



Where to find us

Come and see where it all began...



This is a scene from the Bayeux Tapestry which depicts the story of the Battle of Hastings. The Tapestry came to London from Autumn 2026 to Summer 2027.

Guillaume of Normandy landed at Pevensey on 28/9/1066 and became known as William the Conqueror.

2027 is the Year of the Normans – 1000 years since Guillaume was born.

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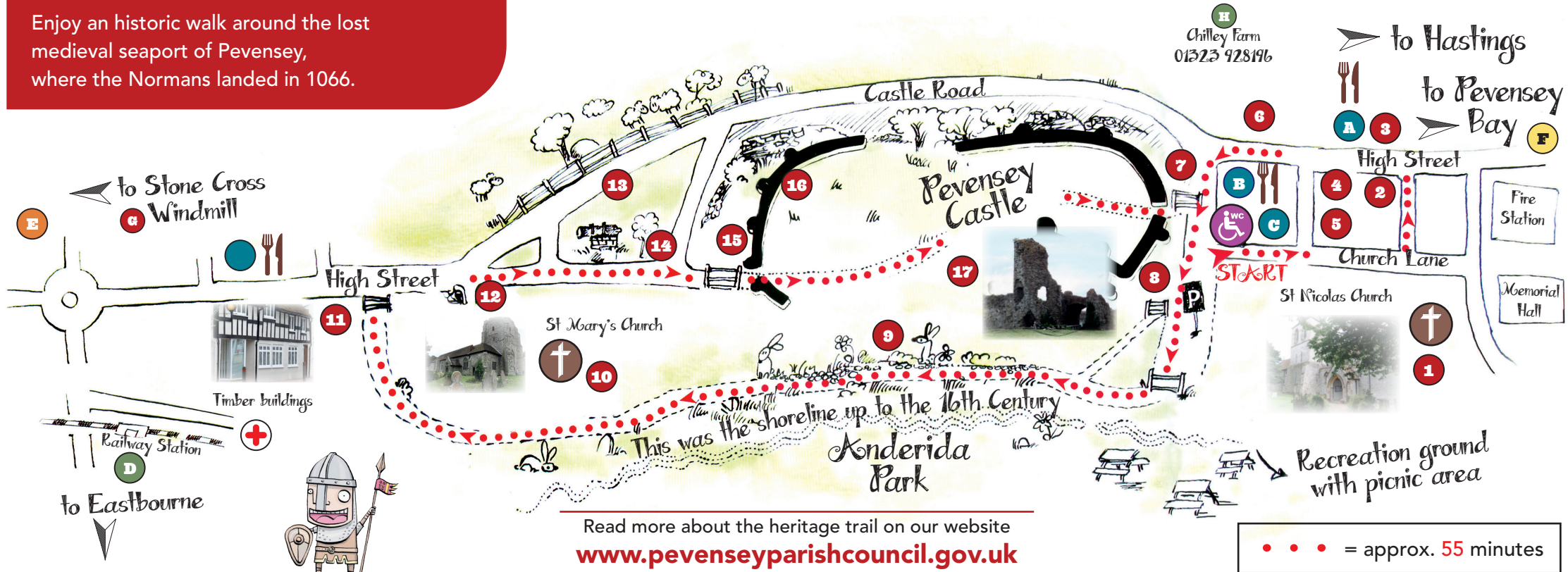
Key:

- Places of Historic Interest
- Pub/Restaurant
- Camping/Accommodation
- Vet
- Garage
- WC
- Doctors
- Church



- St Nicolas Church
- Banks Lodge
- The Smugglers Inn
- The Court House & Museum
- By The Way
- The Mint House
- East Gate
- The Cattle Market
- The Saxon Shoreline
- St Mary's Church
- Timber Buildings: The Old Oak House, The Dial House, Tudor House, Old George House
- The Squeeze Gate
- The Cannon
- The Old Corner House
- West Gate
- Roman Walls
- Eagle Tower

Enjoy an historic walk around the lost medieval seaport of Pevensey, where the Normans landed in 1066.



Read more about the heritage trail on our website
www.pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

• • • = approx. 55 minutes

Visit Pevensey and discover England's lost Medieval seaport where the Norman Conquest began in 1066

Pevensey Castle was named Anderitum when it was built around 290AD. The castle is one of the largest and strongest of the Roman 'Saxon Shore' forts. It was the landing place of William the Conqueror's army in 1066. In the 1250's the towered bailey wall was constructed, and soon put to the test during the great siege of 1264. It is believed that the wallflowers growing on the walls of the castle are native to Normandy and were carried to Pevensey at the time of the Norman invasion.



