



06 KENT DUNGENESS

Distance: 3 miles/5km Time: 1¼ hours Grade: Easy



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 81

Dungeness New
Lighthouse.

PHOTO: BEN GILES



CHOSEN BY... BEN GILES

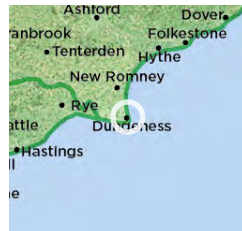
The headland of Dungeness (what geographers call a cusate foreland) sticks prominently out into the English Channel. Walking on its shingle, with the flat expanse of Romney Marsh inland, would be a somewhat otherworldly experience, even were it not for the looming presence of a nuclear power station. This is one of the largest expanses of shingle in Europe and is classified as being of international importance for its plant and birdlife.

1 Start

Head out of the back of Dungeness Station car park,

with Dungeness Power Station on your L, and follow the track parallel to the railway to the start of a line of wooden posts, where there is an information board which commemorates two Polish pilots from RAF 303 Squadron who were killed during the Battle of Britain in 1941. Bear L over shingle and grass towards the Old Coastguard Cottages, which are surrounded by a large bank. Go through gap in the bank (birdwatchers can see the latest report in the Dungeness Bird Observatory, located in the last cottage on the L) and pass along the back of the row of cottages. Just past last cottage bear R back through the bank and take the path which heads off to the R.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Dungeness Station of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, postcode TN29 9NA, grid ref TR088169; lay-bys available alongside Dungeness Road

Is it for me? Unique route around shingle headland a pebble's throw from Dungeness Power Station
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest towns Lydd & New Romney

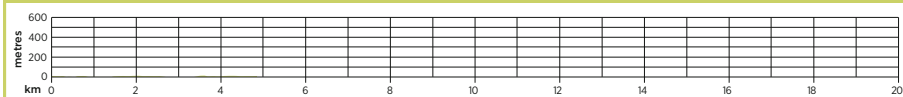
Refreshments End of the Line Restaurant (01797 362353), The Pilot Inn (01797 320314), Britannia Inn (01797 321959)

Public toilets None

Public transport Bus 11 Ashford and 102 Rye/Folkestone (stagecoach bus.com). Seasonal RH&DR trains from Hythe (rhd.org)

Maps OS Explorer 125; Landranger 189

GRADIENT PROFILE



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OS Explorer map 125 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

DON'T MISS...



Take binoculars for spotting the abundant birdlife. RSPB Dungeness National Nature Reserve and visitor centre is also nearby along Dungeness Road towards Lydd.

2½ mile/0.7km Footpath heads NNE across shingle and grass towards area of marshland trees and shrubs ahead, above which you can make out a number of chimneys in the distance, which serve as a handy marker. Pass through line of wooden posts and across the line of a disused railway, whose wooden sleepers are still visible in places, to reach low-growing trees and shrubs. Footpath makes its way through the trees and shrubs for 400m, before heading over shingle and grass again towards the chimneys of Coastguard Cottages. At cottages bear R up to Dungeness Road.

3¼ miles/2km Cross road and pass along backs of houses to the start of shingle by The Pilot Inn, where there is a memorial of anchors, dedicated to those drowned in the Channel and to the lifeboat crews who come to the aid of

ships in distress. Now turn R and head across the shingle to the Lifeboat Station. Here you can continue along the shingle bank further to the L, above the mean high water mark. The going can be tough where the shingle is loose, but the trick is to take it slowly. In the past local people used to adopt a simple solution to the energy-sapping experience of walking on shingle by strapping boards on their feet. There are plenty of fishing boats, boatsheds and old workings to pause and look at along the way, in addition to simple beachcombing.

4 2¼ miles/4.5km Keep on over the shingle round the broad headland to the new lighthouse, beyond which you can cut back inland on a boardwalk over the shingle. At the road turn L past The Britannia Inn back towards the old lighthouse and the station car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING