CYCLE SAFETY

Be Seen
Wear a hi-viz yellow vest or jacket. The law requires you to have front and rear lights and a red reflector.

Be Protected
Wear a cycle helmet.

Be Wise
Always lock your bike.

Be Heard
Fit bell or horn.

Be Trained
Your school or road safety officer at Kent County Council should be able to help.

Be Safe
Look after your bike. Get it serviced regularly.

Be Courteous
Cycle paths make your journey safer, but on **shared facilities cyclists must give priority to pedestrians.**

ROUTE SIGNS

1. Route recommended for cyclists
   Aanbevolen fietsroute
   Für Fahrradfahrer empfohlene Route
   Route recommandée aux cyclistes
2. Direction of route recommended for cyclists
   Richting van de aanbevolen fietsroute
   Richtungs - und Entfernungshinweis auf für Radfahrer empfohlene Route
   Direction de la route recommandée aux cyclistes
3. Cycle route ahead
   Pas op: Fietsers
   Warnung: Radweg
   Début de piste cyclable
4. Cyclists dismount
   fietsers afstappen
   Radfahrer, bitte absteigen!
   Les cyclistes doivent descendre de leurs vélos
5. No cycling
   Verboden voor fietsers
   Radfahren verboten!
   Cyclisme interdit
6. Route to be used by cycles only
   Fietspad
   Strecke nur für Radfahrer frei
   Piste pour vélos seulement
7. Segregated cycle and pedestrian route
   Gescheiden fiets - en voetpad
   Getrennter Rad - und Fußweg
   Route divisée en piste cyclable et en trottoir
8. Route for shared use by cycles and pedestrians only
   Fiets - en voetpad
   Gemeinsamer Rad - und Fußweg
   Route pour piétons et cyclistes seulement
9. Parking places for cycles
   Fietsenstalling
   Fahrradplätze
   Parking à vélos

Road Markings
1. Cycle lane, track or route
   Fietspad of - strook
   Markierung der Fahrradspur
   Piste/route cyclable
2. Pedestrians' section of path
   Deel van pad voorbehouden aan voetgangers
   Markierung des Fuflweges
   Section pour piétons
3. Give way (when cycle path approaches a road)
   U nadert een voorrangsweg
   Vorfahrt achten!
   Cédez le Passage

Cycling on the Crab & Winkle Way.

Waymarker on the Crab & Winkle Way.

Visitor information, accommodation and transport

Visitor Information Centre and accommodation

12/13 Sun Street, The Buttermarket, Canterbury CT1 2HX tel: 01227 378100
email canterburyinformation@canterbury.gov.uk www.canterbury.co.uk
There is also an electronic information point at the city council's district office in Harbour Street, Whitstable.

Events

There are many annual and one-off events in both Whitstable and Canterbury. Two of the best known are the Whitstable Oyster Festival, usually held during the last week in July, and the Canterbury Festival held over a fortnight in October. For details of these and other events contact the Visitor Information Centre.

Trains

Canterbury West – trains to London Victoria, Charing Cross and Waterloo East, Ashford International, Ramsgate and Margate.

Whitstable – trains to London Victoria, Margate and Ramsgate.

A short bicycle ride or walk across Canterbury takes you to Canterbury East Station with trains to London Victoria, and Dover.

For up to date information telephone National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950
or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.southeasternrailway.co.uk

Buses

Stagecoach in East Kent 08456 002299 or visit www.stagecoach.com
Public transport information 08712 002233

The Countryside Code Respect–Protect–Enjoy

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you will enjoy walking and cycling as well as helping to protect the environment now and for future generations:

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals
- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under control
- Consider other people

The Old Neptune pub at Whitstable.

A bit about Whitstable, Canterbury and The Blean Woods!

WHITSTABLE is famous, of course, for its oysters but other claims to fame are boat building, deep sea divers and spectacular sunsets. Whitstable Bay and the Isle of Sheppey provide a wonderful backdrop for sunsets. Many people visit the Old Neptune on the seafront to watch the sun go down. Turner painted seascapes at Whitstable and artists are still very much associated with the town.

The diving suit was developed in Whitstable in 1828 which led to a number of Whitstable men entering this dangerous profession for many years. Dollar Row along the seafront is said to have been built on the treasure found from deep sea dives. At the height of the Whitstable oyster industry in the 1860s and 1870s millions of oysters were raised annually. It is estimated that London alone consumed 700 million oysters in 1864. More than a hundred oyster boats would be seen offshore. Most of the industry collapsed after the oyster deaths of 1921-22 due to an imported parasite. Today Whitstable has the largest commercial hatchery of oyster spat (young oysters) in the country and some of these are placed out on the lower shore on oyster racks to mature before being cleaned up in tanks on land.

Boat building was the backbone of Whitstable's prosperity from the late 18th century until the 20th century and many of the car parks and new housing developments along the sea front mark the areas where boat yards used to be. Peter Cushing, actor, loved Whitstable and is remembered by a seat on the seafront. Whitstable has now become a fashionable seaside resort, often a getaway for Londoners, known affectionately as DFLs – Down From London.

Visitors to the harbour can try out this diver's helmet!

