

On a clear day there are excellent views of the Greensand Ridge and North Downs, from here.

Enter the hop field, proceed by turning right along wind break of trees. After approximately 50 metres look out for way-mark post, partially concealed by the windbreak. Here turn left to walk through the hop field. Pass through hedge and straight across field, as indicated by way-mark. Emerge at road junction. Cross the road junction and walk down a drive-way to the National Trust property of 'Sprivers'. Follow the drive as it bends right, ignoring a public footpath to the left. Then pass the lovely 'Sprivers' house and magnificent old conifer trees. Continue along drive with ponds on left and right, towards a junction of drive/tracks. Continue straight ahead as indicated by the High Weald Landscape Trail marker. After some 500 metres, pass through gate to road.

Cross road, then stile and on down track, to the side of 'Shirrenden'. Cross another stile then across parkland, bearing slightly to the right. Look out for waymark posts as you proceed across the parkland.

As you descend across the parkland there are views of Furnace pond, a name evocative of its earlier ironworks connections.

On the far of side of this parkland, cross stile at the side of a gate. Follow footpath to another stile, then

pass a cottage on left. Immediately after passing the cottage and at the junction of paths/tracks turn left. Cross foot-bridge and continue on with Furnace pond on left. After passing Furnace Pond, cross stile and turn right, keeping to the right hand side of orchard. On reaching track, turn left. 20 metres later turn right to follow line indicated by way-mark i.e. rising between apple trees and hedging which divides two orchards. At a crossing of tracks, bear diagonally left, continuing upwards and along line of hedge.

Having attained high ground, pause for breath and turn to admire views with Horsmonden in the middle distance and Goudhurst on the horizon.

Now bear right and after a further 10 metres turn left to cross another young orchard. On the hill crest, pass through a line of screening trees and with cottage/farmhouse on the right. Turn right on joining a private lane and pass a number of charming cottages.

Turn left opposite Palmers Green Cottage to cross a stile immediately to the right of a bungalow entrance. Proceed along the left hand boundary of field, over two more stiles, descend ghyll and continue on, maintaining the same line of travel, keeping a look out for waymark and stile, Cross stile and walk along enclosed path (first encountered on the outward journey) back to Brenchley square.

WALK 14

Duration:
3.5 hours, 12 km approx.

Highlights:
Brenchley village views of Medway Valley, Greensand Ridge and North Downs. National Trust property of Sprivers and Furnace Pond.

Terrain:
Easy going, undulating with short climbs and descents. Several stiles.

Refreshment facilities:
Bull Inn at Brenchley, Castle Inn at Castle Hill, Gun and Spitroast and Highwayman at Horsmonden.

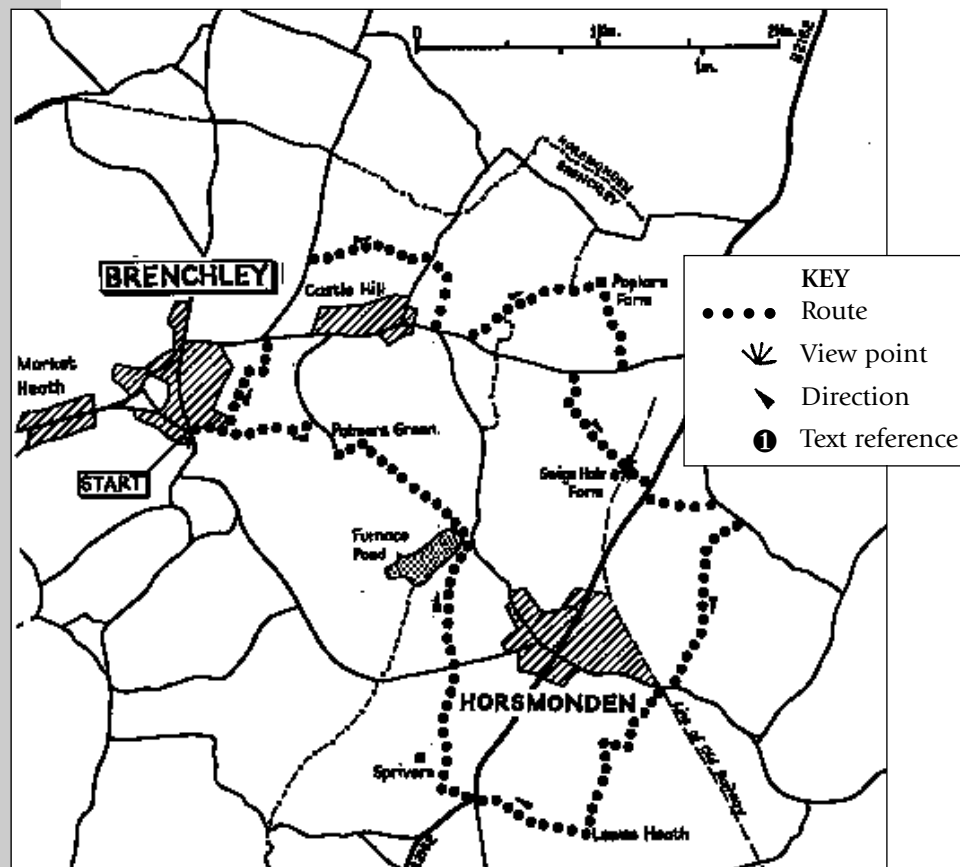
Starting point:
Village square (opposite church) at Brenchley. O.S. Ref. 680418.

