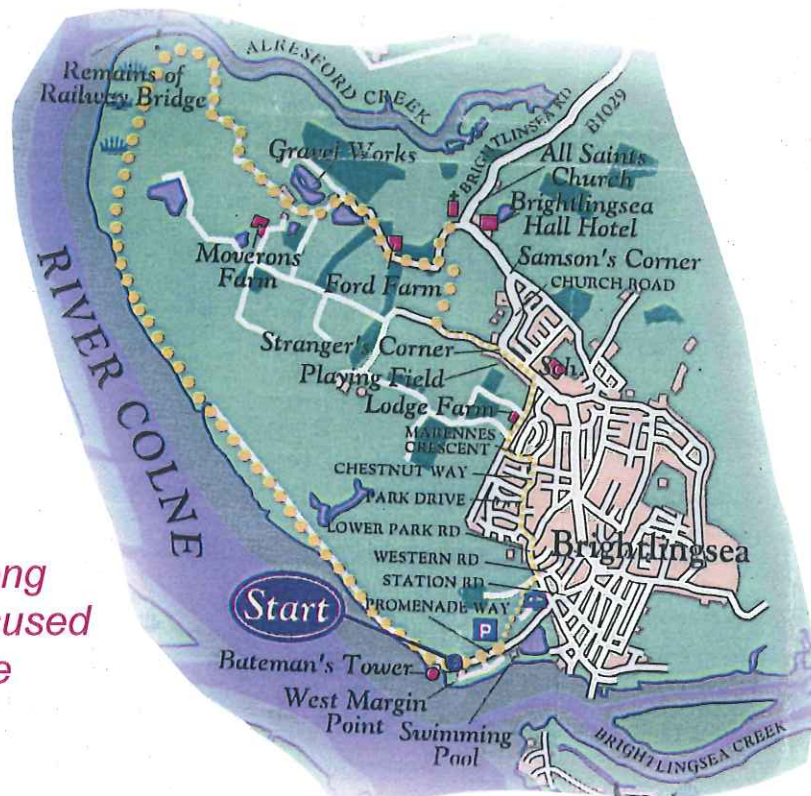


Brightlingsea

Distance: 6 miles

Time: 3 hours

*A circular walk along
Brightlingsea's disused
Railway line by the
River Colne*



Brightlingsea has the distinction of being the only one of the Cinque Ports north of the Thames.

Start this walk from the car park near Bateman's Tower. At the end of the beach huts, bear right up some steps onto the route of the old railway track and cross over the built-up stile by a gate. Continue along the high track that overlooks the estuary until you reach the piers of the old railway bridge. Continue to your right along the path that curves to the right round the coast. Where the path divides, turn right and cross over the stile which, in front of you, now leads onto a wide and upward sloping track. Proceed beyond the first farmhouse then bear left whilst keeping to the stony track that leads on to the road alongside the gravel works.

Continue along this path bearing right at the end of the gravel works. After passing the bungalow on your right, turn right. Continue along the tree lined footpath which, between the two fields, eventually leads onto a metalled path where you should turn left and continue ahead. You will notice a playing field on your right before reaching the end of the path at Stranger's Corner.

Turn right into Church Road and continue until you reach another marked footpath on your right. Here, there is a wide track which, between houses, leads onto a gate. Go through the gate and continue along Lodge Lane and then into Marennnes Crescent. Proceed until you reach Chestnut Way on your right. Follow this road to its end and then turn left into Park Drive which leads into Lower Park Road. Turn right and walk for a short distance, then right again into the lane opposite Western Road. At the beginning of this lane there is a caravan and camping site. Follow the concrete path until you reach a stile with open fields on your left. Cross the stile and follow the bank until you eventually arrive back at the car park and Promenade Café.