



# First Fruit

THE HOME OF ENGLISH CHERRIES



Explore  
KENT

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**FAVERSHAM**  
MARKET TOWN OF KINGS

TEYNHAM - CONYER - LEWSON STREET - LYNSTED

# The home of English cherries

*“Loveliest of trees,  
the cherry now...  
is hung with bloom  
along the bough”*

AE Housman



## Building legacy ...

### BRICKS THAT BUILT LONDON



The many brickfields that thrived in and around Teynham, Conyer and Faversham are famous for the role they played in supplying London's Victorian building boom.

The brickearth and chalk that made the area so fertile for growing top fruit was perfect for producing the distinctive yellow stock brick used across the capital for structures, including the giant railway viaduct running from London Bridge to Greenwich.

The secret was not just in the brickearth, but the process. The sailing barges that delivered bricks to London brought back domestic fire ash, which was added to the clay mix and meant the bricks could be fired in open air clamps, not in kilns.

Large-scale production in Conyer, which had seven brickfields, began in the mid-19th century, providing thirsty work for hundreds, leading to the establishment of many pubs in the area.

The last remaining local brickfield is Cremer and Whiting's near Faversham.

Discover the home of English cherries on this unique trail through the fruit bowl of Britain and the heart of Kent.

From manicured orchards to distant reminders of the area's industrious brick-making past, you'll be bowled over by the tranquil beauty of this rich oasis, grazed by sheep and adorned with blossom in spring and abundant fruit in summer.

At every turn you'll understand why Teynham was the place Henry VIII chose to plant his historic orchards - the birthplace of the English cherries we know and love today.

Your First Fruit trail begins close to the site of the King's original 105-acre orchards at Osiers Farm and New Gardens, to the west of Station Road.

While areas of the expansive orchards planted by the monarch's fruiterer Richard Harris have been built on, you don't have to walk far before fruit trees greet you, lining your route through grazed pastures to the picturesque coastal hamlet of Conyer.

The area's renowned rich soil was once in great demand, not just for agriculture, but also for brick making. At Conyer Creek the remains of this once thriving industry are still in evidence on the waterfront, where bricks were carried to the capital by sailing barge. Today, much of this land has been turned over to wildlife and you can catch fine views of nearby Fowley Island, a natural nature reserve for wetland birds and the occasional seal, and farmland across the water on the Isle of Sheppey.

Then it's on to bountiful orchards, rich cornfields and crystal clear dykes brimming with wild watercress in season as you make your way to delightful Deerton Street and Nichol Farm. Apples and pears have been grown next to Henry VIII's historic orchards at Nichol Farm by the Moor family for four generations. Today the fruit is not just for the king and his court but the nation's tables. The 165-acre farm supplies fruit to supermarkets across the country and presses its own apple and pear juice, with brands such as King's Orchard stocked by clients including Waitrose and John Lewis. Visitors are welcome at the farm, where you may see free-range pigs foraging for fallen apples beneath the trees as in days gone by.

Your path is now punctuated by corn fields, orchards and strawberry fields as you make your way to Lewson Street and its 13th century pub, the Plough Inn - a great place to try the local food and its beer, brewed from local hops and barley by Shepherd Neame, the country's oldest brewer, in nearby Faversham.

Now deep in the heart of farming country, your route takes you past apple orchards, oast houses, corn fields and pastures dotted with grazing sheep. You can also walk to the picturesque village of Lynsted, where walkers are guaranteed a warm welcome at the Black Lion pub.

The last leg of your journey is through apple orchards and arable fields and on to the many pubs and restaurants on the old Roman road at Teynham - halfway between ancient Rochester and Canterbury.

Whatever the time of year, your walk through the heart of the fertile North Kent Fruit Belt will be memorable and leave you wanting to learn more about this beautiful and historic area, so why not stay a night or two at one of the many excellent local guest houses and hotels.



Nick Moor, left, and Richard Castle, right.



# Step by step WALKING GUIDE

## Planning Your Walk

Feel free to start your walk at any point: as this is a circular walk you'll always return to where you began.

Many sections of the walk end at a spot where you'll find a pub or restaurant. In addition to the core route, there are two extra loops you can add to your walk, one to The Swale and old brickfields at Conyer and the other to the picturesque village of Lynsted. Each loop is detailed in the directions below.

