



Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

Deep water

A self guided walk in Harwich on the Essex coast



Explore one of Britain's largest maritime centres
Visit a natural harbour and a manmade beach
Discover how waves, warships and wealth shaped the town
Find out how water has been both friend and foe for centuries

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the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

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Deep water

Discover how the sea has been both friend and foe to Harwich over the centuries

At 350 miles long the Essex coast is one of the longest of any county in Britain.

On a map the eastern edge is cut with jagged indentations like crooked fingers. These are the estuaries of the county's many rivers and Harwich, at the mouth of both the Orwell and the Stour, is a good place to start exploring this estuarine landscape.

The story of Harwich is a maritime tale. It's about how water has shaped not only the physical aspect of the town but also its character.



Harwich beach facing Felixstowe port
Caroline Millar © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain



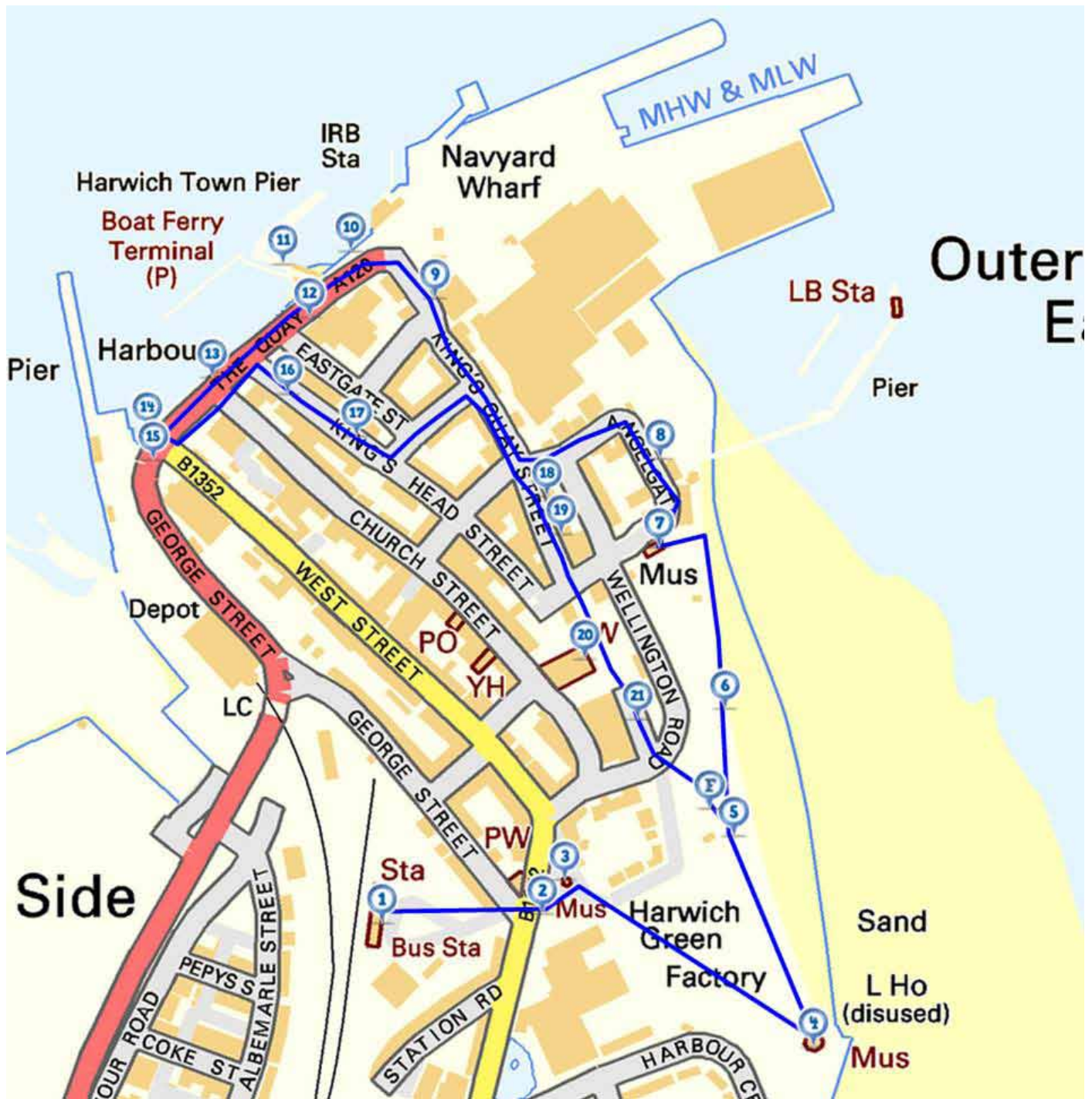
Aerial view of Harwich and Felixstowe
© The Harwich Society

Explore Harwich and you'll discover a town full of surprises. Find out how a twelfth century tidal wave created a natural harbour and changed the fortunes of the town forever.

