

## YOU CAN HELP Vous Pouvez Aider

Volunteers from River Watch and the White Cliffs Countryside Project (WCCP) are working with the Environment Agency to improve the River Dour for wildlife and people. A River Dour Steering Group meets regularly to co-ordinate action.

There are several ways to become involved with the River Dour and you don't have to be an expert to take part.

*Les habitants locaux aident de diverses manières à protéger la rivière Dour. Les volontaires aident à garder la rivière en bon état et à protéger la faune. Les agents bénévoles gardent un oeil vigilant sur la rivière. Des promenades guidées et des activités pour enfants (Le Green Gang) sont organisées par le White Cliffs Countryside Project.*

River Watch assisted by WCCP organise events for local people to help keep the river tidy and conserve wildlife. It's a great way to gain hands-on experience and knowledge of the history and wildlife of the river.



You can become a River Dour Voluntary Warden, keeping a watchful eye on a section of the river, recording wildlife and reporting any problems to the River Dour Steering Group.

The WCCP organises guided walks and Green Gang family events along the River Trail. There could be an opportunity for people interested in the river to lead events with support from the WCCP. Free training is available.

### WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

The River Dour Trail is being managed by the White Cliffs Countryside Project on behalf of the River Dour Steering Group. The WCCP was established in 1989 to help care for the special coast and countryside around Dover and Folkestone, and make it accessible to everyone. The project is a unique collaboration between the local authorities, Government bodies, conservation groups and the private sector.

White Cliffs Countryside Project  
6 Cambridge Terrace,  
Dover,  
Kent CT16 1JT  
Telephone / fax on 01304 241806  
E-mail [mail@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk](mailto:mail@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk)  
Web site [www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk](http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk)



## THE RIVER DOUR TRAIL Piste de la Rivière Dour



The River Dour has been important to the people of Dover for centuries. From Bronze Age boat builders, about 3,500 years ago, to Victorian mill owners, it is now an important habitat for some rare and distinctive wildlife.

The River Dour Trail is a new walking route established by the White Cliffs Countryside Project, exploring the rich heritage and landscape of Dover. The Trail takes you along parts of the river from the sea to the countryside, from its outlet to the sea at Wellington Dock, through the heart of the town to the formal gardens at Kearsney Abbey, ending at the village of Temple Ewell.

*La Piste de la Rivière Dour est un nouvel itinéraire de marche à pieds créé par le White Cliffs Countryside Project, pour explorer le riche patrimoine et la campagne de Douvres. La piste vous emmène le long de portions de rivière allant de la mer vers la campagne, de son embouchure à Wellington Dock, au travers le coeur de la ville aux jardins majestueux de l'Abbaye de Kearsney, pour se terminer au village de Temple Ewell.*



Please make sure that you recycle this leaflet. Happy walking!

TO REPORT A PROBLEM ON THE RIVER  
Dover District Council Hotline (01304 872428)  
Environment Agency Hotline (0800 807060)

