

LDWA Kent Group
White Cliffs Challenge 2025
Saturday/Sunday 30/31 August 2025



Report

<https://ldwa.org.uk/kent>

Mere mortal walkers are awed by those who turned up for the event, went down to the seafront and did the local parkrun, came back and set off for 51 miles. Entrants came from Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and France, which isn't as far as Scotland, you can see it from the cliffs. Thank you to those who notified in advance they could no longer come leaving 142 who set off; 141 in the right direction and one who fell afoul of the perils of GPS watches and tried the route anticlockwise instead. Read the route description! Having got far enough round to meet friends coming the right way, they did the 2nd half, again, correctly this time. 120 successfully finished.

Starting from Betteshanger Sports & Social Club on the edge of Deal the route was little changed from three years previously apart from the approach to Etchinghill to avoid walking along an uncomfortably busy road. So, across country to join the cliffs above Kingsdown; follow the coast to and beyond Dover; North Downs Way behind the Channel Tunnel and on to Farthing Common; Elham Valley Walk to Bishopsbourne then more NDW before cross country back to Deal. Distances were taken from those generated by OSMaps; some GPS devices may have differed.

After weeks of constantly dry weather the remnants of hurricane Erin arrived for our weekend. Overnight rain had dried, and everyone set off in pleasant conditions. Along the White Cliffs, particularly after Dover, the wind was strengthening and disconcerting some, in your face but buffeting walkers away from the edge. Then the rain began. Not heavy, but persistently wetting until a few respites under cover of darkness extended to give later finishers clearing dawn skies. As a final challenge the farmer had, a few days before, ploughed the final field. A trail of muddy footprints on the following pavement was telling.

Wesley McCulloch, David Spring, Jan O'Rourke, Mary Dumble, Tony Cartwright & Peter Johnson completed the Marshals' Walk

As part of the KSS Triple Challenge checkpoints 1 & 2 were manned by our friends from Surrey & Sussex.

Other helpers were:

HQ: Dale Moorhouse, Vic Clapson, Penny Southern, Cathy Waters, Gwyneth Littlejohn, Camilla Keller, Helen Lennon, Russell Thwaites

CP3 Etchinghill: Eve Richards, Jan O'Rourke, Neal O'Rourke, Michael Headley, Andrew Melling, Mike Pursey

CP4 Elham: Ros Humphreys, Caroline Curtis, Brent Parker, Nicola Foad, Sarah Leaver

CP5 Bishopsbourne: David Thornton, Helen Strong, Don Newman

CP6 Nonington: David Spring, Rob Woodward, Peter Johnson, Sylvia Spring

Mobile repatriation: Dale Moorhouse & Peter Jull

Peter Jull

Lead Organiser

Lost property: Aftershock earphones; iPhone charging lead; pot of petroleum jelly; pair of North Face walking boots with socks; black & orange Crivet fleece; grey & black Columbia jacket; Aftershock walking pole; black Ted Baker top. Contact walks.kent@ldwa.org.uk