



April Fool's Day Press Release
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KENT MOVES THREE MILES CLOSER TO FRANCE

Visit Kent has made a startling discovery of an underwater chasm that extends the boundary of Kent three miles towards France than previously thought.

The news comes as ancient boundary maps were unearthed from the Visit Kent archives, leading the tourism body to charter a team of experts to head out into the Channel to investigate the possibility of an unmapped territory deep underneath the English Channel.

Through the use of high-tech sonar equipment and local divers, the team discovered a previously unknown chasm extending from the southern coast of the county, effectively extending the boundary of Kent towards France by an additional three miles.

Visit Kent is now staking a claim on the new land, and is currently liaising with the Land Registry to register the additional coastline.

The new boundary line, dubbed the Poisson D'Avril line in honour of Professor D'Avril from the Kent Seismology Department who discovered it, will be honoured in an opening ceremony due to take place today in the Channel.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, Chief Executive of Visit Kent said, "This is an unprecedented discovery, and we are amazed at how such a vast amount of space has remained undetected for so many years. With our recent interreg funding leading to closer working partnerships with our friends across the Channel, we can also now say that we are physically closer to them as well – to the tune of about three miles!"

Professor D'Avril from the Kent Seismology Department said, "The result of years of underwater volcanoes and seismic movements has led to the coast of Kent being buried hundreds of miles under the sea level, effectively creating a secret underwater chasm that has lain undiscovered for hundreds of years. We had an inkling from ancient boundary maps that there may be something interesting down there, but had no idea that we'd be staking a claim to an additional plot of land for the county of Kent."

Visit Kent now plans to organise excursions to tie in with the discovery, including sailing trips to visit the Poisson D'Avril line, as well as diving trips to explore the chasm. Trips will be launched from Dover from the beginning of May.

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For enquiries please contact Sarah Whelband on 01732 779087 or sarahw@westgatecomms.com

About Visit Kent:

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the district and borough councils, Tourism South East and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent. Visit Kent champions Kent's £2.5 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets.

For further information visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk.

