7.7 miles 91.8

Telegraph Farm, Betteshanger [TR311511]

Just beyond farm turn left at marker post across field towards house on far side. At road take the fork to right of house. At junction straight on into Little Mongeham. At 2<sup>nd</sup> corner of S bend straight ahead on track into field. Bear left towards far end of trees and continue over ridge. At end of field turn left to follow field edge below bank. At road cross into track. Becomes road. At junction turn left. At junction follow pavement on left. At bus stop turn right. Enter churchyard. In front of lychgate turn

left beside wall. Exit through kissing gate and cross paddock to kissing gate. Straight ahead to power pole [TR347517].

Bear right across field to bridge & steps up. Turn right beside hedge. At field boundary turn left. Footpath between fields becomes track. At road cross straight over. Turn right on footpath beside cricket pitch. At road turn left. At corner bear right across field. Becomes road. At junction turn left and round bend turn right into footpath. At road cross diagonally left into Dola Avenue. At junction straight ahead into footpath. At road cross diagonally left into Grange Road. At the junction turn left. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> junction bear right into footpath. At 2<sup>nd</sup> road cross to pass in front of fire station. Over railway bridge use pedestrian crossing to turn right. At the junction turn left. At the junction turn right and then take the 1<sup>st</sup> left to emerge beside Deal's Timeball Tower [TR378534].

5.5 miles 97.3