There are several places to leave your vehicle in Teynham if

arriving by car, including the railway station, the car park next to the Co-op and on-street, where appropriate. You may also leave your vehicle at the Black Lion in Lynsted. If not driving, you can catch a train to Teynham.

Use our directory to find a list of local accommodation, food producers, retailers and restaurants. Also, check out the wealth of additional information at [Faversham.org/walking](http://Faversham.org/walking).

### TEYNHAM TO CONYER

**A1.** From Teynham railway station cross the footbridge and turn right into Station Row. Pass in front of cottages and join footpath with paddocks to left. Continue right, following fence past allotments on your right and an orchard on your left. Keep straight on at the crossing in the footpath and pass through kissing gate. Walk on through fields of grazing sheep, keeping apple and pear orchards on your right, through three more kissing gates. Cross wooden bridge, with views to Swale Marina at Conyer to your left. Keep orchards to your right.

**A2.** At road, follow Saxon Shore Way ahead into The Quay. Stay on this road, which takes you to the Ship and Smuggler pub and restaurant on your left.

If you wish to take a detour to The Swale, follow Conyer Loop directions (A3-A4) in the panel below. Otherwise, continue your walk at B1.

### CONYER LOOP

**A3.** Continue ahead, past North Quay, through kissing gate. Follow footpath left and follow the old brickworks road and sea wall beside Conyer Creek. Look out for the wrecks of wooden boats that once transported bricks to London. Continue on until the horizon opens out to The Swale and the Isle of Sheppey beyond. You will see Fowley Island and hear its many wetland birds. Note paths to the old brickworks, where you will find remains of the area's industrial past, including old kilns. Stay on the sea wall path as it threads its way along the shoreline.

**A4.** At kissing gate turn right and head back along Saxon Shore Way to Conyer beneath a canopy of fruit trees, by hedges loaded with seasonal berries, overlooking orchards and sheep meadows. Pass through kissing gate by pub once again and pick up route at B1.



### CONYER TO LEWSON STREET

**B1.** Re-trace your steps back along the road to the junction, with Conyer Wharf on your right. Turn left and follow the road out of village, passing foraging geese, hens and orchards. Walk past Stone Chimney Farm, flanked by pear, apple and cherry trees. Continue straight on along Teynham Street, with Hinkleys Mill on your left. Note the short detour on your right to St Mary's Church – one of Kent's pre-Conquest minster churches. Continue on, ignoring the no through road on the left, to Peete House. Be sure to pause at the crystal clear dyke in front of the house where watercress grows in season. Take footpath to left of Peete House uphill across field, with hedge to right. Bear right on to country lane.

**B2.** Follow country lane past orchards to Deerton Street and Nichol Farm, which provides apples, pears and juice to retailers including Waitrose and John Lewis. The farm, with its historic royal connections, welcomes visitors, but be sure to phone first. Look out for free-range pigs feeding on windfall apples and homes selling local produce along the way.

**B3.** Cross under railway bridge and turn left at the T-junction and then right along a drive beside a country house. (There is a cycle route sign on the lamp-post on the left). Continue on public footpath, turning left through an arable field, with a disused quarry on your right. Continue with orchards on your left. On reaching an open field, continue ahead to the main road (this is the A2).

**B4.** Take care crossing this busy Roman road and take the footpath opposite, passing between fields and orchards. The hedge is a great place to forage for cherry plums and blackberries. As you reach a farm track crossing this path, continue ahead to quirkily named World's End. Turn right at junction with Lewson Street, noting the miniature railway in the garden of the house to your left.

### LEWSON STREET TO TEYNHAM

**C1.** Continue to the Plough Inn. This Shepherd Neame pub has a great reputation for fine ales and local food and provides a perfect place for a break.

