

Camber Castle walk



Information about Camber Castle

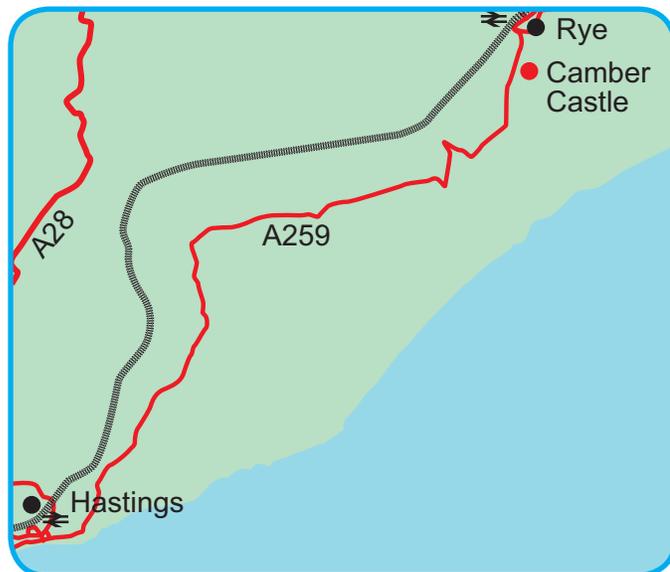
Camber Castle was built in 1539 by Henry VIII to defend the kingdom from the threat of being invaded by France and Spain. Camber Castle was one of a series of forts along the south coast built to defend the harbour. Built on land that was once a shallow harbour protected from the sea by a series of shingle spits, it held a garrison of 42 men and continued to be used until 1637. By this time, the harbour had continued to fill up with silt and the castle was no longer considered to be useful as a method of defence.

The castle, once on the edge of the sea, is now two miles from the coast. It has taken around 500 years for the land to fill up with silt.

The castle is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the months of July, August and September.

Contact Rye Harbour Nature Reserve on 01797 223862 for the times and dates of tours.

Website: www.naturereserve.ryeharbour.org



Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), with some areas marked out as a European Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It is a fascinating nature reserve and worth a visit, whether you want to discover the wildlife and plants or explore its history and simply experience the landscape and enjoy a walk beside the sea.

The reserve is on land built up by the sea over the last 500 years. There are four hides that overlook the pools formed from pits made during gravel mining. Each pool has islands that provide shelter and nesting sites for native and migrant birds all year round. Types of birds that are reducing in number in other parts of the country can still be seen here.



Castle Water

Camber Castle walk

Starting from the car park next to Brede Sluice on Rye Harbour Road, take the footpath signposted from the bend on Rye Harbour Road. The route starts by following the line of the old railway which used to serve the cement, tar and gravel industries of Rye Harbour. From this wide and level path there are good views of Camber Castle to the south.

Continue following the old railway for roughly 730 metres (800 yards) until you reach a gate beside the reed bed. Shortly after the gate, turn right and cross the footbridge. After the bridge, continue along the path ahead, ignoring the path immediately on the left. Keep the fence line on your left-hand side, and the reed bed on your right. Follow the path to the end of the reed bed and turn right to reach another gate. Now follow the path with the fence on your right and Castle Water to your left.

