

# You are crossing...

## The Sarre Penn

You are standing where the Sarre Penn river ends its journey, flowing into the River Wantsum under this road bridge. This journey starts some 12 miles away, on the other side of Canterbury, near the village of Dunkirk.



The Sarre Penn in Blean Woods

From Dunkirk, the Sarre Penn flows under the A2, and meanders east through one of the largest and most valuable blocks of ancient woodland in south-east England – Blean Woods National Nature Reserve. It then moves into a landscape of small woods and fields, passing

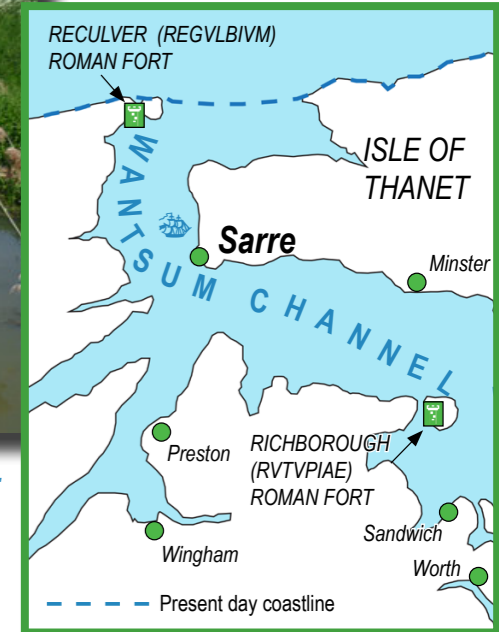
close to the University of Kent and the villages of Blean and Tyler Hill. It also crosses the former route of the 'Crab and Winkle' Line, the world's first regular steam passenger railway, which linked Canterbury and Whitstable.

It flows on in a pleasant rural valley, past orchards near Broad Oak, then to the north of the villages of Westbere, Hersden and Upstreet. East of Upstreet, the landscape becomes more open and the Sarre Penn soon enters Chislet Marshes, the wide, flat landscape in front of you. It crosses the marshes in a straight, artificial channel to its confluence with the Wantsum here.



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In Roman and Early Medieval times, Sarre was an important port and ferry crossing on the Wantsum Channel



The Sarre Penn at Chitty on Chislet Marshes - the river has been artificially straightened here

### A landscape that was once sea

If you had been standing here in the Roman period, you would have found yourself on the shores of a wide sea channel separating the Isle of Thanet from Kent – the Wantsum Channel. At this time Sarre was an important port, as were Minster, Wingham and Worth. Forts at Richborough and Reculver defended either end of this important trading route. The whole of Chislet Marshes was under water, but a gradual build up of silt and reclamation of marshland over centuries led to the landscape you see today.



Find more information and download a leaflet about the Stour Catchment from our website [www.kentishstour.org.uk](http://www.kentishstour.org.uk)



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