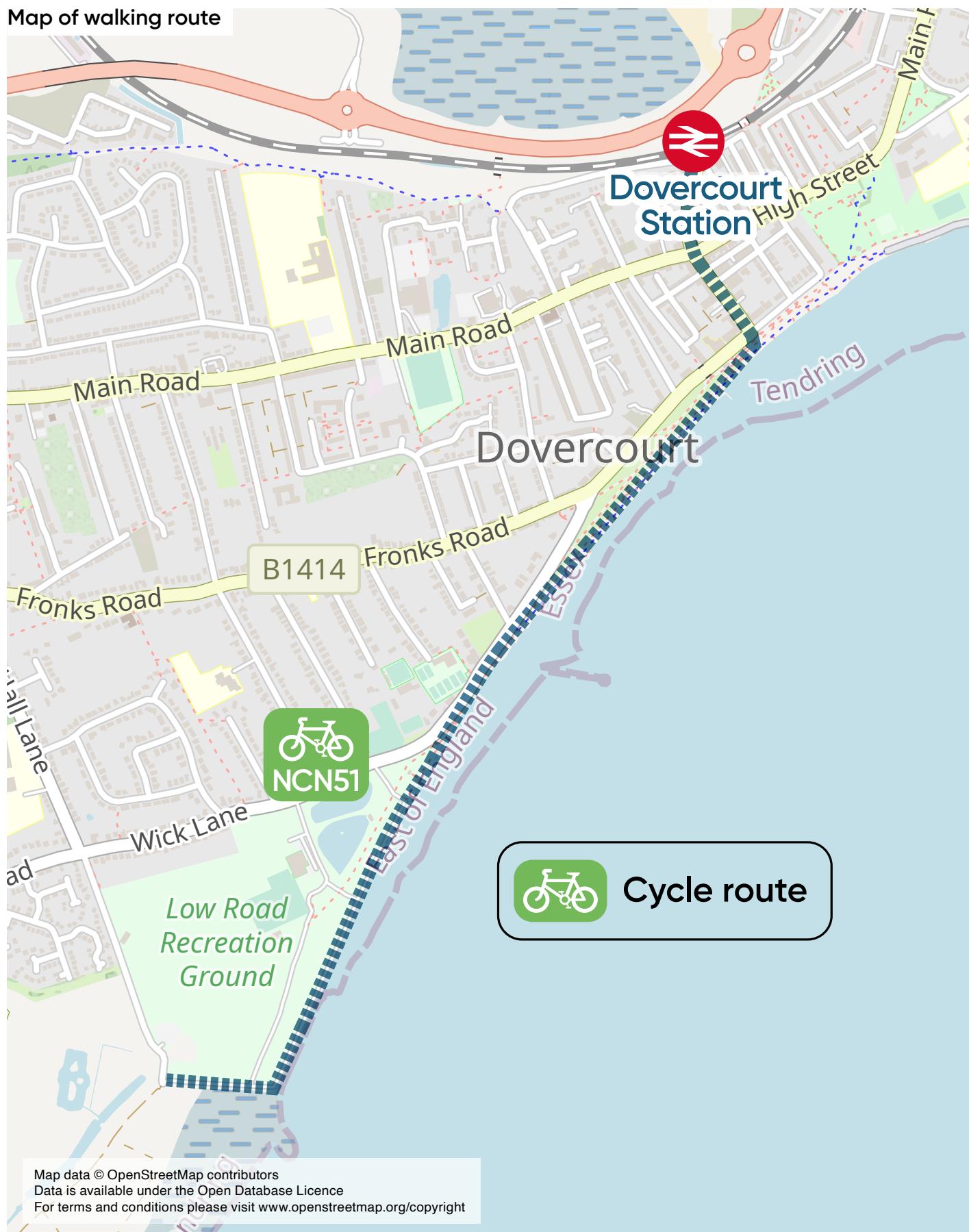


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Dovercourt Station to Dovercourt Bay

Map of walking route



Dovercourt Bay is a tranquil family seaside resort with gentle shelving sand and shingle beaches near Harwich. A wide range of family activities are available along the promenade.

