

cross bridge over the waters of Kent Ditch, and adjacent to the Kent Ditch Pumping Station. **6**

Having crossed the bridge, turn right to descend slope then sharp left to walk along a smaller ditch. Cross another footbridge and continue straight ahead and aiming towards an electricity pylon. From pylon walk on towards the left hand side of cottages/farmhouse. Cross stile and on to track, passing Marsh Quarter Farm followed by attractive pond on right. Walk along track for a further 500 metres. As track bears to the right look out for a gateway and concrete footpath way-mark on the left. Cross field to stile in line of trees. Pass through woodland of coppice hazel. Emerge from woodland at stile and bear diagonally right across field, to stile on the far side, and at the side of a tree stump. Cross stile and again proceed diagonally right across the next field to stile in line of hedge. **7**

Cross stile and turn right and along right hand boundary of field. As hedge turns right continue straight ahead, i.e. at right angles to the power lines that you have passed under. Walk to far side of field and stile immediately to the left of a large oak tree. Cross stile and on round left hand side of field. At bottom of field and after boundary bears right, look out for gap in hedge and stile.

Cross stile and bridge over stream. On the far side of bridge, take the middle of three footpaths i.e. diagonally left to the line of bridge and up to the brow of field. On the brow, aim for large oak and stile at side of gate. Continue straight ahead, i.e. towards houses. At far side of field cross stile in the middle of opposite side. Proceed along left hand boundary of next field. Cross stile in left hand corner of field and turn right along Burnt House Close to emerge at the A268. Turn left and return to Sandhurst village green and post office. On reaching Back Lane continue along the A268 or walk up Back Lane which leads to the village green and clock tower.

PRODUCERS

810 286- Sandhurst
Mrs Nicholas - Sandhurst Vineyards
Hoads Farm, Crouch Lane, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5PA
Tel: 01580 850296
*English wine. Easter to New Year.
Also a B&B open all year.*

845 312 - Rolvenden
Organiser: Mrs Shelley Mitchell -
Rolvenden Farmers Market
St. Marys Church and Village Hall, Rolvenden, Kent
Tel: 01580 240763
Every Thursday 10-12.30.

Various local producers all year selling fruit, veg, meats, dairy products and crafts.

WALK 18

Duration:
3.5 to 4 hours, 13 km approx.

Highlights:
Good views of the High Weald and Rother Valley.
Bodiam Castle.

Terrain:
Undulating with no major climbs. Mainly field paths and tracks.

Refreshment facilities:
New Swan pub at Sandhurst. Also at Sandhurst, tearooms between the New Swan and Post Office. At Bodiam - Wharfe (National Trust) tearooms and Castle pub.

Starting point:
Sandhurst Post Office.
O.S. Ref. 798284

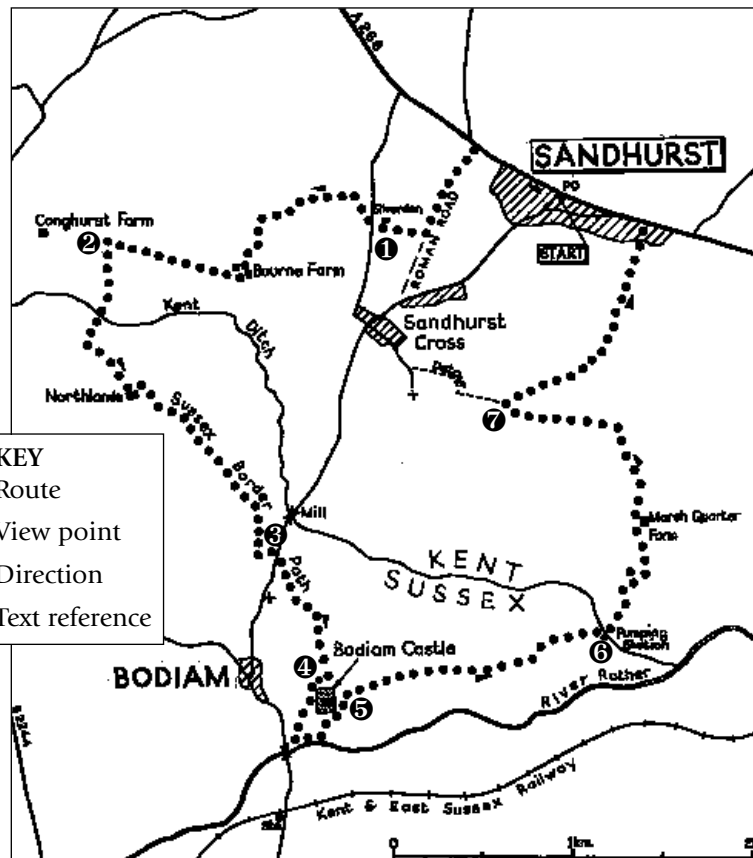
Transport facilities:
Adequate car parking round the village green at Sandhurst.

