

Heathfield to Warbleton
Approximately 8.69 miles 5 hours
Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps 123

Refreshments: The Black Duck, Warbleton. The Brewers Arms Vines Cross.

This walk takes a small path from the High Street downhill to the old railway station, now a shop. The Cuckoo Trail is then followed as far as Old Ghyll Road. The Cuckoo Trail is a fourteen mile surfaced path from Heathfield to Eastbourne Park. The walk continues towards Old Heathfield passing a small lake along the way. From Old Heathfield the route continues through fields managed for their wild flowers, and at certain times of year can be full of butterflies and moths. Deer can very often be spotted as the walk skirts the edge of Furnace wood to Furnace Lane. From Furnace lane field paths are followed to Warbleton Church. Warbleton is a small village with a 13th century church that sits on top of a hill. From Warbleton the walk continues mainly through arable fields to the village of Vines Cross. The valley to the north of the village was a major cannon manufacturing area. Vines cross also has the dubious honor of being the second village in the area to be hit by a bomb in the Second World War. From Vines Cross field paths are followed to the small village of Maynard's Green where the Cuckoo Trail is followed back to Heathfield.

Start Mill road car park (behind the fire station, west end of the high street).

OS Grid Ref. TQ577 213. Nearby post code TN21 OXU

- 1) Leave the car park by the steps in the north east corner down to the main road and then turn right. Continue along the high street to an antique shop on the right. Turn right on path next to the shop.
- 2) Continue downhill on the path to a road and then turn right along the road to a junction on the left. Turn left onto Thorny close signed to the Cuckoo Trail. Continue on a path to the left of Mary Burfield Court to a road.
- 3) Cross the road and take the path to the right of a car park (the Cuckoo Trail). Continue along the Cuckoo Trail to the junction with Old Ghyll Road, and then turn left following road uphill to the main road.
- 4) Cross the main road and continue along Sandy Cross Lane to a track on the right which is signed to Shady Acres. Turn right onto the track and then keep left where the track forks. Continue along what is now a surfaced road to a road junction, here turn left and then immediately cross a stile on the left into a field.
- 5) Continue on a path keeping hedge/fence on the right crossing a footbridge and three stiles to eventually follow enclosed path to a road.
- 6) Turn right along a narrow road and then keep straight on following a track to Walnuts Farm. Pass the farm and continue downhill on a concrete roadway and then when roadway bends right continue on the path on the left to a stile.

- 7) Cross the stile and then keep left at a path junction. When the path meets a track continue forward keeping the lake on the left to a bridge.
- 8) After crossing the bridge take the path on the right and then keep left to follow a path to a track. Cross the track and then follow a path to a road.
- 9) Cross the road to the stile opposite and then follow the right edge of the field to a stile in the field corner. Cross the stile, do not follow the path uphill to a kissing gate but continue with the hedge on the left to a gate.
- 10) Go through the gate and continue forward with the hedge on the left to a kissing gate. Go through the gate and continue with the hedge on the left to a stile. After crossing the stile continue forward on the left side of a hedge to the field corner, then pass through a gap in the hedge and turn left and follow a track to a bridge.
- 11) Cross the bridge and continue forward to a field, then bear right, heading uphill towards the corner of the woodland on the right. At the woodland corner continue with the woodland on the right to a stile. Cross the stile onto a track and follow the track passing to the right of a house and then continuing to a road.
- 12) Turn left along the road, ignore the path signed to the right just after crossing a stream but continue uphill to the driveway to Jenkins Town Farm and then cross a stile up the bank on the right. Bear left across the field to locate a stile in the hedge a few yards to the right of a bend in the hedge.
- 13) Cross the stile and then turn right and follow the path downhill to start with and then uphill towards Warbleton church. Continue through the Church car park and then follow a path into the church yard and pass to the right of the church.
- 14) To go to the Black Duck for refreshments continue following the path around the church and out of the main Gate. (If not going to the Black Duck then when the path bends left continue forward through gap in the wall. Continue at point 16).
- 15) Return from the Black Duck to the church yard through the main gate and follow the path to the left of the church and then where path turns right behind the church turn left through a gap in the wall.
- 16) Having passed through the gap bear right to a gap in the hedge. Continue on a path to the bottom of the field then turn left following the field edge to the second gateway on the right.
- 17) Go through the gateway and then turn left to follow left edge of field. At far end of the field locate footbridge which is to the right of the field corner.
- 18) Cross the footbridge and continue forward across two fields and then in the third field follow field edge to the second gate onto a road.
- 19) Turn right along the road to a T junction (the Brewers Arms is on the right). At the junction turn left and continue along the road to the driveway to Hook Farm, on the right.
- 20) Turn right onto Hook Farm driveway and continue on track passing to the left of Hook cottage to Hook farm. At the farm turn right through a gateway and then turn left following the left edge of the field. Go through the gateway into the next field and pass a gate on the left before going through a gap in the hedge.

- 21) Bear right across the field following a path to a stile. Cross the stile and continue forward with the hedge on the left to the next stile. Cross this stile and continue straight across the field to another stile.
- 22) Cross the stile and continue forward to a stile on the right near the bottom of the field into the woodland. Follow a path through the woodland, keeping left at a junction and continuing to a footpath gate into a field. Follow the left edge of two fields to cross a stile onto a road.
- 23) Turn left along the road to the junction with the main road. Cross the main road and go down the lane to the left of the school (Tubwell lane). Continue to access road on right just before bridge. Turn right on this access road and then turn right along the Cuckoo Trail.
- 24) Continue along the Cuckoo Trail to a give way sign and then turn left on a driveway through a gate. Continue forward passing to the right of a house. Cross a footbridge and continue forward on the waymarked path through the woodland to join an access road.
- 25) Turn right and follow the access road to a junction with a lane. Turn right along the lane to a sharp right-hand bend and then turn left onto an enclosed path. Follow the path to a road. Cross the road and continue along Tilsmore Road to the fire station. Turn left back to the carpark.