



TO THE SEA

Herne Bay Cultural Trail

Journey through the streets of Herne Bay to discover parts of history and intrigue that makes this coastal town the perfect little gem to come and visit.

1.

Historical Mural, William Street (Car Park)

Discover how the Bronze-age site at Long Rock, Hampton may have looked. Reculver Towers, a traditional Victorian seaside scene, the bouncing bomb trials held by Barnes Wallis and Guy Gibson all depicted the history of Herne Bay.

2.

Seaside Museum, William Street

See beautiful treasures from the Saxons and Romans, who built a great fort at Reculver. Recall Herne Bay in World War II, when inventor Barnes Wallace tested the 'Dam Busters' bouncing bomb here, and learn how the townsfolk have struggled through storm and ice to overcome the power of the sea. Discover the secrets of the seashore, with prehistoric animal tusks and fossils, including shark's teeth! Learn to identify the wildlife of this ever-changing coastline.

3.

The Ship Inn, Central Parade

This historic coastal pub dates back to 1385 and has a rich history of sea, sailors and smuggling. During the Napoleonic War, it even became the entertainment venue for the local squadrons when a weather boarded assembly room was added to the inn.

4.

Statue of Sir Barnes Wallis, The Downs - Beacon Hill

In 1943 Herne Bay was at the centre of preparations for one of the most dramatic operations of WWII. This lifesize statue commemorates bouncing bomb creator Sir Barnes Wallis, who lived in the town and died in 1979, and tested prototype bombs between Reculver and Herne Bay during the Second World War. Visit the Seaside Museum to see an original Dambuster prototype 'bomb'.

5.

The King's Hall, Beacon Hill

Is one of the town's most famous architectural landmarks with its original Edwardian features and picturesque seaside surroundings. Originally built as The Pavillion, the name changed to King Edward VII Memorial Hall in honour of the late King. It is deeply embedded in the theatrical scene with its roots dating back to the before 1920s. In February 1917, the then recently-opened King's Hall was taken over by the Army Canteen Committee to offer service men hot suppers, light refreshments and to enjoy recreational activities such as dances, whist drives and music hall. Today it hosts a wide assortment of shows and performances and its great atmosphere for live music is a huge attraction for touring artists and groups.

6.

A Postcard from Herne Bay mural, Mortimer Street

Be charmed by this specially commissioned Herne Bay mural. Done in a style to reflect the postcards and railway posters promoting Herne Bay in the 1950s.

7.

History of Smugglers and Barges, Central Parade

Herne Bay as a town didn't exist until 1814 but coastal trade, in the form of barge traffic and fishing, flourished long before. This was thanks to the ease in which heavy goods could be transferred from horse-drawn vehicles to sailing craft on the flat sands at low tide. Moreover, owing to the lack of habitation, smuggling, proved to be an even better business. This barge anchor represents those used by barges to transport coal from north of England to Herne Bay and then return to the north with wood from Blean Forest.

8.

Clock tower, Central Parade

You can't miss the striking architecture of the Herne Bay clock tower. Built in 1837, it's the oldest known free-standing, purpose-built clock tower in the world. The iconic structure stands some 82 feet high to the weather vane and was funded by Mrs Ann Thwaytes as a memorial to the fallen of the Second Boer War.

9.

Central Bandstand, Central Parade

The art deco seafront bandstand was originally built in 1924 as a popular venue for visiting military band concerts and for tea dances. Now it's home to Makcari's cafe and ice cream parlour, where you can taste their famous hand-made Gelato and sit back and enjoy live entertainment throughout the week and every weekend during the summer months.

10.

Waltrop Gardens, Central Parade

Built to celebrate the twinning of Waltrop and Herne Bay, the Gardens, are the perfect space to relax by the sea surrounded by flowers and the sea breeze.

11.

Statue of Aviator Amy Johnson, Central Parade

A lifesize bronze statue paying homage to Amy Johnson, a pioneering pilot and world-record-setting aviator who disappeared under mysterious circumstances off the coast of Herne Bay. Amy was just 37 years old when she tragically died when her final flight crashed down on the shores of the town. Her body and the wreckage of the plane were never found. The statue stands as a monument to women, aviation, engineering and all those who served with the Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War.

12.

World Air Speed Record, seafront

In 1945, Group Captain H J Wilson set a world airspeed record along Herne Bay's coastline. He reached 606.25 miles per hour between East Cliffs and Reculver Towers!

13.

Herne Bay Pier, Central Parade

Herne Bay Pier was originally the second-longest in the country, extending to 1147m into the sea to receive visiting passenger steamers. In 1978, after two days of easterly winds, the high seas smashed so much of the centre section it had to be demolished. It's believed the wooden pier is so well built the end can't be blown up, even with dynamite? The amount needed would blow out every window in the town!

The Famous from Herne Bay Mural, Central Parade

14. Celebrating the famous faces of Herne Bay who have either lived or had an association with the town. Some of the faces are of local people past and present including, John Altman, Dave Lee, Bob Holness, Peter Noone, Nicki Chapman, Ken Russell, Bob Hope and more. How many can you spot?

War Memorial, Memorial Park

15. At the end of World War I, Herne Bay Memorial Park was established to commemorate locally fallen heroes. The cenotaph was unveiled on 11 November 1922 and lists the 211 people who fell in World War I plus those from later conflicts. The war memorial garden is a tranquil place to sit and reflect. Today the park also has formally planted gardens, sensory gardens, and a community kitchen garden; a children's play area and several sporting facilities and a lake, that's home to a large number of ducks, and is used for model boats.

Herne Bay Railway Station

16. Constructed by the Herne Bay and Faversham Railway Company, the station originally opened as "Herne Bay and Hampton-on-Sea" in 1861. The old semaphore signals were replaced by electric coloured lights in 1959 and the buildings on the down platform are all that remains of the original station building.