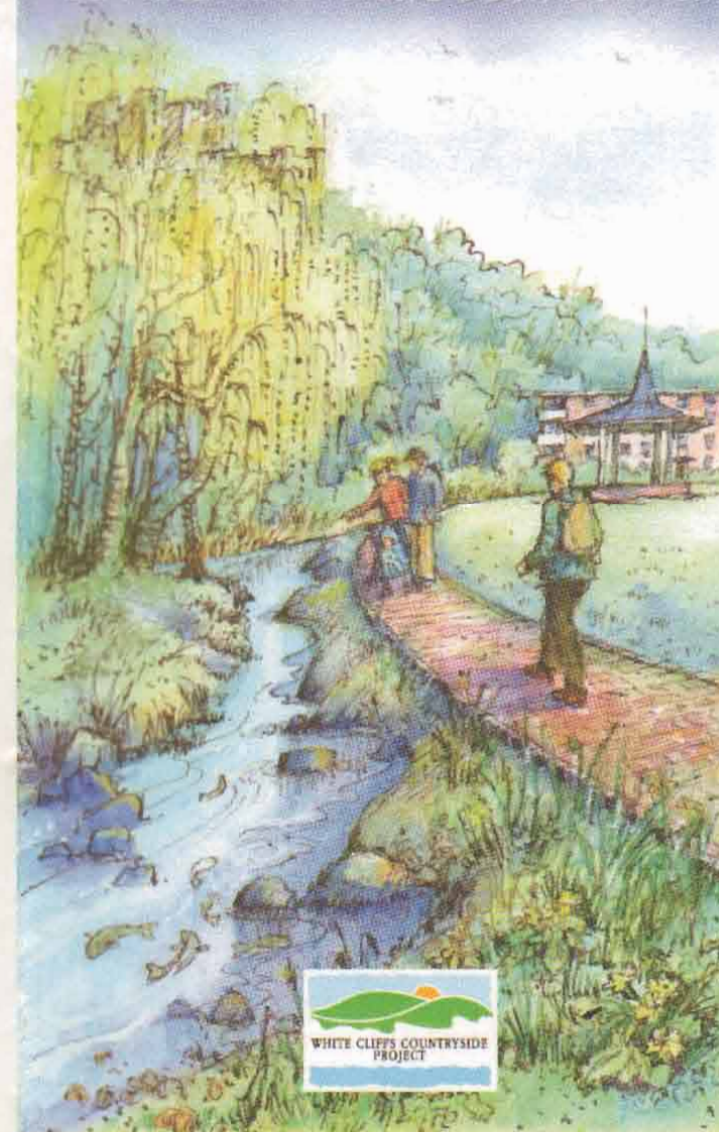


Design & print by [www.visualizecreative.co.uk](http://www.visualizecreative.co.uk)

FREE  
Avec résumés  
en français

# THE RIVER DOUR TRAIL

*La Piste de la Rivière Dour, Douvres*



WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

## EARLY SETTLERS

### Les Premiers Colons

Dover sits in a valley carved by the Dour over thousands of years. The wide estuary was a natural harbour for Bronze Age settlers and traders. The remains of a Bronze Age seagoing boat, from 3,500 years ago, were discovered in 1992 near the River Dour and can be seen in Dover Museum.

Later the Roman fleet in Britain was based at Dover also using the natural harbour. During the 17th Century a huge storm threw up a shingle bar, diverting the mouth of the river to where it is today. Today, Dover Harbour is home to the busiest ferry port in Europe.



La Rivière Dour a été utilisée comme port depuis de nombreux siècles; un bateau de l'Age De bronze, datant d'il y a 3.500 ans, peut être observé au Musée de Douvres. Une forte

tempête au 17ème siècle changea le lit de la rivière lui donnant son cours actuel. Aujourd'hui le port de Douvres avec son trafic ferry est l'un des ports les plus actifs de Grande-Bretagne.

## AN INDUSTRIAL ERA

### L'ère Industrielle

The Dour was once a busy river, supporting 13 mills, of which 8 were corn mills and 5 paper mills. A corn mill was first recorded in 762 AD, probably near Buckland, and was the first recorded mill in Britain.

Buckland Paper Mill was in use from 1888 to its permanent closure in 2000. The site is proposed for re-development as housing.

Crabble Corn Mill stopped commercial business in the 1890's and was used for storage until the 1950's, when it was taken over for restoration. It is now open as a visitor attraction.

Kearsney Abbey was never an 'abbey' but a grand house finished in 1822 for John Minet Fector, built from old stones acquired during road widening in Dover. In the late 1950's the house was demolished, leaving only the billiard room which is now the tea rooms. The name Kearsney comes from Old French Cressonaire meaning a place where watercress grows.



Crabble Corn Mill, Dover, Kent, UK

La Rivière Dour alimentait à une époque 13 moulins dont 8 moulins à grain et 5 usines à papier. Un moulin à grain situé à Buckland fut le premier moulin enregistré en

Grande-Bretagne en 762 après Jésus-Christ. Aujourd'hui, les moulins sont fermés, cependant le moulin à grain de Crabble constitue lui une attraction ouverte au public.