See evidence of a naval shipyard which built the greatest warships of the day.

Be awed by the spectacular structures of Felixstowe container port and discover how Harwich became the gateway to the Continent.

Route overview



Practical information

Location	Harwich, Essex, East of England
Getting there	<p>Train - The walk starts at Harwich Town station - not to be confused with Harwich International. To access Harwich Town change at Manningtree (average 1 train per hour)</p> <p>Services run to Manningtree from Colchester, Ipswich, Norwich and London Liverpool Street</p> <p>Car - Harwich can be accessed from Junction 29 of the A12. The nearest car parks are at The Quay and Wellington Road (charges apply)</p> <p>Bus - Harwich is served by a variety of local buses and long distance coaches, including from Colchester (routes 101, 103 and 104) and Clacton (route 129)</p>
Start point	Harwich Town railway station, CO12 3NA
Finish point	The Esplanade near the Low Lighthouse, CO12 3NJ
Onward journey	The route is almost circular. To return to Harwich Town station head towards the High Lighthouse; the road up to the station is directly opposite.
Distance	1¼ miles
Level	Gentle - A flat route along the esplanade and back through the old town
Conditions	A small section of the walk is alongside the sea wall. On wet and windy days there isn't much shelter, so wrap up warm. Take care by the water's edge and by busy roads.

Suitable for

Families - plenty of sights to interest children

Dogs - should be kept on a lead in the town centre

Wheelchairs and pushchairs - an entirely step-free route

Refreshments

Various cafés, pubs and restaurants including:

- Ha'penny Pier café (Stop 11)
- The Pier Hotel (between Stop 11 and 12) good for coffees, lunch and dinner
- The Alma Inn (Stop 17) pub and dining rooms, local ales, wood fires

Facilities

Public toilets at Harwich Town railway station and on The Quay next to the Pier Hotel (after Stop 11)

Places to visit

Harwich Maritime Museum, The Lifeboat Museum and **Harwich Redoubt Fort** are maintained by **The Harwich Society**. All open daily 10am-5pm from 1 May to 31 Aug. For more info contact the Society: www.harwich.net/society (Tel: 01255 503429)