Brides in the Bath Murders, 159 High Street (formerly No.80)

17. In 1912, George Joseph Smith, alias Henry Williams, brought his new bride (and first victim) Bessie Mundy to live in Herne Bay for the express purpose of obtaining her monetary legacy. After buying a steel bath from the local ironmongers, he convinced his wife and her doctor she suffered from fits that left her unconscious before pulling her under the water by her ankles and murdering her. Three years later he was found guilty for his crimes and hanged at Maidstone Prison.

In Memory of a Young Pilot Blacksole Bridge, Margate Road, Beltinge

18. Pilot Officer Albert Hugo Friday, of 611 Squadron, was killed on 30 August 1942, when his Spitfire suffered engine failure and crashed close to Blacksole Bridge. There is a memorial plaque dedicated to him near the site.



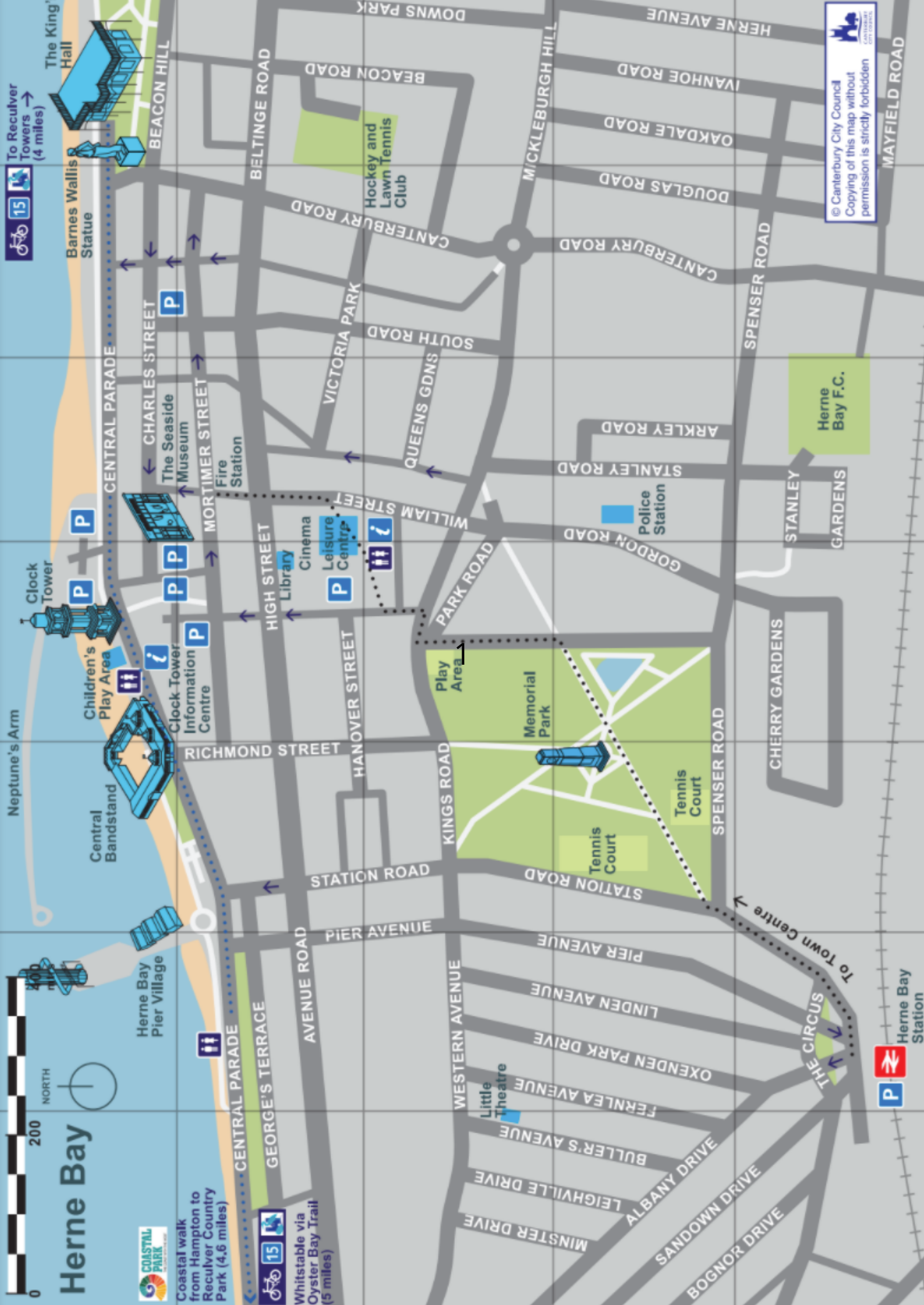
Herne Bay

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Coastal walk from Hampton to Reculver Country Park (4.6 miles)

Whitstable via Oyster Bay Trail (5 miles)



To Reculver Towers (4 miles)



Beacon Hill

Beltinge Road

Beacon Road

Hockey and Lawn Tennis Club

Canterbury Road

Victoria Park

South Road

Queens Gdns

Mickleburgh Hill

Herne Avenue

Ivanhoe Road

Oakdale Road

Douglas Road

Spenser Road

Mayfield Road

Herne Bay F.C.

Neptune's Arm

Children's Play Area

Central Bandstand

Clock Tower Information Centre

High Street

Library Cinema Leisure Centre

William Street

Park Road

Play Area

Memorial Park

Tennis Court

Tennis Court

Police Station

Stanley Road

Stanley Gardens

Cherry Gardens

Herne Bay Station

To Town Centre

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