THE BLEAN is one of the largest and most distinctive areas of ancient woodland in England, covering some 3,000 hectares – over 11 square miles! It is recognised through conservation designations as being nationally and even internationally important for wildlife.

The Blean has remained wooded for over a thousand years. One of the reasons lies in its wet and acidic clay soil which makes it less suitable for agriculture than the fertile lands to the north and south. Mostly owned by the church and its institutions until the twentieth century, it has a rich and unusually well documented history as a working woodland with coppice materials supplying many important local industries.

From the 18th century the woods were planted with sweet chestnut which is particularly good for hop poles among other uses. In recent years several conservation organisations have come to own the majority of the woodlands and now manage them for both wildlife and visitors.

For more information on The Blean or buying local wood products visit www.theblean.co.uk

CANTERBURY is a good stopping off point for anyone cycling the 'Way' as part of the National Cycle Network. As well as the cathedral and museums, leave time to explore the back-ways. Here is a whistle stop tour of 2,000 years of history….!

Canterbury was settled by Iron Age people and became the regional capital of the tribe Cantiaci before the Romans arrived and made it the cantonal capital. Roman authority collapsed at the beginning of the 5th century and the Anglo Saxon invaders arrived soon after. By the late 6th century Canterbury was home to Ethelbert, King of Kent, and in 597 when St Augustine arrived, he was converted to Christianity.

During the medieval period Canterbury developed as an important ecclesiastical centre, as well as a trading and commercial centre and, after the murder of Thomas à Becket in the Cathedral in 1170, as a place of pilgrimage. In the 16th and 17th centuries the city gained a reputation for producing fine silk and later woollen cloth due to the arrival of Walloon and Huguenot Protestant refugees. In the late 18th century with the city being so close to European neighbours, garrisoned soldiers accounted for one third of the population. Although the 'Baedeker' air raid in 1942 destroyed a great deal of property, the city today offers much for the visitor with the historic buildings, shops and cafes.

The Crab and Winkle Line Trust

The Crab and Winkle Line Trust was formed in 1997 by local residents, walkers and cyclists to protect the then partly disused and overgrown Crab and Winkle Line. The trust became a registered charity in 1999. The vision of the Crab and Winkle Line Trust was, and is, of a path along the old railway line, taking residents and visitors over six, traffic free miles of unspoilt woodland from Canterbury to Whitstable. The role of the trust is to generate local support for the route and to persuade councils and others to invest in its future.

The trust has:

- Persuaded Canterbury City Council to designate the whole of the Line as a conservation area, protecting it for future generations
- Won Grade II* listed status for the tunnel from English Heritage in December 2007
- Won planning approval for bridges to extend the route into the centre of Whitstable
- Stopped planning applications from developers wanting to build on the historic line with new developments being built around, but not on, the route of the original railway
- Installed interpretive panels at Whitstable and Canterbury West railway stations
- Promoted the history and the future of the Crab and Winkle Line through seminars, events and a huge amount of publicity
- Worked with the Kent Bat Group, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and the Archbishop's School to research the bats living along the line and in the tunnel.

Major projects ahead include:

1. The construction of two new bridges over two roads and the railway line in Whitstable, and then along the old line to the sea, bringing a major section back into public use. The trust is working with its local authority partners, Sustrans and the local community to implement this. The proposal was part of the national Connect2 TV vote in 2007 winning £250,000 for the project.

2. Investigations into opening up the tunnel beneath the university.

So how can I help?

If you would like to become a member of the Crab & Winkle Line Trust, fill in this form with your details and send the appropriate subscription. Members receive regular newsletters of meetings and progress.

Individual membership costs £10 per year. Family membership £15 per year. Corporate membership £50 per year. Please make cheques payable to The Crab & Winkle Line Trust and send to: The Membership Secretary, Crab & Winkle Line Trust, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1AF

If you have any queries regarding membership, please send an email to cwlt_membership@crabandwinkle.org or visit www.crabandwinkle.org Registered charity number 1077110

Name _____

Address _____

History of the Crab & Winkle

The 'Crab and Winkle Way' takes its name from the six mile railway line which ran between the towns of Canterbury and Whitstable.

On Monday 3rd May 1830, a clanking passenger locomotive, 'the Invicta', pulled into the platform near Whitstable Harbour carrying nearly 300 excited passengers from Canterbury. The 'Crab and Winkle Line', as it affectionately became known, had become the 'first regular steam passenger railway in the world' as stated in the Guinness Book of Records.

