



The Kent Coast

Coastal Access Report

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4.1 Dartford's Coast

4.1.1 Description

4.1.1.1 Kent and Dartford's coast starts at TQ541778 the mouth of the river Darent where it enters the Thames. It extends for 11 km to TQ609765 just to the west of Broadness on the Swanscombe Marshes. It is the shortest coastline in Kent.

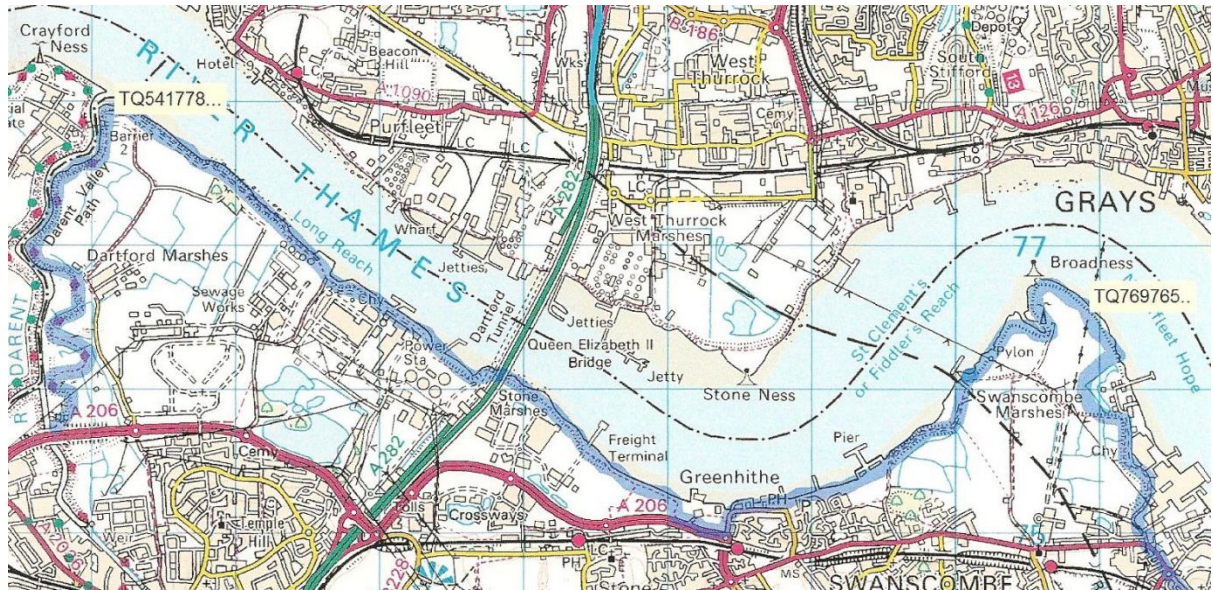
4.1.1.2 Approximately 8km is on PRowS with most of the remainder having de facto access. There is a short section of excepted land. It is a fairly straight forward walk with only short deviations from the coast around wharves and industrial areas at Greenhithe.

Part of the route is along the Greenhithe Riverside Walk.

4.1.1.3 The view to seaward is the river Thames. The scenery at the start is flat over reclaimed salt marsh. It becomes heavily industrial with Greenhithe the main town. Here there is a riverside walk. The Queen Elizabeth Bridge is the dominating feature. The last section is reclaimed salt marsh.

4.1.1.4 The start and finish of the route is along the sea defence bank. There is a short stretch of footpath, road and riverside walk at Greenhithe.

4.1.2 The Route



The Kent coastline starts in the Borough of Dartford at the mouth of the River Darent TQ541778 where it joins the Thames.



The nearest crossing point is the A206 road bridge some 3k inland along the Darent Valley Path. It follows along the top of a winding grass sea defence bank.



From the mouth of the river there is a broad grass path along the top of the sea defences heading southwest towards a power station and the Queen Elizabeth Bridge.



As it nears the power station it is fenced and the surface is concreted.



It goes under the bridge and under a jetty at TQ575756.



At TQ581752 the path turns inland away from the river around aggregate works to join the A206 at Stone.



This is an industrial/residential area. The footpath back towards the river by the Asda petrol station was temporarily closed.



It was necessary to follow roads around the industrial estate.



The river was joined at a private development at Sarah Crescent and the start of the Greenhithe Riverside Walk at TQ586752.



The footpath follows the river bank to Swanscombe Marshes



It is possible to follow the river bank around the point to TQ769765, the end of Dartford's coast.



The PRoW cuts across Broadness Salt Marsh to the boundary with Gravesham.

This is a rather desolate open area.



4.1.3 Access Issues

4.1.3.1 Greenhithe

TQ581753 to TQ584751

0.4 km

This is an industrial area with wharves. It would appear to be excepted land.

4.1.3.2 Broadness Salt Marsh

TQ601761 to TQ609766

1.5 km

There is an open area of reclaimed salt marsh where there was some industrialisation. There is no footpath as such.