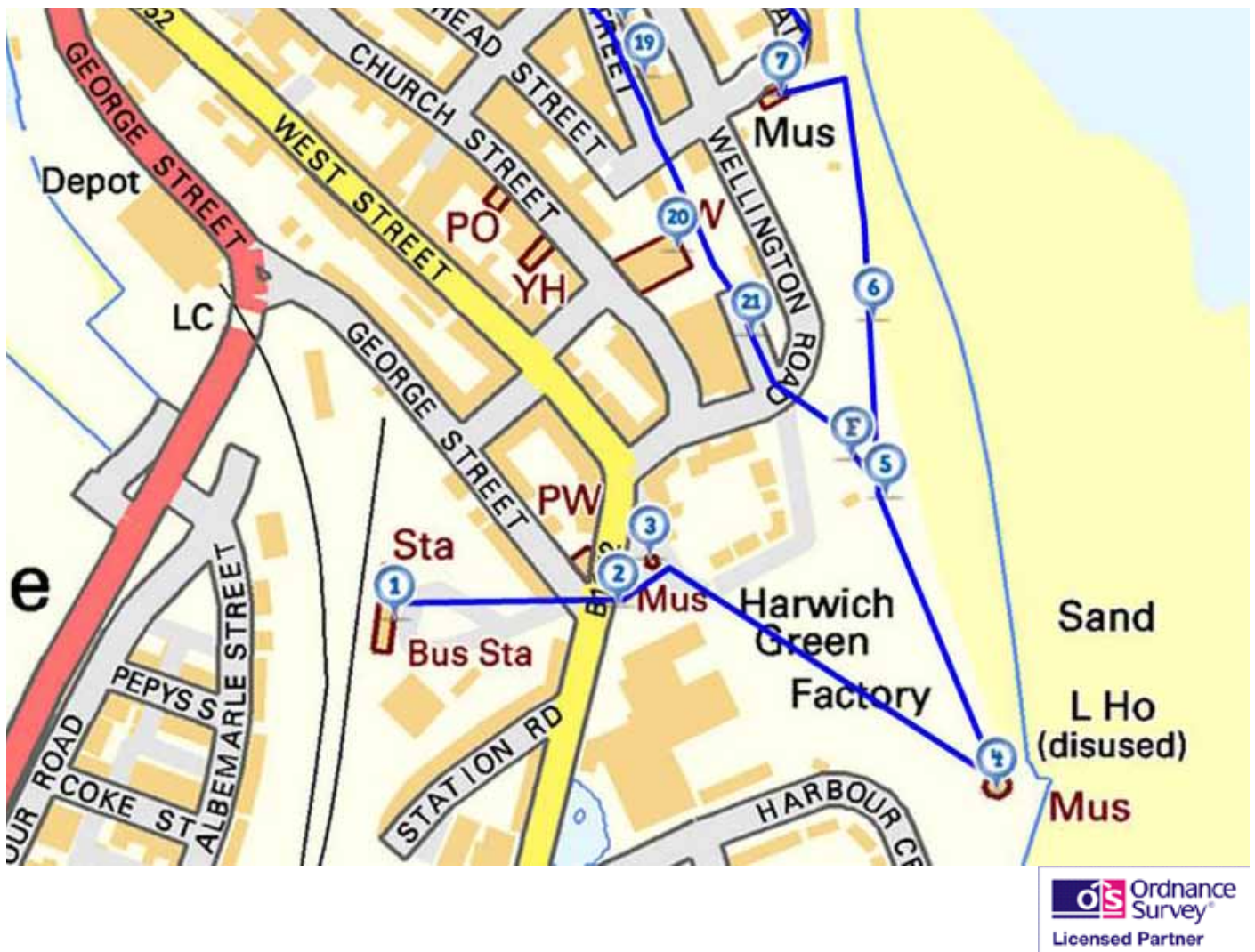
The Harwich Society care for **Bobbit's Hole Nature Reserve** at nearby Dovercourt. Open Sundays 10am -12 noon. **Hamford Water NNR** and **Wrabness Local Nature Reserve** are also nearby

The Electric Palace Cinema is open at weekends for members only. Annual membership £4 adults, £2 concs, £1 children, guest membership £1 (Tel: 01255 553 333)

Tourist information

Ha'penny Pier Visitor Centre
The Quay, Harwich CO12 3HH (Tel: 01255 503429)

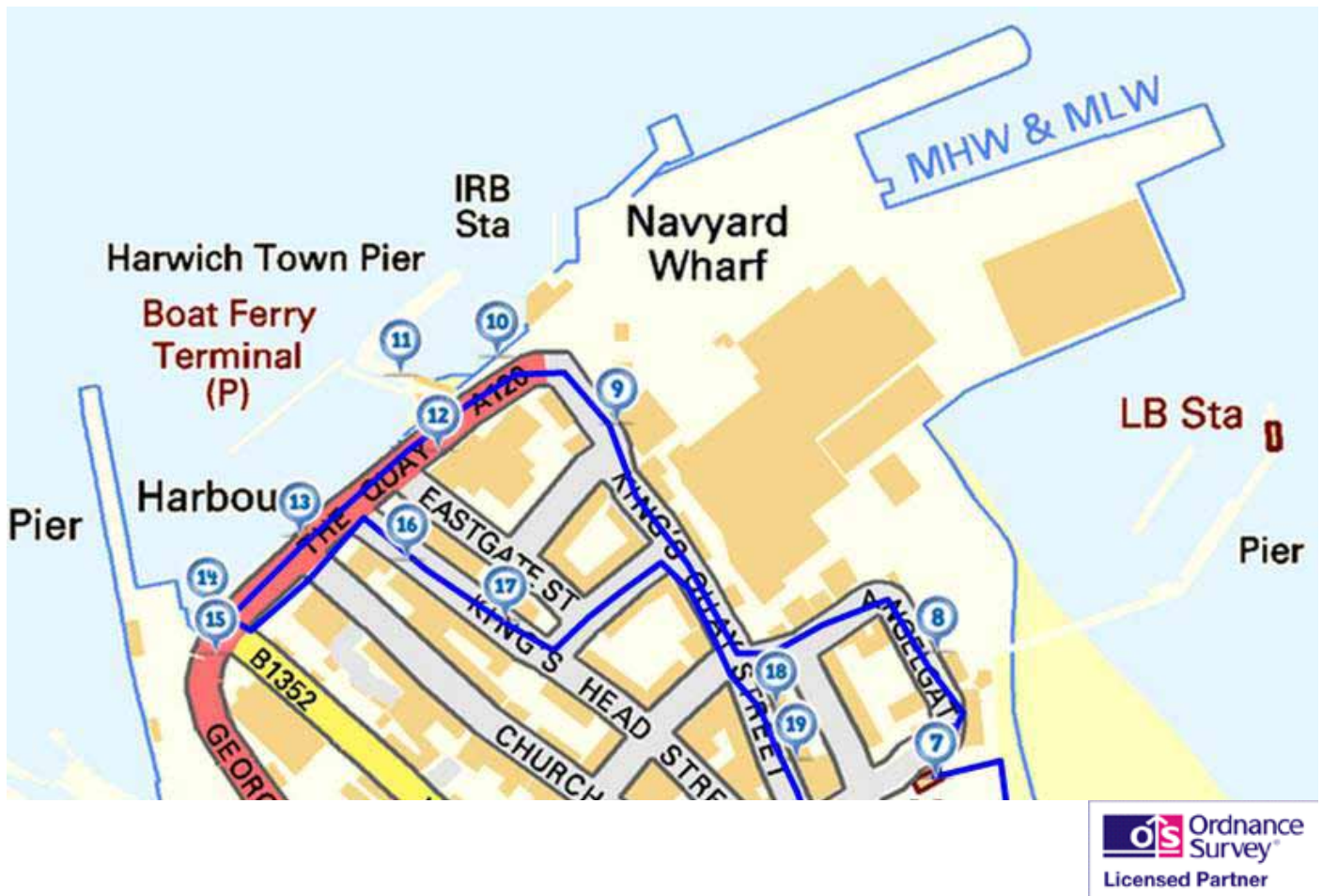
Detail of the start and end of the route



