

# EXPLORE DARTFORD

## WALKING AND CYCLING MAP



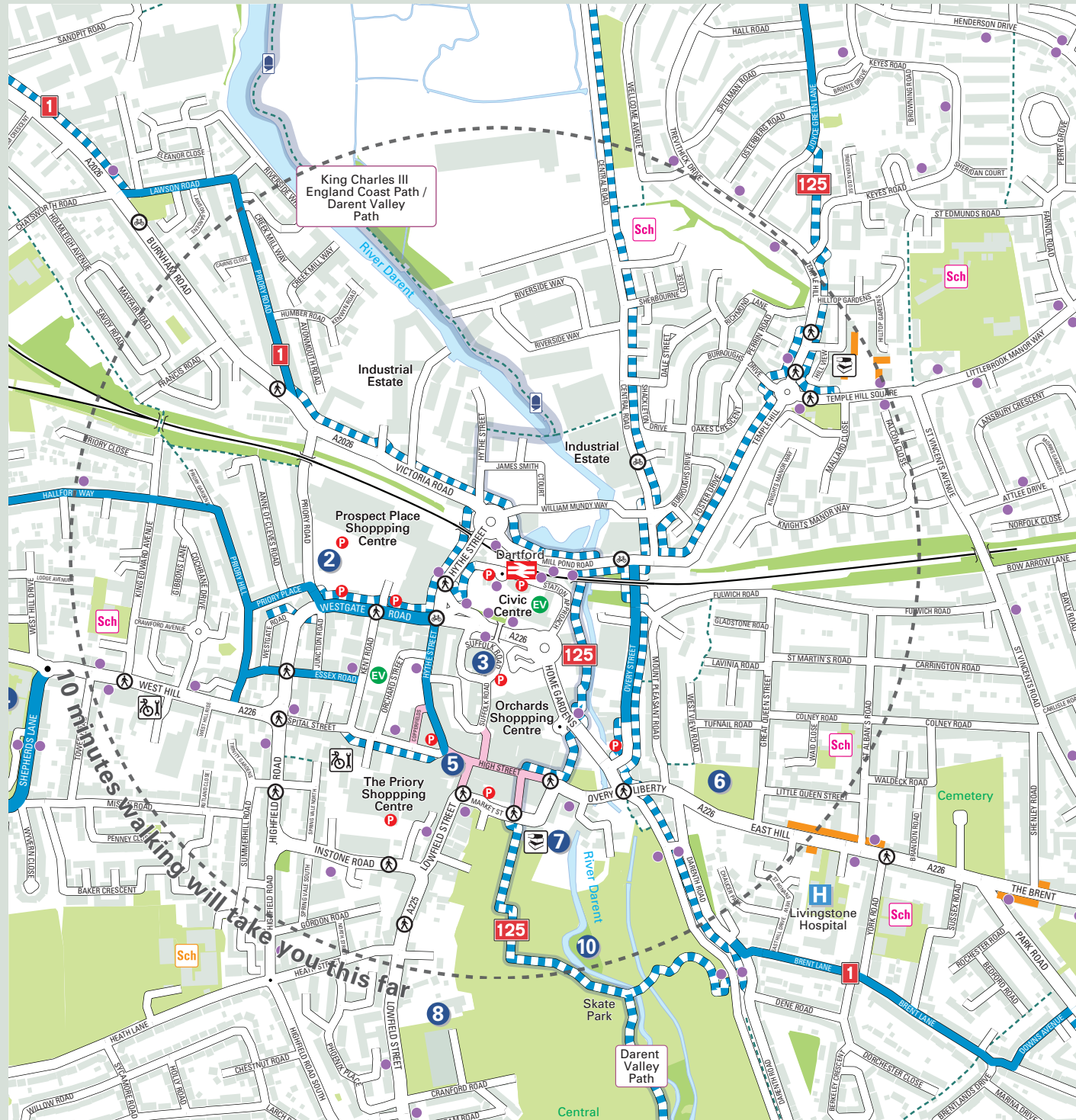
Dartford is a vibrant town located at the intersection of Kent, Essex, and London with excellent rail connections to London and further into Kent. Known for its rich history and dynamic community, Dartford offers a blend of urban convenience and natural beauty.

Dartford retains its sense of history with regular markets, including on Thursdays, and heritage buildings such as the Manor Gatehouse, coaching inns located on the Roman Road (Watling Street) to Canterbury, and a palpable industrial riverside history.