Transport facilities:
Public car park in centre of Brenchley village.
Bus Routes: 296 AK(NS), 297 AK/NV
K6 AK(NS).

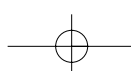
NS: Not Sundays
AK: Arriva Kent & Sussex
Telephone: 01634 281100
NV: Nu Venture
Telephone: 01622 882288

**WALK
BOUNDS**
and eat the view

Brenchley



Kent County Council (Licence No. LA 76708)





Route: With your back to the Bull Inn, turn diagonally right, cross road and take the footpath at the side of Town Farm Cottage. Continue along the enclosed, sunken path. Approximately 5 metres before reaching a stile, take a left turn to follow another sunken path. As this opens out with an orchard on your right continue towards a gate ahead. On reaching field corner and gate (do not pass through it) turn right and keep boundary hedge on left. Look out for waymark and stile at a gap in the hedge. Cross stile and continue along the left hand boundary of another orchard. At bend in the hedge and at a way marker, bear slightly right to aim for another waymark post and stile. Cross stile into small field and head for another stile ahead, immediately to the right of a private driveway. **1**

On joining a road, cross diagonally left to walk down Knowle Road.

From Knowle Road there are fine views of the Low Weald, Greensand Ridge and North Downs.

After approximately 500 metres, turn right onto the drive-way of Knowle Lodge. Pass the bungalow to cross stile which is on the right hand side of a five bar gate. Follow left hand boundary of field until it bears sharp left. Here bear right as indicated by waymark, to stile at bottom of field. Cross stile to path which rises through woodland. This path eventually becomes a track. At the point where it bears left, you should continue straight ahead along fenced path, to pass a cottage on the right, and emerge at lane.

Cross lane diagonally right to descend steps into orchard. Follow route as indicated by waymark adjacent to roadside. This will take you between lines of apple trees climbing to a track which runs at right angles to the line of fruit trees. On reaching the track turn right and near the hill brow bear right to walk through another orchard with old trees on the left and younger, smaller trees on the right. The trees on the left are apple, whereas those on the right are pear. Emerge from the orchard at Crook Road and opposite Furnace Lane. **2**

Turn left and walk along Crook Road. After approximately 200 metres turn left onto a track, immediately after passing a house named 'Trevereux'. A short distance along the track pass weather-boarded cottages. Cross stile into field and proceed ahead, down into the valley, to another stile and on along the left hand boundary of field. Continue along left hand boundary of field to a stile. Cross the stile into a garden and turn left to follow garden boundary, to join a tarmac drive which runs between oast house and farm buildings. On meeting a junction of tracks/drives, turn right to pass a barn on the left and old gabled house on the right. Continue ahead as the track rises and changes to a grass surface. This eventually meets the road at Yew Tree Green, its lovely old houses and pond. **3**

Turn right along road for approximately 200 metres. Leave road to join footpath on left and as indicated by

the metal waymark post. On reaching another waymark follow the route indicated, heading for yet another post directly ahead. Bear left through lines of fruit trees, as indicated by the waymark to another on the far side of orchard. This will lead to Swigs Hole Farm.

Pause here to admire the lovely old farmhouse and its interesting architecture.

After passing Swigs Hole Farm, continue on tarmac drive. As the drive climbs, pass under a large arched bridge.

This bridge once carried the railway line running from Paddock Wood to Hawkhurst.

On reaching road turn right, pass All Saints Catholic Church, a small brick 19th century Gothic building. After 50 metres, leave the road and join footpath on left, adjacent to old lamp-post and opposite cottages. Initially the footpath is enclosed by fences but then opens out. Proceed ahead keeping hedge on right. At the end of field pass into an orchard. Here bear slightly left to climb up through apple trees through a windbreak aiming for a large farmhouse and oast cowl of Haymans Hill Farm. **4**

Turn right on reaching the road and take a footpath right immediately opposite the entrance to Haymans Hill Farm. Cross stile and head for a power pole in middle of field and as indicated by waymark. At power pole, bear left. On arriving at gate, cross track, go over a stile, to another track. Continue between conifers on the left and mixed hedging on the right. Go through gap in hedge, cross another track to the track beyond and with radio mast on the right hand side. Pass cottages on left and apple packing station on the right, to the B2084 road beyond. **5**

At the B2084, turn right and walk along the road for 100 metres. Take footpath left, by the side of converted oast houses and at entrance to Lamberts Place. Continue along what is now a private, tar macadam surfaced track. At junction of tracks/roads turn right and after 150 metres, at another junction and opposite the gates to a bungalow, turn left. As you approach yet another junction of tracks and with the lovely house Lewes Heath ahead and with pond on left, turn sharp right, through hedge to join the High Weald Landscape Trail. **6**

As waymarks have a habit of becoming obscured or removed, detailed instructions for the return to Brenchley will follow. After leaving the track at Lewes Heath, proceed across field and orchard as indicated by waymark. On reaching boundary hedge, turn right and after 10 metres turn left to cross a track and on across orchard. At far side of orchard, cross track, through gap in hedge and on bearing slightly to the right, towards a marker on the edge of a hop field.

Hop fields in this part of Kent, once common are now something of a rarity.