

The Royal Military Canal walks pack

The Royal Military Canal Walks Pack contains ten self-guided walks which lead you along the canal, taking in its history and the local area. Ranging in length from two to nine miles the walks are suitable for all ages and abilities.

To find out how to obtain a copy, contact the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership.



How to get there

Folkestone is served by major train links and Hamstreet, Appledore, Rye and Winchelsea are stops on the Ashford to Hastings railway. It is possible to reach many of the villages close to the canal by public transport.

If you would like help to find your way there by public transport: for buses call 08706 082608, for trains call 08457 484950.

Royal Military Canal

The Royal Military Canal was built as part of the defences against Napoleonic invasion in the early nineteenth century. Although never used for its intended defensive purpose, it is critical for drainage and irrigation on the Romney Marsh.

The Royal Military Canal is a wonderful place for relaxing, walking, or cycling, as well as a haven for wildlife.

Find out more

For more information on the Royal Military Canal go to:
www.royalmilitarycanal.com

Or contact the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership:
Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership,
Romney Marsh Day Centre, Rolfe Lane,
New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR
Tel/fax: 01797 367934
Email: mail@rmcp.co.uk
Website: www.rmcp.co.uk

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership was set up in 1996 with the aim of helping to care for the special landscape and wildlife of the Romney Marsh and Dungeness.

The RMCP is managed by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership with funding from Shepway District Council, Natural England, Magnox South and British Energy part of EDF.

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Original artwork by John Cann.



 *The Royal*
MILITARY CANAL
LE CANAL MILITAIRE ROYAL

Awaiting attack

As part of his plans to conquer Europe, Napoleon intended to invade England. He massed a large army and waited for the right time to invade. The low-lying Romney Marsh was an obvious place to land an invasion force.

DANS L'ATTENTE D'UNE ATTAQUE

Napoléon avait l'intention d'envahir l'Angleterre.

Les terres basses du Marais du Romney constituaient un endroit idéal pour y débarquer une armée.



Can you dig it?

As part of the defences against Napoleon the Royal Military Canal was dug between 1804 and 1809 – by hand. Stretching for 28 miles, and designed to be 19 metres wide and three metres deep, it was hoped it would delay Napoleon's march on London if he got past the British Royal Navy.

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No Napoleon!

The Royal Military Canal was funded entirely by the state and, as Napoleon never invaded, it was derided as a complete waste of money. It was opened to navigation to cover some of the costs,

but gradually fell into disrepair. Today it is crucial for drainage on the Romney Marsh and it is a wonderful place for relaxation. Why not see for yourself?

PAS DE NAPOLEON!

L'invasion Napoléonienne n'eut

jamais lieu et le canal fut considéré comme un gaspillage d'argent. Aujourd'hui, il est crucial pour le drainage et constitue un endroit merveilleux pour se détendre.

To find out more go to www.royalmilitarycanal.com

Life in the wet lane

The Royal Military Canal is an excellent place to see wildlife. Look out for the majestic mute swan gliding peacefully along the canal, or the solitary grey heron waiting patiently for a fish supper.

In summer the canal erupts into a blaze of yellow as the flag iris and the fringed water lily come into flower. The emperor dragonfly can be seen patrolling the canal hunting for insects.

LA VIE DANS LE CHEMIN BOUEUX

Le Canal Militaire Royal est un excellent endroit pour y admirer la faune. Gardez un œil attentif pour y apercevoir le majestueux cygne tuberculé et le héron gris solitaire.



See what you can hear



MARSH FROG

The Royal Military Canal is often awash with sound – whether it's a moorhen squawking nervously or the chattering song of a reed warbler. Listen out for a chuckling sound in spring and summer. This will be the marsh frog, a large green frog whose giggling call has given it the name of the 'laughing frog.'

The importance of the Royal Military Canal for wildlife has led to part being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with the remaining length designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

VOYEZ CE QUE VOUS POUVEZ ENTENDRE

Le canal est souvent rempli de bruits. Prêtez une oreille attentive à l'appel rieur de la grenouille du marais, perceptible au printemps et en été.

Walk the canal

The Royal Military Canal Path follows the entire length of the canal from its start in Seabrook in Kent, to its end at Cliff End in East Sussex. It is possible to walk sections of the canal, linking into paths that explore the surrounding countryside.



MARCHEZ LE LONG DU CANAL

Le sentier du Canal Militaire Royal longe ce dernier sur toute sa longueur allant de Seabrook dans le Kent, jusqu'à Cliff End dans l'East Sussex. Vous pouvez longer à pieds des portions de canal, et rejoindre d'autres sentiers qui explorent la campagne environnante.

Plenty to do

The Royal Military Canal runs for 28 miles to the north of the Romney Marsh from Seabrook in Kent to Cliff End in East Sussex. It passes through the ancient towns of Hythe and Rye and close to numerous picturesque villages.



IL Y A BEAUCOUP A FAIRE

Le Canal Militaire Royal traverse les villes anciennes de Hythe et Rye et passe près de nombreux villages pittoresques.

The canal provides plenty of opportunities for recreation: there are routes for walking, horse riding and cycling along the length of the canal. A six mile stretch from Seabrook to West Hythe Dam has been surfaced to allow better access for cyclists and disabled users and forms part of National Cycle Route 2. Boating and fishing are also popular pastimes on the canal.

For boat hire in Hythe, please contact Hythe Military Canal Boat Hire – 07718 761236 (Easter to end of Oct). To put boats or canoes on the canal at Seabrook and Hythe contact Shepway District Council on 01303 853000 and for the rest of the canal the Environment Agency on 01732 223222. For fishing tickets on the canal, look at the www.royalmilitarycanal.com for details.

Il existe des itinéraires pédestres, équestres ou cyclables tout le long du canal. La promenade en bateau et la pêche font également partie des passe-temps populaires.