Bus Routes: 255 AK(NS),
292 AK(NS), 349 AK/SC(NS).

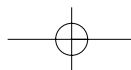
NS: Not Sundays
AK: Arriva Kent & Sussex
Telephone: 01634 281100
SC: Stagecoach South Coast Buses
Telephone: 08702 433711




Sandhurst



Kent County Council (Licence No. LA 76708)



 **Route:** From Sandhurst Post Office, turn left to walk along A268 road in the direction of Hawkhurst, for approximately 500 metres. Just before reaching Sandhurst Farm Shop leave the road by turning sharp left at footpath and cross private road to Bayford House. After 10 metres turn right to cross sleeper bridge and stile. Cross field as indicated by waymark. As a guide, aim to the left of a very large arrow attached to a tree. Cross stile (partially hidden by hedge) and turn left.

You are now walking along the line of a Roman Road. This ancient route once linked Rochester and Hastings and was principally used for access to iron workings. Indeed there is evidence of slag metalling along this section.

At end of field cross stile (on left) then turn right to continue the same line of travel. Cross stile in field corner, immediately turn right to cross another stile to walk along an enclosed path. Pass a lovely old house (Silverden), outbuildings and on to join a metalled drive which leads to a lane. **1**

Proceed diagonally right across the lane to join another footpath.

In the valley is Kent Ditch, which delineates the boundary between Kent and Sussex. Later in the walk we will be crossing Kent Ditch.

Follow right hand boundary of field. Cross stile in field corner, and enter wooded area/shaw. Emerge from shaw to walk round left hand boundary of field. On reaching far corner of field enter wood at the side of a metal gate. Pass through woodland, over footbridge and on to emerge into field, bearing diagonally left. Aim for projecting corner, then cross stile and bear right to follow right hand boundary of field as indicated. Continue by descending on what appears to be an old track down the edge of a shaw, passing a pond and on down another grassy track. Pass through gate and follow a fence round oasts and Bourne Farm. Cross stile, drive and stile to walk along the right hand boundary of field. Cross a stile on the right. Proceed across a paddock to another stile. Crossing this will take you through a band of trees, over a sleeper bridge and along the right hand boundary of two fields (separated by stile). Continue along a track with hedge on right, passing several small fields.

Pleasant to see that the hedges have been retained and are well cared for.

As track begins to rise out of the valley, look out for a hedge at right angles to the track and approximately 50 metres before a line of oak trees. Turn left immediately after passing the hedge to join the Sussex Border Path. **2**

Walk down left hand boundary of field, through gate and round right hand boundary of next field

for approximately 50 metres to field corner. Here look out for gap in hedge and waymark. Cross metal framed bridge.

Look closely at the bridge, It is in fact an old trailer. Probably one used to recover crashed aircraft in the second world war.

Proceed along the right hand boundary of field, through pinch stile and continue along right boundary of next field. At field corner, cross stile adjacent to gate and aim towards the buildings of Northlands. Arriving in front of barns, turn left onto track. As track divides, just after passing low stable block, turn right (with old fuel pump on left) and proceed towards the edge of woodland. Cross stile, passing through line of trees and on to a hedge enclosed path. Eventually the path becomes a track. Proceed ahead (ignoring stile to right). At bend in track and immediately in front of white weather-boarded building, pass through gate to continue on the Sussex Border Path as indicated. Continue down metalled drive passing Lower Northlands Farmhouse and on to join road. **3**

At road turn right and after 20 metres cross road and through gate immediately to the right of weather-boarded cottage (there is a waymark by the gate but it is hidden within the hedge). Climb field diagonally to the right and towards very large oak tree on the brow. Cross stile and bear left as indicated by Sussex Border Path way-mark. Pass to the left and below large equestrian establishment. As a narrow stretch of the field opens out, turn sharp right and climb field to stile. Cross stile and concrete drive to continue as indicated by waymark. Cross stile which is to the left of a metal gate. Walk down enclosed path to enter the grounds of Bodiam Castle. **4**

This famous and evocative castle was built in 1385 by Sir Edward Dalyngrigge, a veteran of Edward III's continental wars. The castle was built to provide both a defence and a comfortable home. It never had to withstand a serious siege. The exterior is essentially complete as built. Sufficient of the interior remains to give an impression of castle life.

With Bodiam Castle and its moat ahead, turn right to obtain tickets if a tour of the castle is anticipated. For a visit to one of the refreshment locations referred to above, continue, passing the ticket office and entrance to the castle. Duly refreshed and walking with back to N.T shop, proceed along track, keeping castle and moat on left. Follow track round to the right and through a gate to leave the grounds of Bodiam Castle. **5**

Here there are good views across Rother Valley to Ewhurst Green and church. You may also be lucky enough to see a steam train of the Kent and East Sussex railway as it steams along the Rother Valley.

Continue along the track for approximately 1.5 kilometres, passing the barns and weather-boarded 'Marsh Cottage'. On arriving at a bank,