

Short Walks in the Rye Countryside



Welcome

We hope this leaflet will inspire you to spend a spare hour or two exploring the beautiful countryside on your doorstep. Whether you are someone who has always lived in the area or a visitor staying only a couple of days, we hope these short circular walks will appeal to you. The diverse landscapes and associated wildlife can be appreciated at all times of the year, so every season has something new to offer. We hope you find the maps and paths easy to follow and an enjoyable way to explore the countryside around Rye.

Walking the routes

Although these walks are short and relatively easy they will be far more challenging after heavy rain, and however hard we try there will always be hills. Wear comfortable, sturdy footwear and don't rush. Best-way-to-go arrows shown on the maps indicate the recommended direction of travel, and all instructions are given assuming this is the direction being followed. Follow the Country Code and you can have a safe and pleasant walk without impacting on the landscapes you have come to enjoy.

We recommend that this leaflet is used in conjunction with the following Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 Explorer maps:

- 124 Hastings and Bexhill
- 125 Romney Marsh
- 136 The Weald

Local facilities

Where possible local pubs and shops have been highlighted on the maps. Why not time your walk to have a quick drink beforehand or a meal out afterwards? If you are coming to a village specifically to try one of these walks, consider catching the bus. For further information on bus services in this area, contact Traveline on **0870 608 2 608**.

The Country Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- If you open any gates please close them behind you
- Keep your dogs under control
- Keep to rights of way across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise

Public Rights of Way

- Footpaths** (often waymarked in yellow) can be used by walkers, but horseriding and cycling are NOT allowed
- Bridleways** (often waymarked in blue) can be used by walkers, horseriders and cyclists
- Byways** (often waymarked in red) can be used by walkers, horseriders, cyclists and motor vehicles

If you have any queries or complaints about public rights of way in this area, please contact the Rights of Way Team on 01273 482354.

Other walking information

You can purchase a Rye Bay Countryside Pack, which has a selection of local leaflets to help you further explore other walks, wildlife and landscapes of Rye and the surrounding countryside. Included is information on the 1066 Country Walk, Maritime Heritage Trails, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and guided walks and events. Send a cheque made payable to East Sussex County Council for £1.50 to the address below:

Rye Bay Countryside Office
111b High Street
Rye, East Sussex TN31 7JF

If you require any other information about walking in this area please do not hesitate to contact us.

Planning your visit

Rye Tourist Information Centre can provide you with a variety of information about the local area including accommodation, attractions and places to eat and drink.

A useful publication is the Rye Guide, published by the Rye and District Hotel and Caterers Association. This has a comprehensive list of accommodation available in the town, villages and surrounding countryside. For your free copy or any other information please contact:

Rye Tourist Information Centre

The Heritage Centre
Strand Quay
Rye, East Sussex TN31 7AY

Tel: 01797 226696
email: ryetic@rother.gov.uk

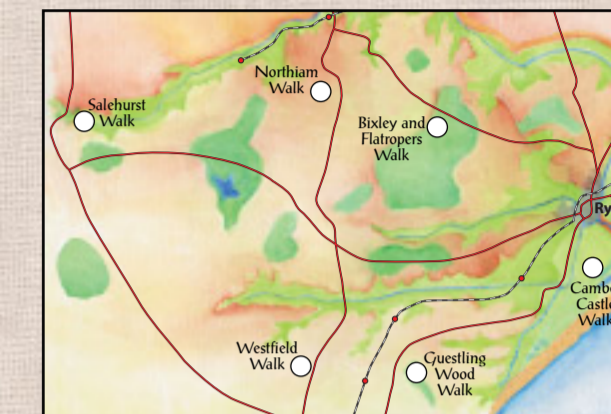
or visit www.rye.org

All the establishments in the Rye Guide have been inspected by either the English Tourism Council, AA and/or the RAC and have a range of quality ratings (diamonds or stars). Look also for the ETC Gold and Silver awards, these are awarded to a few exceptional premises.

Short Walks in the Rye Countryside

We hope you will enjoy the circular walks featured in this leaflet. They offer an opportunity to explore the stunning and contrasting countryside and historic towns and villages of this area. From the flat coastal plains of Rye Bay to the rolling hills and orchards of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, these routes will enable you to spend an hour or two walking this hidden part of East Sussex.

Location of walks within the Rye area



This leaflet is a partnership between East Sussex County Council's Rye Bay Countryside Office and the Two Bays, One Environment Project; Rye & District Hotel and Caterers Association and Rother District Council.

The Ordnance Survey map data on which this publication is based, is provided by East Sussex County Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public functions.



