

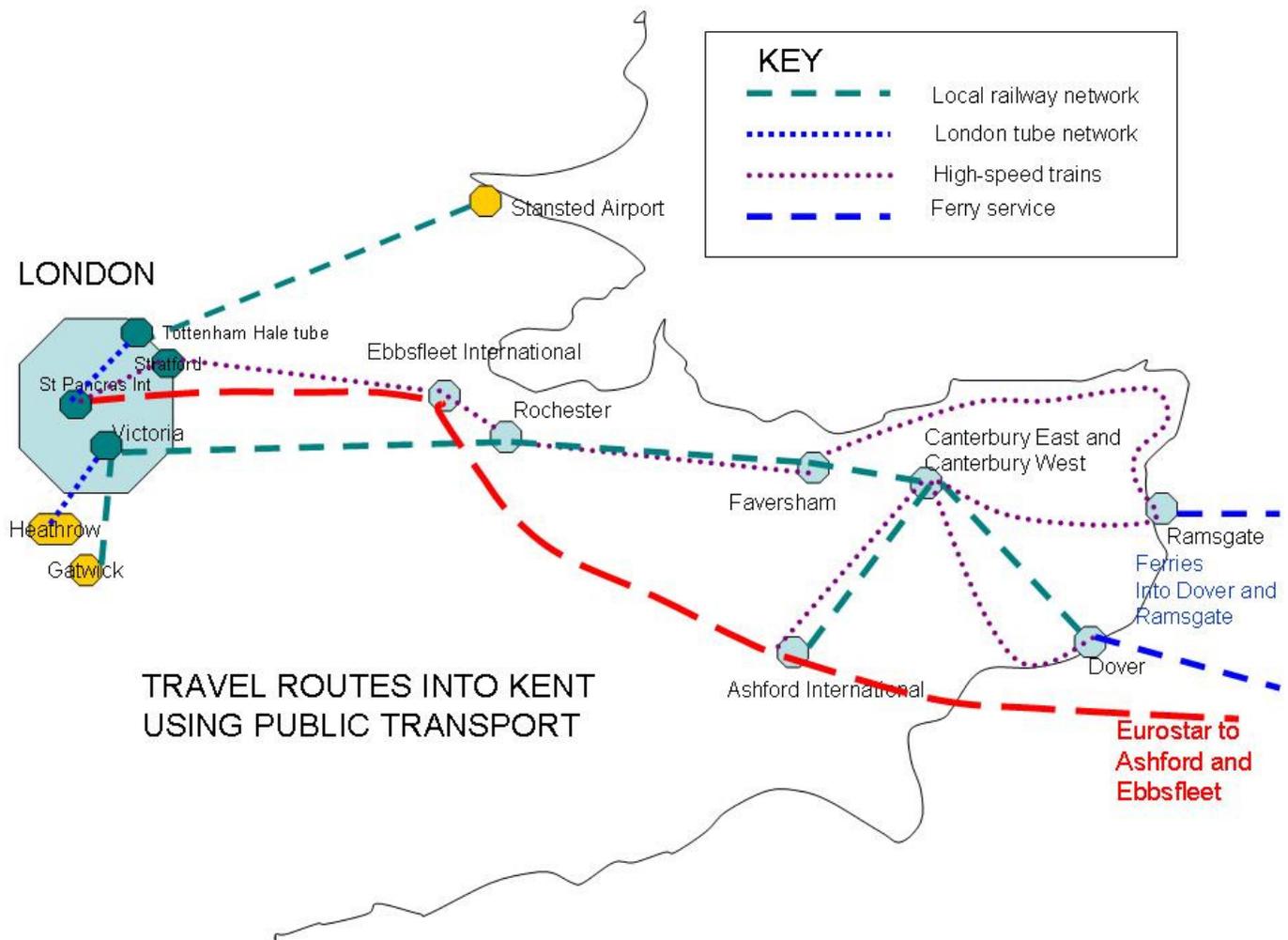
Walk Awhile

Briefing Paper 31

TRAVEL INTO KENT USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1. Access to Kent by Public Transport

Walk Awhile is a member of Responsible Travel, Greentravller and is a silver accredited company with the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS). As such Walk Awhile encourages walkers to access the county of Kent using public transport in line with Para 1 of Walk Awhile's Travellers' Code of Conduct. Since the establishment of Walk Awhile in 2001, we have found that most of our customers are keen to help achieve the objectives of our Responsible Travel Policy, which is set out on the back of all our brochures. In 2009 just over 83 per cent of our customers used public transport to access the Kent Downs.



