

# Brooks Walk

**A short easy walk over fields mainly used for grazing sheep.  
An opportunity to visit Red Barn Field Nature Park.**

- Starting from the Village Green, walk up the main road passing the Brickwall Hotel.

Notice Manor Cottages, the black and white building on the left. This is an important Grade 1 listed building described as one of the finest timber-framed buildings in Sussex. It dates from about 1420 although many additions have been added over the years including the impressive 2-storey porch dated 1611.

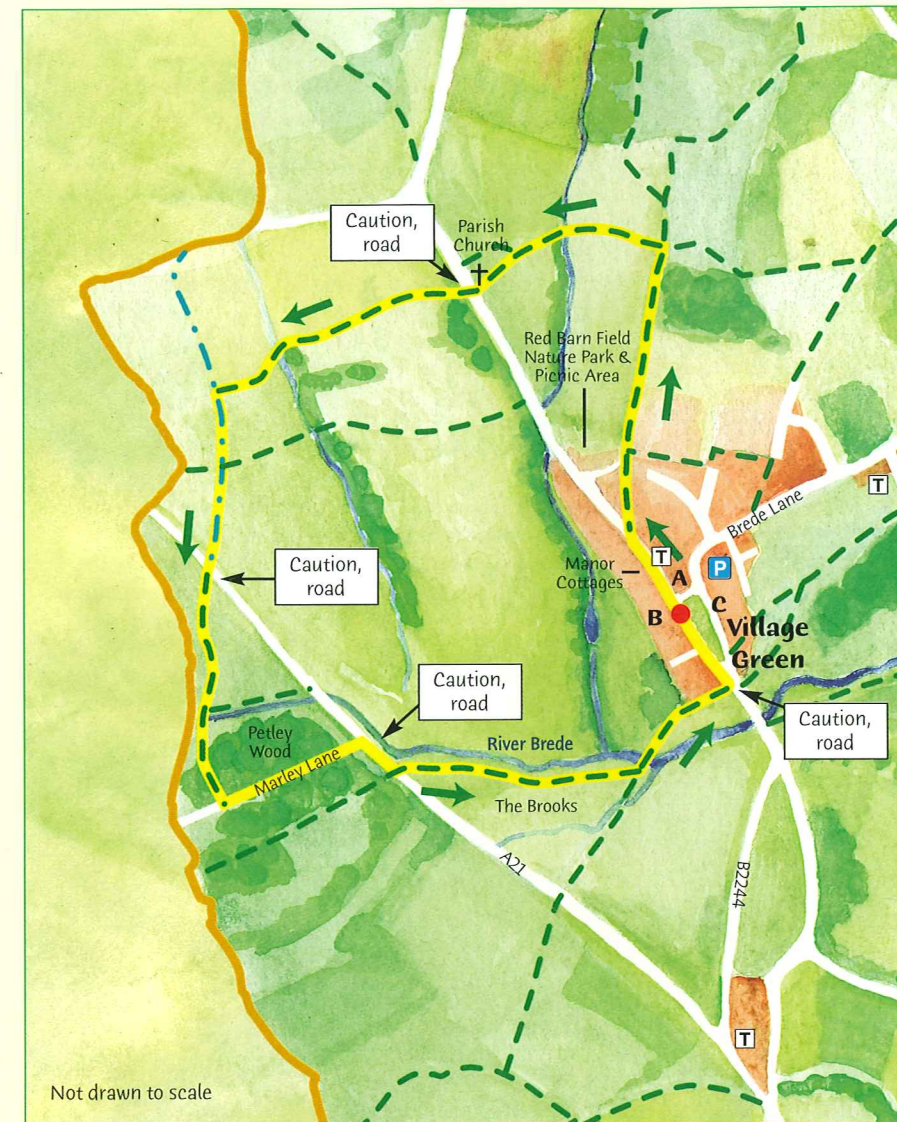
- Opposite Roselands, take the track by the small commercial premises on the right and walk up the track. If you want to visit Red Barn Field Nature Park, the entrance is ahead. Otherwise, continue along a concrete road until, at the end, you enter a field.
- Follow the footpath ahead along the edge of the field to reach a double electricity pole. Do not take the track ahead but go through a gate to the left of the poles. Keeping the hedge on your right, pass through one field.
- Here, turn sharply left and walk downhill with the hedge on your left to the left-hand corner of the field.
- After crossing a footbridge, follow the path upwards along a drive between houses and onto the main road. The Parish Church of St John the Baptist is on your right (see Bluebell Walk for description).
- Cross the road, entering a driveway and, keeping close to the hedge on your right at the edge of the lawn, cross the stiles and into the field.
- Walk down the field and cross a concrete bridge at the bottom.
- Aim diagonally left across the field, crossing the stile into the vineyard and up to cross another onto a bridleway.

- Turn left and after a short distance pass through the gateway ahead towards the airstrip. Note the nearest wood in the direction of the upward-pointing bridleway waymark and walk to the end of this wood to reach a gate opening onto the A21.
- Cross the road (care, busy road) and, keeping the trees to your right, cross a footbridge over a stream in the corner of the field. Soon, cross another ahead, across marshy land.
- Keeping a tall fence on your left, walk along the path into the Petley Wood. Keeping to the left-hand tracks, walk on until you reach a house where you should take the track beside it to Marley Lane.

Petley Wood was the site of charcoal burning for centuries. Charcoal production is the most enduring of Sedlescombe's industries, continuing until near the end of the 20th century. Made by charring wood at a slow controlled rate, charcoal was used in the production of iron and gunpowder, both important local industries.

- Cross over road, turn left and walk to the A21 (care, busy road) turn right and take the footpath on the opposite side of the A21. Walk beside the river through the recreation ground and on to the Village.

Known locally as "The Brooks" the footpath follows the River Brede. Alder trees that still grow on the banks were an important source of timber for the charcoal burning industry. The river was once much wider and from time to time still overflows its banks reminding us of its old ways.



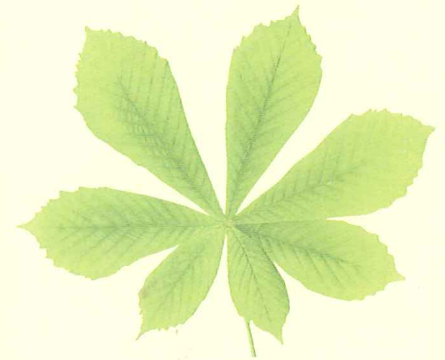
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Red Barn Field Nature Park was established in 2001 and is now open for the public's quiet enjoyment. It also provides pedestrian access from Balcombe Green to the new village hall. The 1½ acre park is being managed as a wild flower grassland and for the benefit of birds, bats, insects, mammals and water creatures. There is a picnic table with a distant view of Battle Abbey and surrounding countryside.

**Approximate distance**  
2½ miles

**Time - allow** 1½ hours

**Parking in public car park, Brede Lane, where there is also a public toilet**



## KEY

- Start point
- ➔ Direction of route
- Route follows road
- - - Route follows path
- - - Other footpath
- . - . Bridleway
- - - Route follows b/w/way
- Parish boundary
- P Car park
- T Telephone

- A** Brickwall Hotel  
01424 870253
- B** Clockhouse Bistro  
01424 870047
- C** Queens Head  
01424 870228