



Sevenoaks Ramblers

Dover to Folkestone Historical Linear Walk - 11 miles

Sunday, 16th August

14 Sevenoaks Ramblers were up with the lark on Sunday and made the journey to the far-flung reaches of Dover for a linear walk.

The day began with an immediate steep climb up to the Western Heights, which all the Ramblers coped with admirably, with only the minimum amount of grumbling. We then spent the next 90 minutes exploring the vast 19th-century Napoleonic defensive fortifications, built to protect Dover from invasion.

Our first stop was the Knights Templar Church, followed by the Drop Redoubt. The only disappointment of the morning was discovering that the Grand Shaft Staircase, with its 282 steps, was closed due to unforeseen circumstances, despite being scheduled to be open. While the Ramblers were disappointed not to add those extra steps to their tally, several patellas were heard breathing sighs of relief.

We then walked around the Citadel, enjoying magnificent views across Dover to the Castle and out to sea. Soon afterwards, we joined the King Charles III England Coast Path, leaving Dover behind. The weather along the cliffs was perfect for walking: not too hot, with some cloud cover and a light breeze.

Lunch was taken atop a WWII defensive bunker, where one Rambler seized the opportunity to enjoy forty winks. Refreshed and recharged, we continued towards Folkestone, stopping first at the Abbot's Cliff Sound Mirror and then at the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne.

Following a welcome stop for ice creams and iced teas, we headed down the cliffs, pausing to admire three of the remaining Martello Towers before continuing past the beach towards Folkestone Harbour. Some Ramblers then extended the day with a stroll along the Harbour Arm to enjoy cold beverages and street food, rounding off an excellent day out.

Thank you to everyone who joined the walk and to those who came along on the recce. Your company, enthusiasm and good humour made it another memorable Sevenoaks Ramblers adventure.