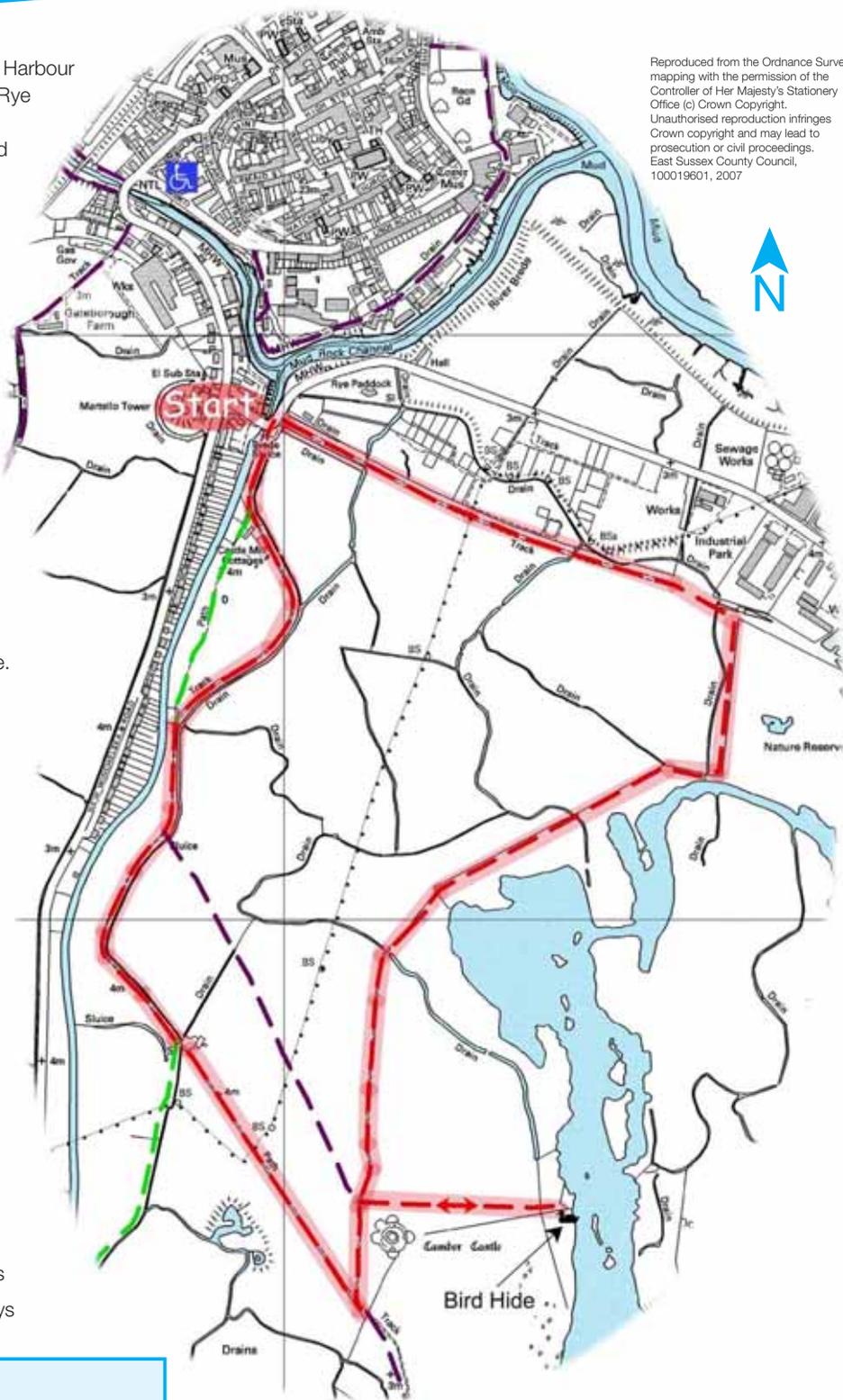
After the next set of gates, continue to follow the path along the edge of the field, now with the fence on your left. Follow the path to the gate beside the willow tree, then on towards the waymark post and Camber Castle. Immediately before reaching the castle, a footpath on the left follows the fence line and leads to the bird hide overlooking Castle Water.

From the front of the castle, continue to follow the path south towards a gate and stile. Turn sharply right just before reaching the stile to follow the path along the edge of the field, keeping the fence on your left. After the next gate, continue to follow the path with the ditch on your right. After bearing right, the path continues with the River Brede on your left. Immediately after the next gate, the path divides, at which point you should take the right-hand route following the line of the ditch on your right.

Turn right at the path junction in front of the cottages, and follow the shingle track beside the river to return to the start of the walk.

Key

- - - Walk route
- - - Other public footpaths
- - - Other public bridleways



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Essential information

Grid reference: TQ 922195

Length: 3½ miles

Route description: A walk on generally level ground. May be wet in places after periods of heavy rain.

Location: Public-transport travel line: 0870 6082608

Services: There is a National Key Scheme (RADAR) toilet (with access for disabled people) at the Heritage Centre at Strand Quay in Rye. The Tourist Information Centre can supply a key once you have paid a deposit.



View from Brede Sluice

Local information

Rye Tourist Information Centre

The Heritage Centre
Strand Quay
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7AY

Phone: 01797 226696

Fax: 01797 223460

Website: www.visitrye.co.uk/

For more information on walks in the area, contact:

Countryside Management Service
Transport and Environment
East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1UE

Phone: 01273 482670

Website: www.eastsussex.gov.uk



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