2. Planning your journey into Kent

(i) From the Eurostar stations

Walk Awhile's holidays start from either Rochester railway station or one of Canterbury's two railway stations (Canterbury East and Canterbury West). The National Rail Enquiry web site is a useful tool for planning rail your journey using any of the railway stations listed below, including Ashford International and Ebbsfleet International. The National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner can be found at:

<http://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/en/s/planjourney/query>

(ii) From London Victoria mainline station to Rochester and Canterbury East

Tickets can be purchased on the day of travel from the ticket offices opposite entrances to platforms 9- 16. Trains to Rochester and Canterbury run from Platforms 1-8. Check the digital notice boards situated above the platforms and look for trains with final destinations of either Dover or Ramsgate. The journey to Rochester takes 47 minutes and trains run about three an hour and faster trains will usually call only at Bromley South and the straight onto Rochester. To exit your carriage, passengers need to press the exit button on the train doors when the buttons light up as the train stops in the station – or else the door will not open.

Passengers travelling to Canterbury East should remain on the above train and the journey takes a further 45 minutes. At Faversham station the train divides with one section going to Dover and the other section to Ramsgate. Canterbury bound passengers need to ensure they are in the Dover section of the train. It is then two more stations until Canterbury after leaving Faversham. At Faversham there is ample time to walk along the platform to the correct section of the train.

3. International Routes into Kent

(i) Eurostar via Ashford International or Ebbsfleet International

Eurostar trains run from Paris, Brussels or Lille to Ashford International Station and Ebbsfleet International Station in Kent. The journey takes 1 hour 40 minutes from Brussels, 2 hours from Paris and only 1 hour from Lille. Local trains from Ashford International Station to Canterbury West run approximately two an

hour and the short journey takes 18 minutes. From Ebbsfleet International trains run to Rochester at approximately two an hour and the short journey takes 19 minutes.

Additional information about Eurostar's services can be obtained from the web site at :

<http://www.eurostar.com/UK/uk/leisure/destinations.jsp>

(ii) Cross Channel Ferry to Dover or Ramsgate

Frequent Channel crossings sail between Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais. P&O Ferries and Sea France operate ferries on the Calais-Dover route; Norfolk line runs a ferry service from Dunkerque to Dover. LD Lines operate ferries between Boulogne and Dover. LD Lines in conjunction with TransEuropa Ferries are now operating between Ostend and Ramsgate. From Dover Priory railway station local trains and high speed trains run to Canterbury and also onto Rochester. Dover Priory station is about one mile from the ferry terminal so travellers may wish to transfer taking a taxi connection from the docks.

(iii) The London Airports

Gatwick Airport

For many walkers air flight is the only means of reaching the UK. From Gatwick airport you can take a local train (Southern Service) to London Victoria railway station or take the Gatwick Express or Shuttle train service to London Victoria railway station. The local Southern service stops at Gatwick about every 10 minutes and the journey to Victoria station takes approximately 35 minutes. The Shuttle goes direct without stopping at intermediate stations and is slightly more expensive.

Heathrow Airport

From Heathrow airport take a tube service directly from the airport via the Piccadilly line (blue on the tube map and change onto the Circle (yellow) or District (green) line to London Victoria mainline station. At Heathrow Terminals 1 2 3 and 5 take the Piccadilly line (direction Cockfosters) and change at Hammersmith (District) to the District line (direction Upminster) and leave the train at Victoria. A London tube map can be found at: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/standard-tube-map.pdf>. A tube journey planner can be found at: <http://www.tubeplanner.com/>. The tube journey to London Victoria takes about 55 minutes. At London Victoria follow signs to mainline station.

Stansted Airport

Those travelling from Stansted should take a train from the airport and change onto the tube at Tottenham Hale and take a southbound Victoria line train to Kings Cross St Pancras from where a local mainline train can be taken to Rochester.

For those wishing to travel to Canterbury, the journey involves 4 trains including a tube train and 3 changes in total as follows:

Stansted Airport [SSD] 3 Tottenham Hale [TOM], this is a [NXEA](#) service from Stanstead Airport to London Liverpool Street and change at Tottenham Hale [TOM] and take tube to London St Pancras Domestic [STP], using the Victoria Line (Southbound, Platform 2) which is a direct service to Kings Cross St Pancras Underground Station. From London St Pancras Domestic [STP] take train to Ashford International [AFK] and then from Ashford International [AFK] take train to Canterbury West [CBW].