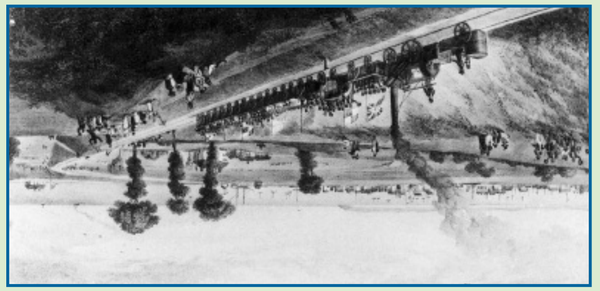
The locomotive and the line were engineered by the famous George Stephenson and his son Robert, at their works in Newcastle upon Tyne. The 'Invicta' was based on Stephenson's more famous 'Rocket' which came into service four months later on the Liverpool to Manchester line. Unfortunately with just 12 horse power the 'Invicta' could not cope with the gradients and was only used on the section of line between Bogshole and South Street. The rest of the line was hauled by cables using steam driven engines at the Windling Pond in Clowes Wood and the Halt on Tyler Hill Road. By 1836 the 'Invicta' was replaced and a third winding engine was built at South Street. The line was a pioneer in railway engineering using embankments, cuttings, level crossings, bridges and an 836 yard (764 metres) tunnel through the high ground at Tyler Hill.

From 1846 the railway was worked with old engines made and ancient carriages always backened by soot from the journey through the tunnel. It was said goods trains tended to slow down for their crews to check pheasant traps in the woods and to pick mushrooms in the fields.

Passengers were carried until 1931 after which the line was used for goods only.

One of the specially cladded 'R' class tank engines bursts out of Tyler Hill tunnel. © NRM Collection.

The locomotive Invicta hauls a train from Whitstable on the opening day of the Canterbury & Whitstable Railway on 3 May 1830. Lithograph by Thomas Boyne. © Canterbury Museums.



The line closed entirely in 1952. It re-opened for several weeks in 1953, after the great floods cut the main coastal line on 31 January. The line was offered for sale in the late 1950s and the tunnel was blocked up when the university was built above it. You can see Invicta on view at the Museum of Canterbury, Stour Street.

The need for a cycle route between the two towns had been recognised for sometime but it was not until 1997 that real planning got underway when a working group from Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and Sustrans was formed. In the same year, a charity, The Crab & Winkle Line Trust was created to promote the line and to make it accessible to the public. The construction of the route took place in 1999 and it was formally launched by Richard King, Chairman of Kent County Council Transport Operations Board, on Sunday October 3rd 1999 at the Windling Pond. Approximately 400 people attended the event. The 'Way' uses about one third of the old railway line, although The Crab & Winkle Line Trust is working with local landowners and organisations to bring more of the line into use.

It is part of Route 1 (inverness to Dover) of the National Cycle Network, developed by Sustrans and its partner organisations.

Because of gradients and the short road sections the route is generally not suitable for wheelchair users, however, the improved path surface has made access easier for less mobile people.

The 'Way' is well signed and this leaflet is intended to provide information to all those who want to explore it. Look out for locally advertised rides, walks and events happening along the 'Way'.

Celebrating the launch of the Crab & Winkle Way at the Windling Pond, October 1999.

"The Crab and Winkle is an excellent example of a zero carbon project. It is designed to have a low impact on the environment. Given the accelerating rates of climate change, global warming and sea level rise, this type of development will help preserve many parts of coastal Kent and the environment in general. It is likely that sea levels will rise by more than a metre during this century and by up to five metres by 2200. Encouraging cycling is one way in which our population can reduce its carbon footprint."

Dr Geoff Meaden, Principal Lecturer in Geography, Canterbury Christ Church University.

The principal contact for the Crab and Winkle Way is:
Ruth Goudie, Kent Highway Services tel: 01233 614181 email ruth.goudie@kent.gov.uk
www.kent.gov.uk

The Crab and Winkle Line Trust
The trust actively promotes the historic railway. It is working with partners to create a path along the line taking residents and visitors over six, traffic free miles between Canterbury and Whitstable.

Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership
The Partnership works closely with landowners & local communities to promote both landscape & nature conservation & develop opportunities for appropriate countryside access & informal recreation.
Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, Sidelands Farm, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5DQ
tel: 01233 813307 email: kentishstour@kent.gov.uk www.kentishstour.org.uk

Spokes – East Kent Cycle Campaign
Spokes was formed in 1994 to campaign for better cycling facilities in East Kent.
Spokes, PO Box 991, Canterbury, Kent CT1 9EL www.spokeseastkent.org.uk

Sustrans and the National Cycle Network
Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, working on practical projects so people can choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. For more information on the National Cycle Network, to find maps and guides, or to become a Sustrans supporter visit or call: www.sustrans.org.uk 0845 113 00 65.

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, its supporters and sponsors will not be held liable for any injury or loss caused on or near the Crab & Winkle Way. You are advised to check the safety of all equipment before setting out and to wear clothing appropriate to the prevailing conditions.
Leaflet feedback to KSCP at kentishstour@kent.gov.uk

To report criminal activity or misuse of the Crab and Winkle Way, contact Canterbury police station on 01227 762055.

The Crab and Winkle Way has been made possible by a number of individuals, including private landowners, and the organisations below.

SPOKES East Kent Cycle Campaign
The National Lottery
Sustrans
Explore Kent
Forestry Commission
Kent County Council

Designed by Nick Evans Communications, Whitstable, for the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership with contributions from the Crab and Winkle Line Trust and Spokes.
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This leaflet has been printed on paper from a renewable and sustainable source

NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK
Route 1

An attractive seven mile, almost traffic free route, following part of the old Canterbury & Whitstable Railway, known affectionately as the Crab & Winkle Line

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