If you wish, detour to the picturesque village of Lynsted, following the Lynsted Loop directions (D1, D2 and D3) in the panel. Otherwise, continue on, walking

#### The Plough Inn



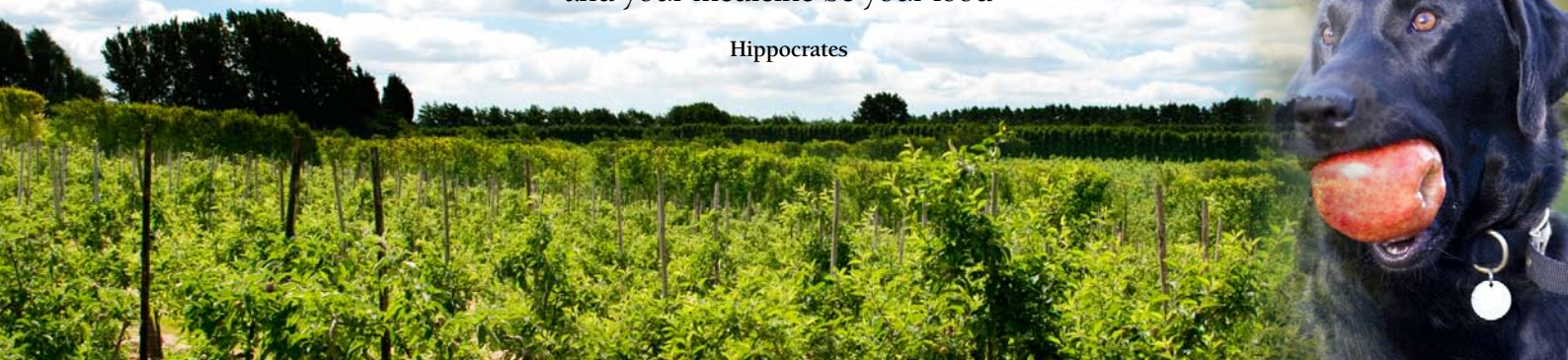
The Plough Inn at Lewson Street offers all the home comforts of a traditional country pub, from fantastic local food and drink to cosy corners and open fires in winter.

While the original building began life as a cow byre in 1260, customers have been enjoying pints of locally-brewed Shepherd Neame beer in the bar and its grand garden since 1755.

The inn's mouth-watering menu includes tasty treats like toad in the hole and delicious home-made desserts featuring local apples and strawberries in season. A vegetarian and a la carte menu is also available, with a discount for pensioners on Tuesdays.

“Let your food be your medicine,  
and your medicine be your food”

Hippocrates



### Moor Organics Ltd



The Moor family have been growing apples and pears at Nichol Farm for 75 years and are proud to be continuing the local tradition. While the family use modern equipment, the fruit is grown in a traditional way to organic standards and the range still includes many heritage varieties.

The Moor family produce the finest apple and pear juices, which are pressed and bottled on the farm in Deerton Street. Customers are welcome to visit and watch the process. Visitors should call Richard on 07 866 516 017 to find out when the farm will be pressing next.

past The Plough on left, as road bears right. Leave road when it turns sharp right, taking track ahead. Continue ahead to road, with apple orchards opposite. Turn left. After about 75 yards turn right on to unmade road. Continue ahead, passing Cherry Gardens on right. Turn right where path swings left. Follow edge of field, continuing uphill at way-marker to road and then turn right.

**C2** Look out for sheep grazing in orchards and thatched cottages. Continue to main road and turn left into Teynham, passing the Dover Castle Inn, another great place to enjoy the local food and drink. Cross the busy main road into Station Road (you may care to use the pedestrian crossing). Continue along road to railway station.

### Fruit bowl ...

#### HOME OF ENGLISH CHERRIES



While wild cherries have been a part of our diet since pre-historic times, it was the Romans that introduced the first cultivated varieties to Britain.

By the 16th century these old varieties had fallen out of favour and Henry VIII is credited with starting the renaissance of English cherries when in 1533 he introduced three new sweet varieties to Teynham from Flanders.

The cherries - planted by the royal fruiterer Richard Harris on 105 acres at Osiers Farm and New Gardens - are celebrated as the parents of the English cherries we know and love today.

Early trees were much taller than today's dwarf varieties and pickers needed ladders with up to 40 rungs to pick the tops. Sheep kept the grass short, providing a ready supply of manure and a second source of income for farmers.

Today, there are more than 1,000 sweet and sour cherry varieties worldwide.

### LYNSTED LOOP

From The Plough at Lewson Street take concrete farm track, with corn fields on your right and apple orchards on your left. Join the lane at the end, with the Atcost building ahead. Turn right and continue along this road, passing oast house on your right.