Westfield

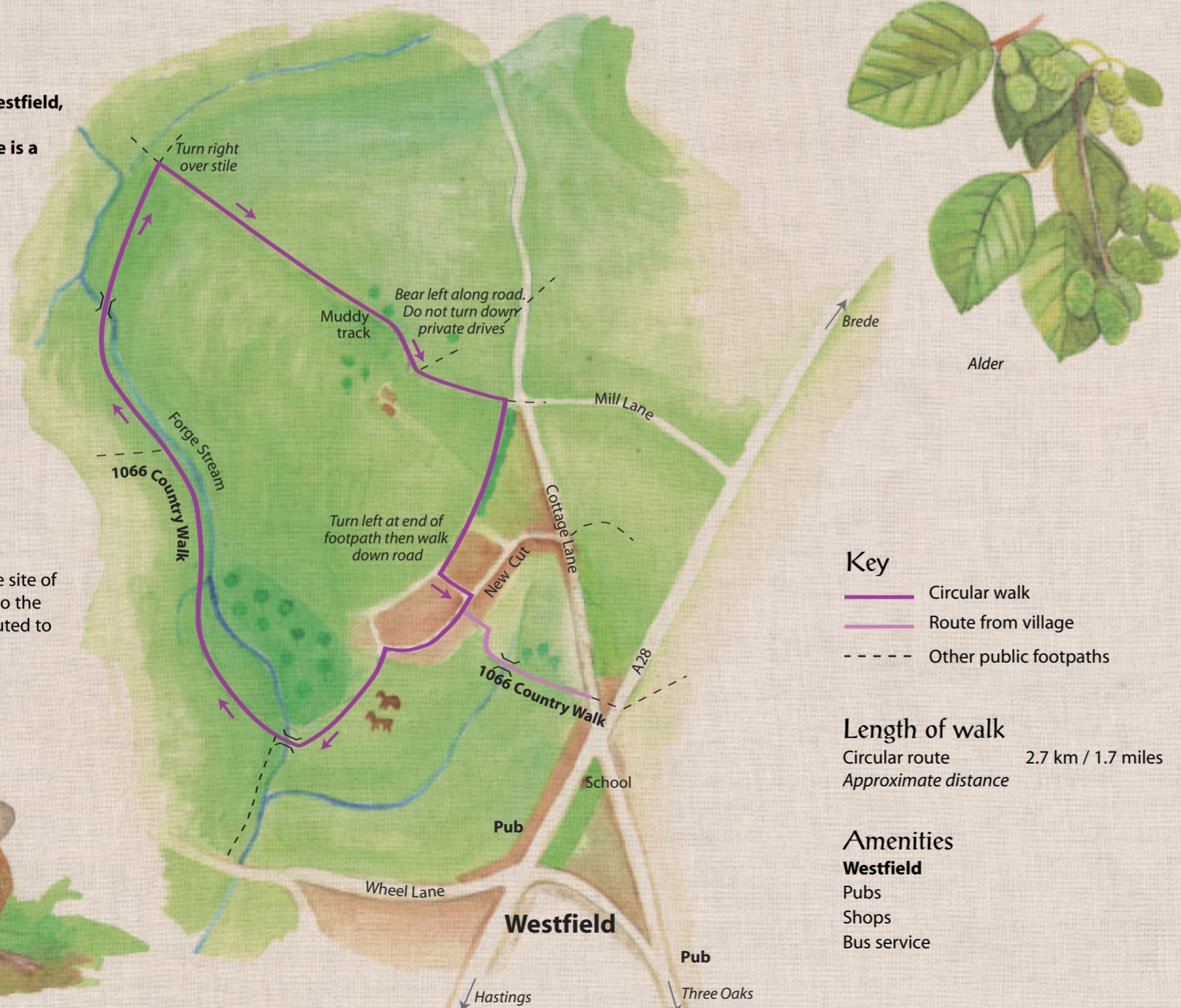
This walk skirts the village of Westfield, hidden in the countryside near Hastings. The tranquil landscape is a patchwork of different habitats with views down valleys and across fields.

Along Forge Stream, water plants grow in the more open areas, with Alder and Willow also present. There are also small patches of woodland dotted around, these are the characteristic "shaws" of the High Weald countryside. The woods and hedgerows are full of wildlife including voles and mice, feeding on the fruits and seeds of hedgerow plants.

Part of this walk follows the 1066 Country Walk, which runs from the site of the Norman landing in Pevensey to the Cinque Port town of Rye. It is reputed to be the route taken by William the Conqueror in 1066 following the Norman invasion of Britain.



Wood Mouse



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Salehurst

This walk is set in beautiful countryside, with the route passing traditional hop fields, oast houses and farm buildings. There are magnificent views across the Rother valley to Salehurst Church.

The River Rother has been central to much of the history of the area and is perhaps the reason for the nearby Cistercian Abbey. Part of the Abbey remains date from 1176, these are on private property and rarely open to the public.

The bridleway takes you up a gentle slope and through woodland with patches of ferns and sedges. There are woodbanks alongside the path, which may be ancient ownership boundaries. As you follow the bridleway downhill, there are lovely views over a small lake towards Salehurst.



Kestrel

Amenities
Salehurst
Pub

Robertsbridge
Pubs
Shops
Bus & train service

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