Over the years local folk took the stones from the castle walls and you can see them in many buildings in the village. **The Eagle Tower** is the entrance to the Norman Castle. The Inner Bailey, essentially a castle within a castle, is constructed mainly of white Caen stone, and was reached by passing over a 68ft long wooden drawbridge. Just inside are the dungeons. The sea once lapped the walls of Pevensey Castle, and Pevensey

Bay was built on land reclaimed from the sea. Here several well preserved **Napoleonic Martello Towers** can be found, as well as a terrace of old fishermen's cottages.

The Court House and Museum, High Street Pevensey was not only the Court House, but was one of the smallest Town Halls in England. There are still two small cells at ground level. Parts of the building date back to the 16th century.



The Mint House is one of the most interesting buildings in South East England. The present building was erected during the 16th century and is undergoing significant restoration. It is now known as the Home of Sussex Folklore.



St Nicolas Church, Pevensey, was built early in the 13th Century and completed in 1216. It is classed as a Grade 1 Listed Building, showing that it is of considerable historic importance.

It is a good example of the Early English style of architecture, and has been changed very little since its completion. The structure is massive masonry, with a large proportion of Eastbourne Greensand, similar to the Roman part of the castle, and facings of local flint.

There are 3 crosses in the stone of the archway to the left of the door. These are thought to have been carved by Crusaders when leaving for war, with the largest embellished upon the return of the Crusader who carved it.

St Mary's Church in Westham, to the west of Pevensey Castle, is believed to be the first church that the Norman's built.



The squeeze gate, in the north wall of the Churchyard, is a very old and quaint gateway. It was built to allow people in and out of the churchyard, while keeping the cattle that wandered in the high street out. Westham also boasts some very fine timber framed houses.



Visit Pevensey and Pevensey Bay

PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Including our Heritage Trail Map!

Walk the Heritage Trail



1066

1066 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN SUSSEX

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Pevensey Bay

About Pevensey Bay



Pevensey Bay is in a unique position, nestled beneath the South Downs National Park, and between the sea and beautiful countryside. A wonderful base for a seaside holiday, the nearby villages offer a myriad of things to see and do, all within easy reach.

To the south – well go any further and you will be swimming! Our sprawling bay offers miles of sand when the tide goes out, just right for sandcastles, and the shallow waters are ideal for paddling. High tide offers swimming in clean waters. Pevensey Bay, our seaside resort, has a small high street with a good choice of cafés, pubs, restaurants and takeaways.

Pevensey and Westham are steeped in history, with the **Castle** between the two villages. We boast 1066 and all that – the beginnings of History as we know it. Why not take a walk by the river and over the fields to Pevensey Bay. Our heritage trail takes you round the village, a lost medieval seaport. Take a Ghost Walk around the **Castle**. Or if you feel more energetic the 1066 Country Walk begins here.



Herstmonceux Castle houses a Science Centre complete with Observatory. **Alfriston** offers quaint streets and even a zoo. **The Long Man of Wilmington**, towers above the pretty village of Wilmington, and a white horse, cut into the hill, looks down over **Litlington**. **Lewes** and its shops “with a difference” is only a short journey away. Many historic houses and beautiful gardens are within easy reach.



Napoleonic Martello Towers are well preserved on the beaches of Normans Bay, Pevensey Bay and Eastbourne. Slightly inland, the sails turn regularly at Stone Cross Windmill.

One of the finest late generation Grade II* listed Windmills to be built in England, **Stone Cross Windmill**, a working mill, is open to the public. It's unique position on the high ground to the west of Pevensey, saw it marked in the Admiralty charts as a reference point for shipping.

Eastbourne offers all you might need, including culture at its 4 theatres, museums, and an art gallery. There is a pier and a good selection of shops to browse and many restaurants to choose from. There are children's play parks, and a swimming pool complete with flume and waves. Just 1 mile from Pevensey Bay is Sovereign Harbour where you can while away time watching the many boats come and go. **Beachy Head** offers spectacular views inland as well as over the sea. Look back along the coast to see our bay – it is huge! Walk far enough and you will reach the famous Seven Sisters chalk cliffs.



Brighton, a cosmopolitan city, is just the other side of the South Downs National Park. Visit the Royal Pavilion in all its splendour or take a flight on The Brighton Eye. Walk along the pier, play “penny machines” and marvel at the huge Sand Sculptures. Of course there are theatres, countless eateries and shops to browse. The North Laine is bohemian and so interesting, while The Lanes nearer to the sea offer quality jewellery and open up into squares.

Hastings Old Town is unique. Built under the cliffs, there are narrow streets with all manner of shops. Marvel at the old fishing sheds or take a historic lift on the cliff face to visit Hastings Castle or St Clements Caves. Further along the coast is **Rye**, with its cobbled street leading down to fishing huts beside the river. A place well worth a visit. Ride on the Romney to Hythe miniature railway, and go back in time as you drive to the wild beach at Dungeness.

Of course it goes without saying that **London** and all it has to offer is a “must” day out when you are in the area. Its only just over an hour away by train from Eastbourne – and you can take the train from Pevensey and Westham station.