**D1.** Pass through kissing gate on right before bungalow and follow fence line through fields where sheep graze, with panoramic views to the Isle of Sheppey. Note the strawberries growing in polytunnels on your left as you pass through three gates before crossing stile at country lane. (Ensure gates are closed). Cross this road and the stile opposite and walk along edge of wood downhill to stile at end. Cross next field diagonally to left and follow path through woods to Lynsted (Linde Stede - the place of the lime tree). At Lynsted you will find Park Farm Community Cherry Orchard, one of the country's last remaining traditionally managed orchards.









**D2.** At road turn right, with 15th-century St Peter and St Paul Church ahead. Pass the Black Lion pub and guesthouse on your left - a great place for local hospitality and food - and take the left hand fork in road (signposted Woodstreet and Rodmersham) and then the public footpath on your right.

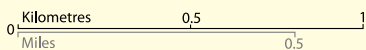
**D3.** Continue to concrete farm track and turn right through pear orchards to Lynsted Lane. Turn left. After 50 yards, turn right through bushes into field. Walk diagonally left across field towards house. Pass along footpath by house. Cross road through kissing gate. Walk diagonally right across field towards end of fence line and then towards telegraph pole. Pass through kissing gate to road and turn left. Take up the main route at C2.





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-  Garden/Arboretum
-  Public house
-  Viewpoint
-  Place of worship
-  Telephone
-  Gate
-  Refreshments
-  Train



### Walk Overview

**Distance:** 5.5 miles; 3 hours (no stops) Lynsted Loop: 4 miles. Conyer Loop: 2 miles

**Fitness level:** Core route suitable for all fitness levels

**Toilets:** No public toilets – pub facilities can be used

**Refreshments:** Restaurants, pubs and shops en route

**Transport:** Railway station at Teynham  
[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**Pay phones:** Conyer, Lynsted, Teynham

**Parking:** Teynham railway station; Co-op car park, Teynham; Black Lion, Lynsted

**Map:** OS Explorer 149

# Directory of local businesses

## FOOD, DRINK AND PRODUCE

**A J Barkaway Butcher**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 532040. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Lamberhurst Farm Dairy**,  
Dargate ME13 9ES 01227 751741  
[www.cheesemakersofcanterbury.co.uk](#)

**Grow**, Brogdale Farm ME13 8XZ  
01795 531888. [www.brogdaleonline.co.uk](#)

**Macknade Fine Foods**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 534497/53737. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Moor Organics**, Deerton Street ME9 9LJ  
01795 521341. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Pine Trees Juice**, Doddington ME9 0AX  
01795 886266. [www.pinetreesfarm.co.uk](#)

**Seasalter Lamb**, Eastling ME13 0BD  
07891 004474. [www.seasalterlamb.co.uk](#)

**Snod Farm**, Otterden ME13 0DB  
01795 890700. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**SW Doughty Butcher**, Doddington ME9 0BH  
01795 886255. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

## PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

**Albion Taverna**, Faversham ME13 7DH  
01795 591411. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Anchor Inn and Crabshack**,  
Faversham ME13 7BP 01795 536471  
Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Ardennes Restaurant**, Faversham ME13 7JB  
01795 590008. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Black Lion**, Lynsted ME9 0RJ  
01795 521229.

**Courtyard Restaurant**,  
Brogdale Farm ME13 8XZ  
01795 530013. [www.courtyard-restaurant.co.uk](#)

**Elephant**, Faversham ME13 7JN  
01795 590157. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**George Inn**, Newnham ME9 0LL  
01795 890237.

**Osteria Posillipo**, Faversham ME13 7LD  
01795 590580. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Phoenix Tavern**, Faversham ME13 7BH  
01795 591462. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Plough**, Stalisfield Green ME13 0HY  
01795 890256. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Plough Inn**,  
Lewson Street ME9 9JJ 01795 521348  
Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Provenance**, Faversham ME13 8PE  
01795 539508. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Read's**, Faversham ME13 8XE  
01795 535344. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Rose and Crown**, Perry Wood ME13 9RY  
01227 752214. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Shipwrights' Arms**, Hollowshore ME13 7TU  
01795 590088.

