



Swale Halt Present and Past

SWALE HALT TODAY

Swale Halt Railway Station sits astride the ancient Saxon Way and borders the River Swale, on its' south side. Half way between Sittingbourne and Sheerness, it is surrounded by marsh land. Passengers alighting here, get a very magnificent view of the river and the newly constructed Sheppey Bridge, which leads onto the Isle of Sheppey its self. The railway track travels on over the old bridge, which rises to allow vessels to travel up and down the river, many of them loading and unloading at the nearby Ridham Docks, (docks that were built to service the paper industry and which were used for loading ammunition during WW1.)



Ridham Dock

Courtesy of Wikipedia

The area has a wild beauty and the river and marshes attract a diverse range of rare and interesting birds, especially to the north of the river, which hosts the Elmley Nature Reserve.

Intrepid ramblers, might like to try the Saxon Way route along the river edge. The eastern section, part of which can be accessed by passing under the bridges, leads towards Sittingbourne and Milton Creek and is well sign-posted. At the far end it enters the Milton Creek Country Park, site of former brickworks, cement works and barge building industries. From there it is a fairly short walk to Sittingbourne Railway Station and the local eateries. The western section leads towards Lower Halstow and the Medway Towns but does not meet up with the railway at any point.

Written by Linda Brinklow