Planning Your Walk

- Approximate length: minimum of 2 miles circular walk or an option of a longer walk to take in Harwich.
- This walk is part of the North Sea Cycle Route (51) and shares the wide promenade with cycles. Suitable for families and children's buggies. Wheelchair accessibility may be limited to using the pavement running parallel to, and above the promenade.
- Cafes near Dovercourt Station and also on the promenade.

Directions

1. As you leave Dovercourt Station there is the station garden to your left which has benches and is looked after by Dovercourt Station volunteers. Across the road you will see a finger post, take the right hand fork (fingerpost sign to the beach) and walk up Kingsway. You will pass a coffee shop, a bakery and food shops. Cross over the High Street, continuing straight on up Kingsway and you will see a statue of Queen Victoria ahead of you which is a ten minute walk from the station.
2. Interesting features in Kingsway are the Kingsway mural on the left which depicts people having fun on the sandy beach and was completed in 2020. After the mural is Kingsway Hall which has a history as a non-conformist Church and is now a Community Arts Centre.
3. On the right is The Bottle Kiln, a pub and eatery situated in the old Co-op building which has an art deco style facade. Much of Kingsway was given over to brickworks and kilns – in 1881 it had 12 cement kilns and drying flues as well as 14 bottle kilns.
4. When you get to the statue of Queen Victoria you will have a brilliant view of the North Sea, the promenade and beach which stretches to Harwich on the left and around Dovercourt Bay to the right. Take a minute to read the information board next to the statue.
5. Look left and you will see the vast cranes of Felixstowe Docks and Landguard Fort. Look right and you will see two low lighthouses in the distance which are often photographed at sunset and look stunning when the tide is in or out. This is the direction you are heading.
6. There are several routes down to the promenade and beach, some more accessible than others.
7. The most accessible and recommended route is reached by walking left for less than a minute in the direction of Felixstowe cranes. You will see a covered seating area, and just beyond a sloping walkway to the right down to the promenade. Before making your way to the promenade take a moment to sit and watch the containers sailing past on their way to the Docks. There are plenty of other benches on the grass area on the left where you can sit and admire the view.



Dovercourt Lighthouse

8. When you reach the lower promenade turn right towards the low lighthouses (if you turn left it would take you via the promenade into Harwich).
9. It takes about 20 minutes to walk to the low lighthouses, walking along a wide, flat promenade with benches to rest on the way, or you may wish to walk along the sandy beach depending on the tide. There are plenty of interesting things to look for on the beach including, the dark and leathery mermaids purses which are the used egg cases of sharks and skates created to develop and protect their babies. You will also see interesting shells and stones. Don't forget to look back at the changing views of the Docks. On a clear day look across the horizon to see Walton-on-the-Naze tower.
10. When you reach the lighthouses you'll find a small information plaque on the wall on the right. These lighthouses consist of a high light and a low light which formed a pair of leading lights so that ships could see one light above another and steer a safe course to the harbour.
11. At this point across the road on the right there are toilets, a café, a roller skating rink and seating areas.
12. Continue along the promenade where you will see lots of colourful beach huts. Behind the beach huts there is a lake where you can hire boats, seated picnic areas, a skateboard park and a leisure centre with a swimming pool. These can be accessed through a path between the beach huts.
13. There was a Warners Holiday camp in Dovercourt and between 1979 and 1987 it was known as Maplins Holiday Camp and was used to film "Hi de Hi."
14. On your return to the station you can either meander back the way you came or use the upper path.
15. Once back at your starting point on the promenade you can continue for about 15 minutes to Harwich. Here you can visit the Ha'penny Pier which is one of the UK's only surviving working wooden piers. You'll also find cafes and toilets and an information centre on the Pier. There are also a number of historic attractions. You can also get the train back from Harwich Station which is a two minute ride from Dovercourt Station.