

The River Dour

Dover's Industrial and Technological Artery



La Rivière Dour -

L'artère Industrielle et Technologique de Douvres

The River Dour - Dover's Industrial & Technological Artery.

How to use this leaflet

Each background colour corresponds to an area of interest to explore, ranging from the beautiful rural source areas, the forgotten urban villages, bustling Dover town, or the famous harbour.

Comment utiliser ce prospectus.

Chaque couleur correspond à une zone d'intérêt ; rurales, villages oubliés, ville de Douvres ou port.



Follow this map and signs along the way to plan your journey back in time, when industry thrived, bringing growth and prosperity to the area.

En se promenant le long de la rivière, on peut imaginer une autre époque et une industrie ancienne et vigoureuse apportant une prospérité importante à la région.

Each section along the river is approximately 1.5km of easy walking terrain.

Chaque section de la rivière représente approximativement 1,5 km de terrain facile.

Geology

The River Dour is a small river, one of the purest in Kent, naturally filtered from the chalk beds of the North Downs.

La Dour est une des rivières les plus pures du Kent, filtrée naturellement par les lits de calcaire.

Industry

Why is this river special?

The River Dour was a vital power source to local industry. Its clean and pure water was particularly attractive to paper makers, brewers and soft drink manufacturers.

La Rivière Dour fut une source d'énergie importante pour les industries locales.



▲ Upper Buckland paper mill

Rural Beginnings

Where does the River Dour start?

There are two spring-fed sources. One surfaces at Drellingore which flows through the lake at Bushy Ruff, into Russell Gardens and Kearsney.

The other source is at Watersend, flowing through the village of Temple Ewell, into Kearsney Manor.

The two watercourses converge flowing from Kearsney Abbey towards River and Crabble.

La Rivière Dour a deux sources qui se joignent dans le domaine de l'abbaye de Kearsney.



▲ Lake at Bushy Ruff



▲ Leat at Crabble corn mill



▲ Ruins of river paper mill

Urban Villages

Ancient history

Mills have been part of the history of Buckland and Charlton probably since Saxon times.

Over the centuries, the River Dour was diverted for use in the mills and breweries built within these two ancient settlements.

Des moulins et des brasseries s'installèrent dans les hameaux de Buckland et Charlton.



▲ Buckland paper mill 1770. Original painting by T. Forest.



▲ Upper Buckland paper mill

What has changed ?

In the boom of the Victorian era, housing was developed here. The villages, engulfed in the expansion of Dover, became suburban.

Today there is even more residential development, replacing yet reflecting the industrial activity of the past.



▲ Charlton

Dover Town

In the oldest part of town many industries existed including breweries, a tannery, flour mills, a mineral water company and a saw mill.

Dans la vieille ville les activités industrielles comprenaient des brasseries, une tannerie, des moulins à farines, production d'eau potable et une scierie.



▲ Sternbrook had a flour mill and a tannery.



▲ The River Dour at Pencerter Gardens where there used to be a timber yard.

The Harbour

The estuary has been important to Dover's inhabitants since very early times. Early settlers would have used it as a safe haven for boats, and a fresh water supply.

L'estuaire fut important pour les habitants de Douvres depuis les temps les plus reculés.

During 16th century, near the mouth of the river, a shingle spit formed which led to the construction of a dock called the Pent. Pent up water would be released at low tide to wash away silt and shingle from the river mouth.

Queen Elizabeth 1 was influential in the restoration and later development of the harbour.



▲ Wellington Dock (previously called the Pent)