Cultural enthusiasts will find plenty to explore in Dartford. The Orchard Theatre in the town centre is a premier venue for drama, dance, music, and various other performances. Additionally, the Mick Jagger Centre on Shepherd's Lane serves as a community arts hub, offering a range of artistic and cultural activities. Dartford Library, which houses the Dartford Borough Museum and the Sir Peter Blake Gallery, is a treasure trove for art and history lovers, showcasing works by both emerging and established artists.

Nature lovers will find plenty to appreciate in Dartford's green spaces. Central Park is a beautiful and expansive green space located right in the heart of the town, with upgraded facilities including the new Buccaneer Bay play area, café, and riverside access north and south to open spaces and the countryside. Above East Hill, St Edmund's Pleasance offers historic monuments and local views of the town centre over the valley.

Dartford Bridge



## WALKING ROUTES



### DARENT VALLEY RAIL TRAILS LAKES AND GUNPOWDER

This 3.8 mile circular walk takes you along the Darent Valley Path, discovering the ruins of Dartford's Gunpowder Mills, wetland and wildlife at Brooklands Lakes and a tribute to one of the town's most famous people.



### DARENT VALLEY PATH

The Darent Valley is one of Kent's greatest hidden treasures with fine walking opportunities for all the family. The waymarked path is 19 miles (30.4km) long, following the meandering river from the banks of the busy River Thames at Dartford through the Kent Downs National Landscape to the Greensand Hills above Sevenoaks.



### DARENT VALLEY RAIL TRAILS CREEKS AND MARSHES

A 5.7 mile circular walk around Dartford Marshes alongside the meandering River Darent, enjoying marshland wildlife and heritage ruins along the way.



### DARENT VALLEY RAIL TRAILS RIVER AND RUINS

A 9 mile walk along the middle section of the Darent Valley Path from Farningham to Eynsford, following the tranquil River Darent with impressive heritage features through the ages dotted throughout.

### KING CHARLES III ENGLAND COAST PATH



The King Charles III England Coast Path is a remarkable National Trail that will eventually stretch around the entire coast of England, making it the longest managed coastal path in the world. Near Dartford, the path follows the Thames Estuary, offering a unique blend of industrial landscapes and hidden natural beauty.



## CYCLE ROUTES

Dartford is part of the National Cycle Network (NCN), which includes several routes designed for safe and enjoyable cycling:

### NCN ROUTE 1

Route 1 runs from Dover to Tain, passing through Dartford. It offers a mix of on-road and traffic-free paths, making it suitable for various types of cyclists. In Dartford, it follows the old Roman road Watling Street and heads through the town centre.

### NCN ROUTE 125

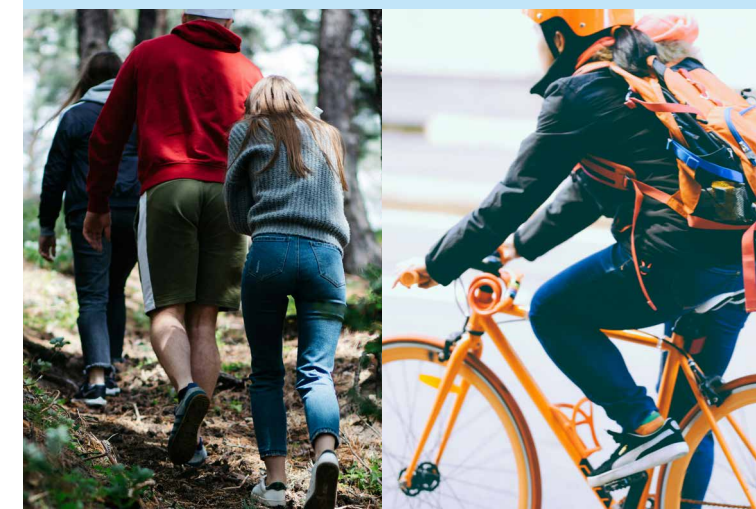
Route 125 is a shorter, 3.6-mile route that connects Brooklands Lake to the River Thames via Dartford town centre and Central Park. This route is mostly traffic-free and includes scenic views along the River Darent.

## BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRAVEL

Getting around by walking or cycling gives you the chance to view your journey in a fresh, new way and it might be a lot easier than you think.

Why not give it a go for your next commute?

It doesn't have to be the whole journey – get off the bus a stop early or park out of town and walk or cycle the last bit.



