

Great Wood Walk

A pleasant walk across fields, along farm tracks and rides of the Great Wood. You will have the opportunity to take a circular walk or to walk to Battle with its many attractions and eating places.

- Starting from the bottom of Sedlescombe Village Green, walk along the driveway next to Bridge Garage Antiques passing the tennis courts. Leaving the drive continue along the footpath by the children's playground, and cross the footbridge ahead.
- Immediately turn left to cross a small sleeper bridge and walk on keeping a small stream to your left. Cross a small bridge with stiles at each end on your left. Continue with the stream now on your right to cross a small bridge ahead and another to the right a little further on.
- Walk straight across the field aiming just to the left of a house which can be seen across the field ahead. Cross the busy A21 and continue up the farm track ahead. Pass farm buildings on the right to reach a "crossroads". Beanford Farmhouse is ahead.
- Turn left down the track and after a short distance turn right off the track along the marked footpath passing through a gateway. Keep to the small stream on your left, pass to the right of a fenced-off pond and cross this large field to reach the gate into the Great Wood.

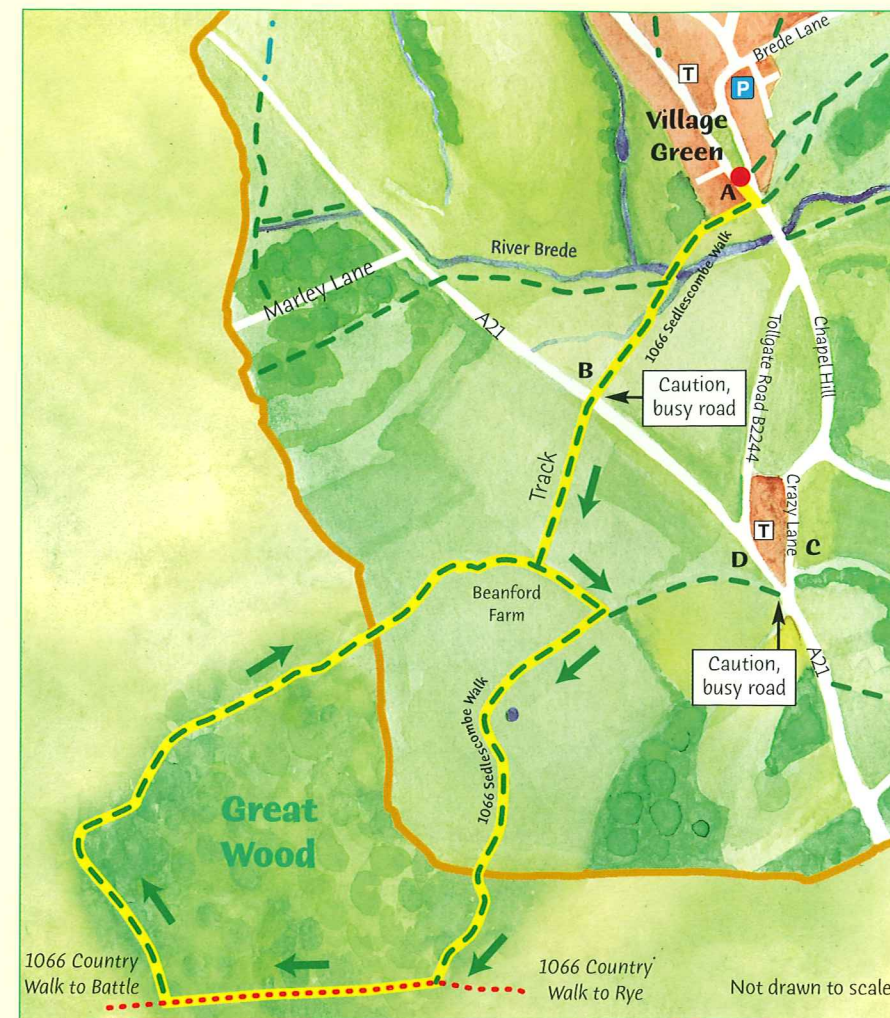
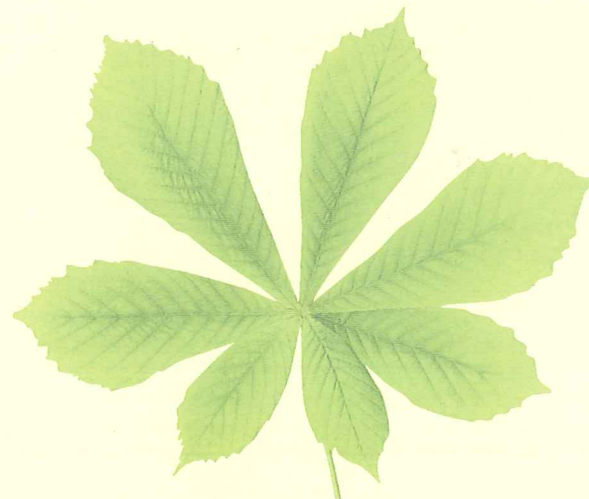
Note the attractive range of wildplants on the edge of the stream and around the pond. The summer-flowering bright pink flower with a ragged look is called "Ragged Robin" and particularly favours damp meadows and marshy places.

- Follow the path ahead to the junction with the 1066 Country Walk. You now have the opportunity to walk to Battle by turning right and following the small red circular signs of the 1066 Country Walk.

The 31 mile (49.5km) 1066 Country Walk is a long distance route between Pevensey Castle and Rye via Battle. The Pevensey to Battle stretch roughly follows the route that William, Duke of Normandy, followed with his army in 1066 on his way to the Battle of Hastings.

The Great Wood is an important area for recreation and for wildlife as well as being a commercial area for forestry. The conifer trees support several bird species such as coal tit and the diminutive goldcrest. Occasionally, crossbills visit to feed on the seeds in the pine cones. Where woodland has been cleared, areas are attractive to nightjars and their unusual "churring" song can be heard late on summer's evenings. Flowers such as gorse, broom and heather are typical heathland plants.

- Alternatively, to return to Sedlescombe, turn right and walk on across the first 4-way junction just ahead. Continue through the wood, ignoring tracks off to the right, until reaching another 4-way junction. Here turn right.
- On reaching a more major forestry ride, bear right and immediately left. Keep to this track for a while taking a small path to the right up through the trees. Turn left on emerging onto a grassy track and walk on along a narrow path between fences (once the road to Battle) to reach Beanford Farmhouse again. Turn left and retrace your steps to the Village.



This walk can easily be started at the caravan and camping park in Crazy Lane (C) by turning left, crossing the A21 and walking up the marked footpath ahead.

Approximate distance
3 1/2 miles
Time - allow 1 1/4 hours
Parking in public car park, Brede Lane, where there is also a public toilet

KEY

- Start point
- Direction of route
- Route follows path
- Other footpath
- 1066 Country Walk
- Parish boundary
- Car park
- Telephone

A Bridge Garage Antiques
01424 871424

B Lower Marley Farm B&B
01424 871416

C Crazy Lane Caravan Park
01424 870147
www.crazylane.co.uk

D Blackbrooks Garden Centre & Cafe
01424 870710

1066 Country
www.1066country.com

Battle Tourist Information Centre
01424 773721
battletic@rother.gov.uk

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