Kearsney Abbey, Dover, Kent, UK

## THE RIVER TODAY

### La Rivière Aujourd'hui

The River Dour is now being managed for the benefit of wildlife and people. Rare chalk stream plants are making a comeback along the river. Brook water-crowsfoot and water-starworts give way to watercress and water forget-me-not as the summer progresses. The plants form an important refuge for fish as well as the invertebrates that love the cool clean water of chalk streams.

Aujourd'hui la Rivière Dour est gérée pour sa faune et pour le public. Les plantes typiques des ruisseaux crayeux sont en train de retourner à la rivière, créant des cachettes pour les poissons et les invertébrés qui aiment l'eau limpide des ruisseaux crayeux. La Dour détient la plus forte colonie de truites brunes du Sud Est d'Angleterre.

## AN ABUNDANCE OF BROWN TROUT

### Salmo trutta

Today the Dour supports the most significant colony of brown trout in South East England. This pretty native trout scrapes shallow areas in the gravel beds known as 'redds' where

they lay their eggs during the winter season.

Brown Trout



Illustration: JACQUES GUYOT

You may also be lucky enough to see a kingfisher diving for its supper or an emperor dragonfly resting on the bank-side vegetation.

Kingfisher

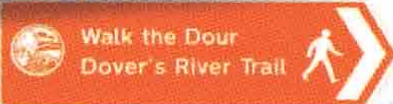
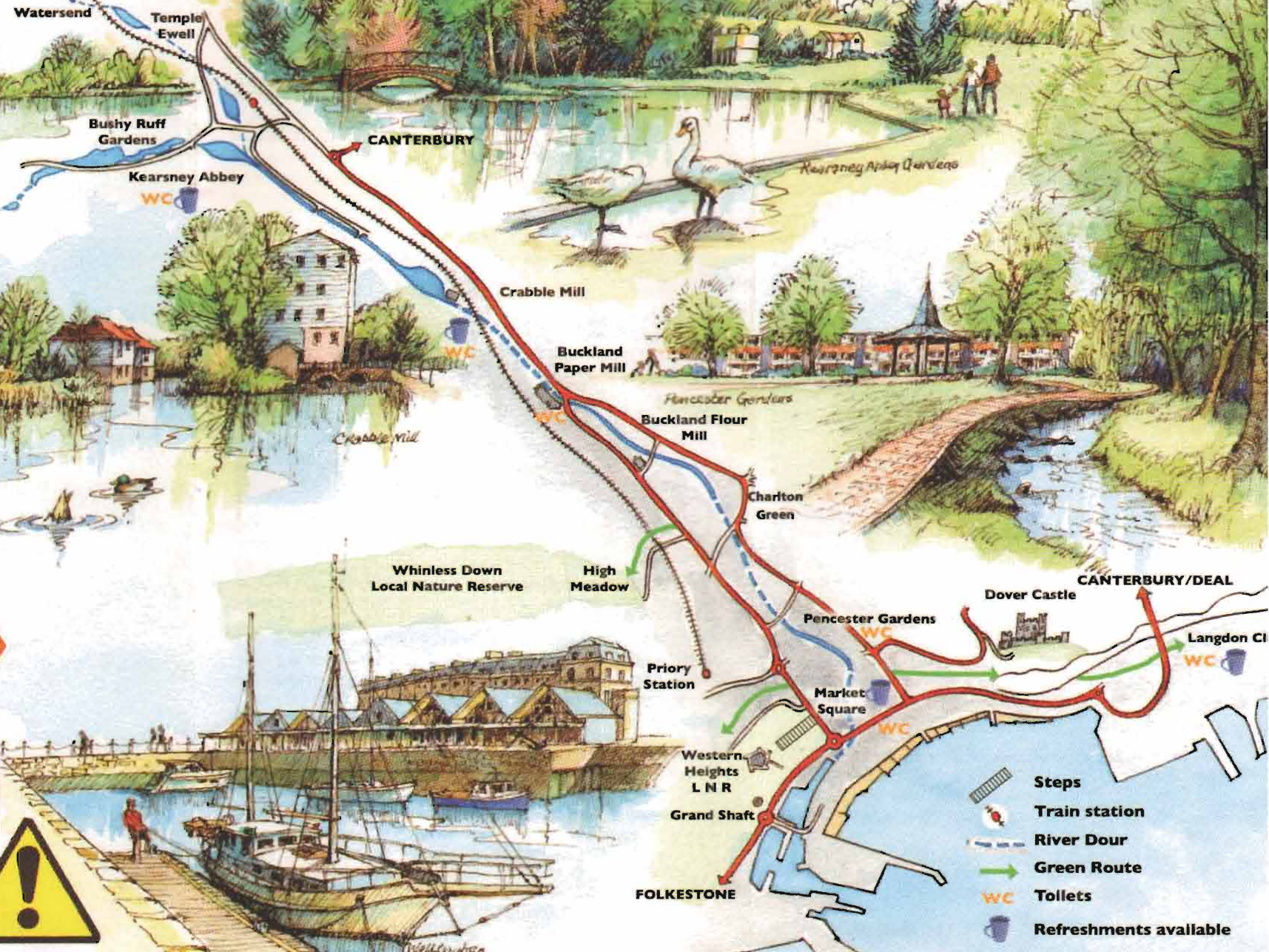