**Spice Lounge**, Faversham ME13 8NU  
01795 533322. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Sun Inn**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 535098. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Three Horseshoes**, Hernhill ME13 9AX  
01227 750842. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**White Horse Inn**, Boughton ME13 9AX  
01227 751343. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**White Lion**, Selling ME13 9RQ  
01227 752211. [www.thewhitelion-selling.com](#)

**Woodrose Restaurant**, Hernhill ME13 9TX  
01227 751168. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

## ATTRACTIONS

**Beech Court Gardens**, Challock TN25 4DJ  
01223 740735. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Belmont House**, Throwley ME13 0HH  
01795 890202. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Brogdale Farm**, Ospringe ME13 8XZ  
01795 536250. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Doddington Place**, Doddington ME9 0BB  
01795 886101. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Farming World**, Boughton ME13 9SP  
01227 751144. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Fleur Museum**, Faversham ME13 8NY  
01795 534542. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Faversham Swimming Pools**, ME13 8PW  
01795 532426. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Sailing Barge Greta**, Standard Quay, Faversham  
07711 657919. [www.greta1892.co.uk](#)

**Mount Ephraim Gardens**, Hernhill ME13 9TX  
01227 751496. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**St Mary of Charity Church**,  
Faversham ME13 8JZ  
01795 530599. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Shepherd Neame Brewery Tours**,  
Faversham ME13 7AX  
01795 542016. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Shrine of St Jude**, Faversham ME13 7SE  
01795 539214. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

## ACCOMMODATION

**Barnsfield**, Fostal ME13 9JG  
01227 750973. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Black Lion**, Lynsted ME9 0RJ  
01795 521229. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Brenley Farm House**, Boughton ME13 9LY  
01227 751203. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Church Oast**, Hernhill ME13 9JW  
01227 750974. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Cot-Hoy**, Buckland ME13 0TP  
01795 535616. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Court Lodge**, Oare ME13 0QB  
01795 591543. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Fairlea**, Faversham ME13 8NH  
01795 539610. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Frith Farm Cottages**, Otterden ME13 0DD  
01795 890701. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Gladstone House**, Faversham ME13 8DZ  
01795 536432. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Judd's Folly Hotel**, Ospringe ME13 0RH  
01795 591818. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Leaveland Court**, Leaveland ME13 0NP  
01233 740596. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**March Cottage**, Faversham ME13 8NH  
01795 536514. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Old Vicarage**, Doddington ME9 0BD  
01795 886136. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Painter's Farm Caravan Camping Site**,  
Painter's Forstal ME13 0EG 01795 532995

**Palace Farm**, Doddington ME9 0AU  
01795 886200. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Railway Hotel**, Faversham ME13 8PE  
01795 533173. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Read's**, Faversham ME13 8XE  
01795 535344. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Sandhurst Farm**, Newnham ME9 0NE  
01795 886854. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Sun Inn**, Faversham ME13 7JE  
01795 535098. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Syndale Lodge**, Faversham ME13 0RH  
01795 531488. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Tenterden House**, Boughton ME13 0RH  
01227 751593. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**Uplees Farm**, Uplees ME13 0QR  
01795 532133. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

**White Horse Inn**, Boughton. ME13 9AX  
01227 751343. Find us on [faversham.org](#)

## Food Trails in this series

- **Footsteps of Royalty & Romans** (Faversham – Ospringe – Painter's Forstal – Brogdale)
- **A Walk on the Wild Side** (Faversham – Davington – Oare – Luddenham)
- **Syndale Valley Walk** (Newnham – Eastling – Stalisfield – Doddington)
- **The Peasants' Last Revolt** (Boughton – Hernhill – Dargate – Dunkirk)
- **The Two Creeks Walk** (Faversham – Thorn Creek – Davington – Oare)
- **First Fruit** (Teynham – Conyer – Lewson Street – Lynsted)
- **Earth, Wind and Water** (Faversham – Goodnestone – Graveney – Seasalter)
- **A Land for All Seasons** (Sheldwich – Selling – Perry Wood – Badlesmere)

A Faversham Enterprise Partnership project, working in collaboration with Faversham Area Tourism Association

## The Countryside Code

Respect – Protect – Enjoy

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you will enjoy walking in Kent and help protect the countryside now and for future generations.

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs. Leave gates and property as you find them. Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home. Keep dogs under close control. Consider other people.

For further information please visit [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](#) or Tel: 08451 003298

Remember to always follow the Highway Code.



For walking information: go to [faversham.org/walking](#) Telephone: 01795 534542

Visit: Tourist Information Centre, Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, 10-13 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NS

