

Walk Length: 2.3 miles Duration: circa 45 minutes Conditions: Mostly Flat

Thomas Aveling Heritage Walk



Walk in the footsteps of the pioneering Victorian engineer



Thomas Aveling was born on 11th September 1824 in Elm, Cambridgeshire. He was the eldest son in a family of three boys. His father, also named Thomas, died when he was very young.

In around 1836, Thomas moved to Hoo, where his mother Anne (née Hobson) married Rev. John d'Urban.

Initially, the family probably lived near St. Werburgh Church, along Church Street.



THOMAS AVELING
Father of the Traction Engine

Enjoy views of the River Medway along this long stretch of the walk. Thomas was a keen sailor and frequently sailed with his family aboard his yacht 'Sally' on these waters - after departing his mooring at Sun Pier in Chatham.

In 1841, the census shows 16-year-old Thomas living with (and working for) local farmer Edward Lake and his family at Abbots Court. During his time working for Mr Lake, who became a close friend and business partner, Thomas undoubtedly spent time on the fields around Abbots Court experimenting with farm machinery - helping to make the farm's outputs more efficient.

As you walk towards Abbots Court the area now contains small holdings and stables, but perhaps you can imagine a determined young man working obsessively on his engineering inventions on these very fields.

On 23rd October 1850, Thomas married Sarah Lake, niece of Edward Lake, in the parish of Bridge, Canterbury, Kent.



Saxon Shore Way Walking Route

Abbots Court Wharf

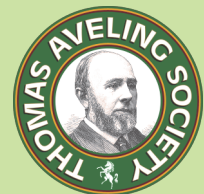
River Medway

- A - The grave of Thomas Aveling outside St. Werburgh Church.
- B - Abbots Court (now multiple private residences).
- C - The site of the old Vicarage.
- D - The area where Thomas Aveling lived as a boy.

- 1 - Hoo Riverside Diner.
- 2 - The Chequers Pub.
- 3 - Taggs Coffee Shop.
- 4 - The Five Bells Pub.
- 5 - Council Car Park and Public Toilets (ME3 9AJ).



Refer to the Thomas Aveling Society visitor information leaflet for more details about Thomas Aveling and his life in Hoo.



thomasavelingsociety.co.uk



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