

Cycling in East Sussex:
Coastal Route Guide

Pevensey Levels & Castles circular



You get a distinct sense of history on this ride, incorporating Pevensey Castle on the Levels before skirting Bexhill for the easy climb north towards Herstmonceux castle.

Pevensey – Hooe

The route starts at Pevensey, site of a Roman fort built over 1000 years before William the Conqueror landed on the beach in 1066. The Normans fortified the remains to build the castle which you can still visit today. Continue east along Sluice Lane to Norman's Bay, with occasional views across the long shingle beach and out into the English Channel. When you reach Cooden Beach train station on the western edge of Bexhill, pass under the bridge and cycle north through Little Common before plunging into the lush countryside with glimpses of lovely buildings and oast houses to the south of Hooe. Keep an eye out for the amazing chimneys of Court Lodge along Kiln Lane.

Herstmonceux – Pevensey

Crossing the B2095 takes you down onto the levels, towards the ramparts of Herstmonceux Castle and domes of Herstmonceux Observatory, a former home to the Royal Greenwich Observatory and now a science centre. A bridleway takes you through woodland to the south of the castle, rejoining the lanes near the church. The route south to Rickney across the Pevensey Levels is idyllic cycling countryside – flat and quiet lanes with fine views to the surrounding rim of hills eventually taking you all the way back to Pevensey.

Places of Interest

Pevensey Castle The historical development of the castle is still visible, from the earliest Roman and Norman bailey walls to gun emplacements and pill boxes from World War II.

Phone: 01323 762604

Website: english-heritage.org.uk

Herstmonceux Castle The spectacular 15th-century moated castle is set within 500 acres of parkland and gardens (including an Elizabethan garden).

Phone: 01323 833816

Website: herstmonceux-castle.com

Observatory Science Centre One of the country's leading science centres, Herstmonceux's hands-on approach puts the emphasis on experimenting and finding out for yourself.

Phone: 01323 832731

Website: the-observatory.org.uk

The **Pevensey Levels** are the largest tract of wetland in East Sussex and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A Nature Reserve lies in the heart of a large grazing marsh, home to many species of wildfowl and rare plants.

Starting point

Pevensey & Westham Train Station

Distance

24 miles / 38 kms

Off road/rough sections

Short bridleway section through woodland near to Herstmonceux Castle

Grade

Easy / Moderate

Major climbs

Between leaving the coast at Cooden and arriving at the Pevensey Levels west of Herstmonceux Church there are half a dozen climbs of 30m-40m

Refreshments

Pevensey, Cooden, Hooe Common, Wartling, Herstmonceux

Tourist Information Centres

Eastbourne: 0871 6630031

(calls charged at 10p per min from BT land lines)

Bexhill: 01424 773721

Cycle Shop and Repairs

Bexhill: Wheelies: 01424 213634

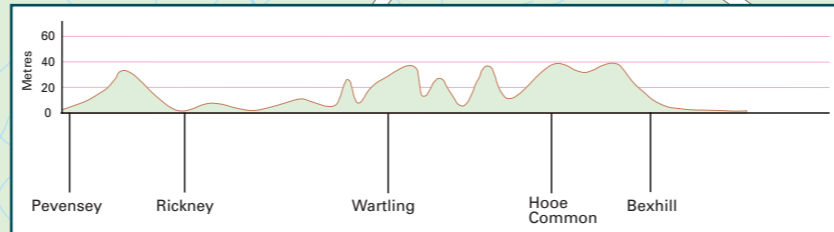
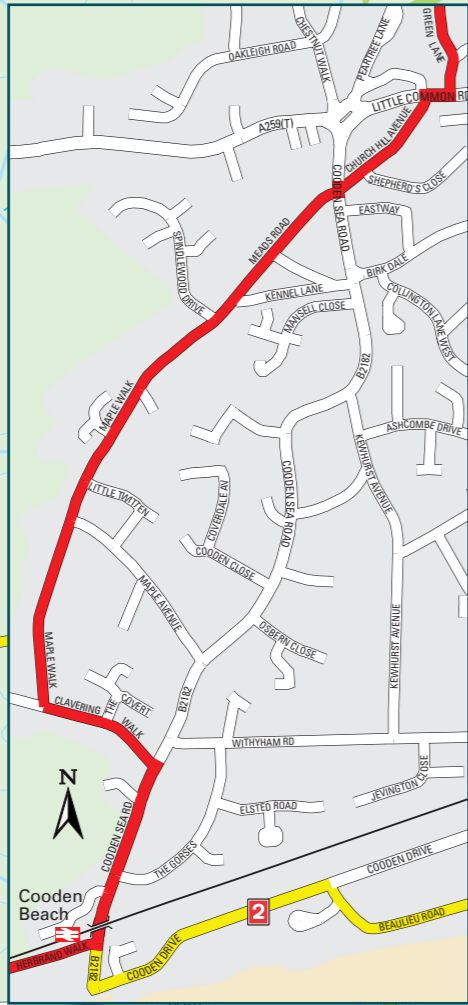
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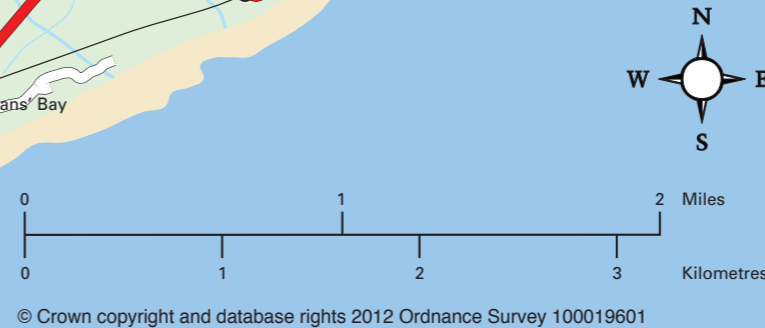
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Tour de la Manche



- Circular Route (On Road)
- Traffic Free Sections
- National Cycle Network (On Road)
- A Road
- B Road
- Minor Road (arrow indicates steep hill pointing downhill)
- Railway (with Level Crossing)
- Follow Road Sign as Marked
- Church
- Castle
- Pub
- Pevensey Bay Railway Station (with name)
- Take Care!
- Tourist Information Centre
- Car Parking
- Start of route



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