## FIVE REASONS TO WALK OR CYCLE

Active travel keeps you fit and improves mental health

Cycling can be quicker and can avoid traffic jams

It reduces pollution and congestion on the roads

You save money on parking, fuel and gym fees

Your journey time is more reliable



## POINTS OF INTEREST

Dartford offers a variety of activities and attractions for all interests.

**GLIMMER TWINS** (Rolling Stones statue). Celebrating local icons, the Glimmer Twins are bronze statues of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards from The Rolling Stones, unveiled in Dartford in 2023. Created by sculptor Amy Goodman, these statues celebrate the rock legends' local roots and are installed at One Bell Corner in Dartford's High Street.

**DARTFORD CENTRAL PARK** is a popular green space in Dartford, including bandstand performances, festivals, and Buccaneer Bay Play Park and a summer water park. The Ornamental Gardens include a rose garden and ornamental features. There are plenty of sports facilities as well with sports pitches, the Central Park Arena, and a skate park.

**BROOKLANDS LAKE** is a picturesque 17-acre gravel pit complex located near Dartford town centre. It is a popular destination for anglers and nature enthusiasts alike, offering a variety of accessible fishing spots and scenic views.

**THE MANOR GATEHOUSE** is a treasured historical landmark in Dartford, originally part of Dartford Priory. It was transformed by Henry VIII into a Manor House for his personal use following the dissolution of the priory. Later, it was given to Anne of Cleves as part of her divorce settlement, and she resided there between 1553 and 1557.



EXPLOREKENT.ORG



For those seeking a more immersive nature experience, south-west of the town lies one of the largest open spaces in Kent, the lowland heath and common land of Dartford Heath. To the east, Darenth Country Park and Beacon Wood Country Park (Bean) offer woodland walks and exploration.

Dartford is also where the River Darent meets the Thames, providing a large open expanse for getting away from it all, and leisure walking and cycling. The King Charles III England Coast Path, which will eventually encircle the entire coast of England, passes near Dartford along the Thames Estuary. This section of the path offers a unique blend of industrial landscapes and hidden natural beauty, perfect for a tranquil walk or a cycling adventure. The Darent Valley Path links the Thames to the town centre, and offers an onward picturesque route from Dartford to the river's source in the Greensand Hills.

With its mix of cultural, historical, and natural attractions, and multiple public transport options, Dartford is an accessible and busy town that offers something for everyone, making it an ideal place for both residents and visitors to explore and enjoy.

Cartography:  
© FourPoint Mapping  
Photos: Dartford Borough Council, David Young, Explore Kent.

Produced: March 2025

## TRAVELLING BY TRAIN / BUS

Dartford offers a variety of public transport options to help you get around the area efficiently:

### BUS SERVICES

- Fastrack is a reliable bus service that offers fast and frequent connections across Dartford and the surrounding areas.
- Arriva operates several key routes within Dartford, providing frequent services to various destinations.
- Transport for London (TfL) also runs bus services that travel through Dartford, connecting it to London.

### TRAIN SERVICES

Dartford is well-connected by train, with Southeastern trains providing regular services to London, Gravesend, and other destinations.

Bikes are permitted on any off-peak services, including weekends and Bank Holidays. If you have a folding bike, you can take it on any train at any time, as long as it is folded. Dartford Station offers a secure cycle hub where you can park your bike. These hubs are fully enclosed, equipped with dedicated lighting and CCTV, and guarantee a space for your cycle. A small fee is required to register for this service. For more information, visit [www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk).



Download the Kent Connected mobile app to help plan your journey. View local cycling and walking routes, bus and train times and all other information on travelling in Kent.  
[kentconnected.org](http://kentconnected.org)





# KEY

- Signed or recommended on-road cycle route
  - Surfaced – Traffic-free, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic
  - Pedestrianised roads
  - Footpath
  - Promoted walking route \*
  - National Trail \*
  - District boundary
- \* For more information visit [explorekent.org](http://explorekent.org)
- Sch Sch Primary school / Secondary school
  - 1 Place of interest Named and numbered
  - Bus stop
  - H Hospital
  - Bus / coach station
  - Railway with station
  - Toucan crossing
  - Pelican / Puffin crossing
  - Bike shop
  - Library
  - EV Electric vehicle charging point
  - 1 125 National Cycle Network route number
  - P Cycle parking
  - District centres