# The RIVER DOUR Trail

## La Piste de la Rivière Dour

The River Dour Trail is a new walking trail that has been signposted from Wellington Dock, near the sea front, to Temple Ewell. This new trail is four miles long (6 km) and you should allow up to 2.5 hours. The walk is generally level and is nearly all on pavements. There are refreshment and toilet facilities along the route.

La Piste de la Rivière Dour est un nouvel itinéraire de marche à pieds balisé depuis la mer, traversant Douvres, et conduisant aux jardins de l'Abbaye de Kearsney. Cette nouvelle piste de 4 milles (6km) de long devrait prendre environ 2 heures 30. La promenade est généralement en terrain plat et emprunte les trottoirs.



Do not enter the river as there is danger from fast-flowing water and deep mud. Please help us keep the river clean by taking your litter home with you.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

### Qu'y a t'il dans un Nom?

The town of Dover is named after the river Dour, probably derived from the Celtic Dubra, meaning "the waters", which the Romans called Dubris. The name was modified many times over the years to finally end up as the Dour. The marshy land surrounding it belonged to the "Doferware" meaning the people of Dover.

*La ville de Douvres tire son nom de la rivière Dour, probablement dérivé du Celte "Dubra", signifiant "les eaux" et que les Romains appelaient Dubris. Le nom fut modifié de nombreuses fois au cours des années pour finalement devenir Dour. Le terrain marécageux environnant appartenait au "Doferware" signifiant le peuple de Douvres.*

## DOVER'S GREEN CORRIDOR

### Le corridor vert de Douvres

The River Dour Trail runs through the heart of Dover linking together other walking trails set up by White Cliffs Countryside Project (WCCP), as well as cycle routes and open spaces in and around the town. Use these signposted routes to explore the rich wildlife and heritage of Dover.

*La Piste de la Rivière Dour traverse le coeur de Douvres reliant entre eux d'autres itinéraires pédestres mis en place par le White Cliffs Countryside Project (WCCP), ainsi que des itinéraires cyclables et des espaces libres situés à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur de la ville. Utilisez les itinéraires fléchés pour explorer la riche faune et le patrimoine de Douvres.*

## A FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT

### Un Environnement Fragile

Chalk streams are fed primarily from rain filtering down through the chalk, emerging as clean and calcium rich (hard) water that provides ideal conditions for a wide range of plants and animals. In the past the River Dour suffered from industrial pollution. More recently, fly tipping and the spread of non-native plant and animal species have put extra burdens on the fragile balance of the river.

The Environment Agency recognises chalk streams as a priority habitat for protection and conservation. They are working in partnership with local organisations and landowners towards improving and enhancing the Dour, benefiting wildlife as well as the people of Dover.

*Les ruisseaux crayeux sont alimentés par de l'eau d'infiltration traversant la craie, et émergeant limpide et riche en calcium, la rendant idéale pour de nombreuses plantes rares et de nombreux animaux. Dans le temps, la rivière était polluée par l'industrie. Aujourd'hui les ruisseaux crayeux sont devenus une priorité quant à leur protection et leur préservation.*

