



9 - Winchelsea - Royal Military Canal

Length and Grade: 7 miles (up to 4 hours) or 5 miles (up to 3 hours). Both undulating.

Features: Ancient town of Winchelsea. Royal Military Canal with its unusual history and thriving wildlife. Icklesham windmill. Views of the English Channel and beautiful Brede Valley.

Trains: Hourly off-peak service, 7 days a week, two-hourly on Sundays in winter.

Refreshments: Choice of pubs and tearooms in Winchelsea.

Directions: From station, turn **R** along road - at junction with A259 on hair pin bend **1** turn **R** along path which is part of 1066 Country Walk - follow this round to **L** next to wooded cliff and then between grassy banks, with beautiful views over the Brede Valley. Pass site of old windmill (swept away in gales of 1987) and continue on lane to main road **2** where you go straight across on road into town - take first turning **R**, then over crossroads past church on **L** - take next road on **R** and then straight across main road **3** and through kissing gate, turn **L** up sunken path to main road **4** Turn **R** on footway very shortly, turn **L** down another path between banks. Beyond next kissing gate, turn **L** up sunken path to main road **4** Turn **R** on footway alongside road and where main road veers **R**, cross side road and go straight ahead on track downhill.

At cross paths turn **R** over stile and follow another stretch of 1066 Country Walk. At next stile **5** Bear **R** across field or for a short cut bear **L** alongside town ditch to New Gate, where you turn **R** along road until you reach footpath on **L** - follow this along edge of wood until turn **L** in front of gate and rejoin full walk directions (go to **11**).

Go over 2 stiles to **L** of barn near Wickham Manor, across field and 2 more stiles to lane **6** where cross diagonally. Follow path past shelter belt on **R**, with superb views of the channel coast and towards fairlight, and out to road **7** - go straight ahead and shortly **R** through gate and uphill on grass path to pass to **R** of Icklesham Windmill (another fine viewpoint). Cross stile and leave 1066 Country Walk by turning **L** up lane - (Take Great Care Here!) - at road junction **8** turn **R**, then almost immediately **L** over stile - bear **L** along path which leads to Ashes farm - go straight ahead between buildings along track which later bears **R** before house and heads downhill and across Pannel Valley Nature Reserve - follow track between reeds to cross foot-bridge **9** Turn **L** past public bird hide and then across 2 footbridges just before Royal Military Canal - now follow grass path bearing **L** to stile **10** and across field at foot of wooded cliff, through gate and then turn **R** **11** Go straight ahead next to ditch to cross bridge over canal and then turn **L** and follow path alongside canal for over a mile to road **12** Turn **L** to main road, where you continue straight ahead (on footway) past Bridge Inn. Shortly after road turning on **L**, access on foot back into Winchelsea is possible via steps up cliff on **L** **13** but to complete walk continue to hairpin bend where you turn **R** and retrace steps back to station.

New Gate - was erected as part of Edward 1's 'new' Winchelsea, but stands alone because the southern part of the town was never built.



Trails by Rail free monthly prize draw entry form - valid until 13 December 1998

We will draw one winner out of the hat each month from Jan. to Dec. 1998 and will notify the lucky winner. The prize must be claimed and the journey taken within 3 months. All entries must be received by 13 Dec. 1998.

If you would like to enter, all you need to do is to:

- take one of the walks described in this leaflet, keeping your rail ticket safe afterwards.
- write down any comments about the walk or this leaflet that you would like to feed back to us - e.g. ideas for new walks, things you saw during the day (children might like to draw us a picture about it instead).
- send this voucher to the address shown overleaf, with your name and address completed on the reverse, remembering to attach your rail ticket and your letter or picture.

Connex South Central is offering 12 prizes of a free return train trip on Connex South Central services for up to 2 adults and up to 4 children.