Stopping points

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Harwich Town railway station | 19. The Electric Palace, King's Quay Street |
| 2. Old Harwich buoy, Main Road | 20. St Nicholas Church |
| 3. High Lighthouse, Main Road | 21. 24-34 King's Quay Street |
| 4. Low Lighthouse, Harbour Crescent | 22. The Esplanade, facing the sea |
| 5. Treadwheel Crane, Harwich Green | |
| 6. Harwich Beach foreshore | |
| 7. Lifeboat Museum, Wellington Road | |

Detail of the middle section of the route



Stopping points

- 8. Angelgate Cottages
- 9. View of Navyard Wharf from King's Quay Street
- 10. LV18 Lightship, Harwich harbour
- 11. Ha'penny Pier. The Quay
- 12. Former Great Eastern Hotel, The Quay
- 13. Merchant Navy Memorial, The Quay
- 14. View of Harwich International Port from the Quay
- 15. Trinity House, The Quay
- 16. Christopher Jones's house, 21 King's Head Street
- 17. The Alma Inn, 25 King's Head Street
- 18. Old School House, 42-45 King's Quay Street

Directions

These directions are for use with the Harwich walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Harwich

Harwich Town railway station

Directions 1

From Harwich Town railway station, walk out of the station approach road and past the grass roundabout. Cross over the road. Stop beside the large red and white buoy and listen to Track 2.

2. Oh buoy

Old Harwich buoy, Main Road

Directions 2

Go round the buoy. Stop by the tall brick lighthouse and listen to Track 3.

3. Leave a light on for me

High Lighthouse, Main Road

Directions 3

From the High Lighthouse head across the Green. Stop beside the Low Lighthouse and listen to Track 4.

4. Misleading light

Low Lighthouse, Harbour Crescent

Directions 4

From here you have a good view of the mouth of the estuary with Felixstowe on the other side. When you are ready follow the seawall with the sea on your right and the Green on your left. Stop when you reach a black timber building and listen to Track 5.

5. People power

Treadwheel crane, Harwich Green

Directions 5

From the Treadwheel crane continue alongside the seawall. Stop when you get to the white sandy beach and listen to Track 6.

6. Life's a beach

Harwich Beach Foreshore

Directions 6

Continue along the promenade until it ends. Turn left and stop in front of the building that looks a bit like a chapel and listen to Track 7.

7. Lifesavers

Lifeboat Museum, Wellington Road

Directions 7

From the Lifeboat Museum follow the road between the Harwich Sailing Club and a row of houses. Stop when you reach a small square of brick cottages on the left (opposite a car park with a large anchor in the middle) and listen to Track 8.

