

Shortest distance 209, suggested route 212.

Keeping south of the Weald to Rye, then Lydd. Note short bit of cycle track to avoid M20 roundabout after Lymington. Turns before Canterbury at Aylesham.

(My comments in the log for 2007 reflect what I didn't know then - Aylesham was built as a village for the miners of the Snowdon colliery, the deepest in the Kent coalfield, closed 1987.)

Then clipping the North Downs to head to London between the M2 and the M20.

Can use bits of the Pilgrims Way (not all tarmac) but the A20 is not too busy.

Cutting past Bearsted to avoid motorway junction at Maidstone.

Travelodge in Dartford <http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/23/Dartford-hotel>

Route Log 2007, control at Newhaven is now at Lewes and control at Hartley Is at Dartford.

E4 (215km), Newhaven, Heathfield, Lydd, Aylesham, Challock, Hartley.

26/08/07 (Sunday), 14hr10, 137m on clock, 0720-2130, Hot, dry and light northerly.

Strictly speaking Newhaven is the control but since this leg and E3 were over distance I felt happy to duck the trip into Newhaven and took a rough track from Southease across to the other of the valley (not shown on my map). Then a short spell on A roads before lanes thru Chalvington, Golden Cross, Horam to Heathfield. Coop shut but found newsagents further down the main road.

Right on B2096 turning off at Netherfield onto lanes to A2100, A21 then B2089 thru to Rye.

Motorbike country. Leaving Rye on A259 I found the lane thru Camber to Lydd, this was chocker with cars going to the beach. Shop control. A259 to Hythe (avoided lanes to Lymington, can't remember why, it looks a good option on the map), A261, A20 over the M20 and nice run of lanes thru Lymington, Elham, Darrington, over A2 and follow signs to Aylesham. What I saw there suggested the place was down on its uppers. The estate shop was shut but an ATM gave me time and date and someone else's slip gave me the place. I hope I saw it on a bad day!

Back to the A2 where I came off at the next sliproad and into Bridge. Along lanes, B road and lanes to Chartham to get onto the A28 then A252 to Challock. Pub control. Continued on main drag to A20 to Maidstone. On my right was the North Downs Way which would have been preferable

given time. Turning off the A20 to Ryarh I climbed from Trotcliffe to the Pilgrims Way and the A227 which I followed to Longfield and Hartley. I got a receipt there but had nowhere to stay.

The next day was a bank holiday so the Tilbury ferry wasn't running, and I hadn't been able to sort accommodation in Beccles for another day off so the only practical way of getting over the Thames was at Dartford in a black cab, but where to get one early doors?

In the end I decided to get over to the M25 services that night, and drew a blank trying to find a cab rank in Dartford. I