8. Flood!

Angel Gate Cottages, Angel Gate

Directions 8

Pass the cottages and follow the road around to the left. This road is Outport Eastward which leads to Wellington Road. Pass Wellington Road and go along King's Quay Street. Carry on for about 100 metres. Stop when you reach a wire fence on the right where you'll see two wooden boards and a bell. Listen to Track 9.

9. Shipshape

View of Navyard Wharf from King's Quay Street

Directions 9

Continue ahead. Take care crossing the entrance to the Navyard as it is still a working dockyard. Follow the path up to the Quay. Stop when you can see a red and white boat moored offshore and listen to Track 10.

10. A lonely life

LV18 lightship, Harwich harbour

Directions 10

Continue a short way along the Quay to the Ha'penny Pier and listen here to Track 11.

11. Pier with a view

Ha'penny Pier, The Quay

Directions 11

Remain at the pier. Look directly across the road at the large, four storey, yellow brick building with the clock in the centre and listen to Track 12.

12. At the end of the line

Former Great Eastern Hotel, The Quay

Directions 12

Continue along the Quay. Stop when you reach the grey obelisk of the Merchant Navy memorial and listen to Track 13.

13. In memoriam

Merchant Navy Memorial, The Quay

Directions 13

Continue a little further along the Quay to a mini roundabout. Stand by the sea wall. Look across to the cranes of Harwich International Port and listen to Track 14.

14. Harwich for the continent

Harwich International Port, visible from The Quay

Directions 14

Remain on the Quay. Turn to face the modern grey building on the opposite side of the street and listen to Track 15.

15. The lighthouse family
Trinity House Depot, The Quay

Directions 15

Retrace your steps a short way and use the traffic island to cross the road. Turn left and walk back along the Quay in the opposite direction to the way you have just been. Cross over Church Street and then take the next right down King's Head Street. Stop by the first white house on the right and listen to Track 16.

16. America starts here
Christopher Jones's house, 21 King's Head Street

Directions 16

Cross the road. Stop outside The Alma Inn and listen to Track 17.

17. A battle for a pint
The Alma Inn, 25 King's Head Street

Directions 17

Continue along King's Head Street until you reach St Austin's Lane. Turn left follow the lane to the end. Turn right into King's Quay Street. At the junction where there is a small grassy area go straight ahead into a narrow lane. Stop outside the second building on the left (house numbers 42, 44 and 45) and listen to Track 18.

18. Oh captain, my captain
Old School House, 42-45 King's Quay Street

Directions 18

Move along to the next building, the Electric Palace cinema and listen to Track 19.

19. Our friend electric
The Electric Palace, King's Quay Street

Directions 19

Continue along King's Quay Street and pass Cow Lane on your left. Ahead you will see a church. Take the path that leads to the churchyard. Stop outside the rear of the church and listen to Track 20.

20. Say a little prayer

St Nicholas Church

Directions 20

Continue along the path through the churchyard which takes you into a continuation of King's Quay Street. Stop outside the houses on the right hand side (Numbers 25 to 34) and listen to Track 21.

21. They must earn a packet

24-34 King's Quay Street

Directions 21

Continue to the end of the road and cross over onto Harwich Green. Go up onto the sea wall for a view of the mouth of the harbour and listen to Track 22.

22. Maritime legacy

The Esplanade, facing the sea

Directions 22

To return to Harwich Town railway station, head towards the High Lighthouse. Main Road which takes you back up to the station is directly opposite. Alternatively you may wish to visit one of the museums or spend time on the beach.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **Neil D'Arcy Jones** for creating the walk
 - **Caroline Millar** for compiling the walk resources and editing the audio commentary
 - **David Whittle** for his invaluable assistance and local knowledge
 - **Ross Millar** for providing photographs
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 - **The Harwich Society** for helpful information and kind permission to use archive images
 - **Ken Brown, Fast Track Images, Chris Holifield, Bob Jones, Stephen McKay, Oxyman** and **Ken Strutt** for further images
 - **Adrian Murphy** for testing the walk and providing useful feedback
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Britain's landscapes are wonderful.

There is a tremendous variety within our shores – whether in the countryside, in towns and cities or at the seaside. And every landscape has a story to tell about our past and present.

Discovering Britain is an exciting series of geographically-themed walks that aim to bring these stories alive and inspire everyone to explore and learn more about Britain. Each walk looks at a particular landscape, finding out about how forces of nature, people, events and the economy have created what you see today.

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