

Heathfield to Rushlake Green
Approximately 11.4 miles 6 hours
Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps 123

Refreshments: Star Inn, Old Heathfield. The Horse and Groom, Rushlake Green.

This walk leaves Heathfield via Sandy cross and then continues across fields to the village of Old Heathfield, (the original town). Passing through the Churchyard the walk continues to Cade Street. Cade Street gets its name from Jack Cade who, in 1450 led an army of insurgents to London. Just off the route along the main road is a monument where he was killed by the Sheriff of Kent. From Cade Street the route continues across fields with good views across the High Weald.

At the small village of Punnett's Town the views open out to the South Downs.

Rushlake Green has a shop and a pub, and at the heart of the village is the village green. After leaving Rushlake Green the remains of the iron industry can be seen. The river has a rusty tint from the deposits of iron. The walk continues over the rolling hills of the High Weald, passing through Nettlesworth Wood which is spectacular when the bluebells are in flower. The fields after Nettlesworth Wood are full of wild flowers in the summer. The walk continues through the SSSI of Sapperton meadows before joining an old railway line, the Cuckoo Trail.

Start. Mill road car park (behind the fire station, west end of the high street).
OS Grid Ref. TQ577 213. Nearby post code TN21 0XU

- 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 (The Greenhouse). Turn right onto the 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 into 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 second junction (Old Ghyll Road), and then turn left following the 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 the hedge/fence on the right crossing a footbridge and three stiles to eventually follow the 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 the 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 and then bear left uphill to a kissing gate in the iron fence.
- 10) Go through the kissing gate and then cross the driveway and continue on a path to a stile onto a road. Turn left along the road and then just pass the pub turn right into the Churchyard.
- 11) In the Churchyard turn right and follow the right hand boundary of the Churchyard, downhill to a kissing gate into a field.
- 12) Go through the kissing gate into the field and then follow a path across the field and into the woodland. Continue on the path over a footbridge and onto a stile.
- 13) After crossing the stile bear right uphill towards a clump of trees to a stile. Cross the stile and then continue forward on a track to the main road. Cross the main road and then turn left along the main road to the end of the first garden and then turn right onto a footpath.
- 14) Follow the footpath to a stile. Cross the stile and then turn left following a concrete road to the left of the buildings to a stile. Cross the stile and then continue forward to a T junction.
- 15) Turn right at the junction and follow the roadway to a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate continue straight across the field to a stile in the far corner. Cross this stile and then follow a driveway to the road.
- 16) Cross the road and then follow the enclosed path opposite to a stile into a field. After crossing the stile follow the right edge of two fields to a stile into woodland. Cross this stile and then follow the path to cross a stile into a field.
- 17) Turn right and follow the edge of the field to cross a stile onto a road. Turn left along the road and then turn right into Coldharbour Lane and follow to the main road.
- 18) Turn left along the main road and then turn left into Bakery Lane. Almost immediately turn left onto a footpath. Follow the enclosed path to a track. Turn left along the track and then immediately turn left again onto a path across a lawn. Continue to follow the path round to the left of a house and then through a gate into a field.
- 19) Keep to the right edge of three fields and then in the fourth field turn left to a stile and footbridge at the bottom of the field. Cross the footbridge and then at the path junction turn left and follow the path up steps into a field. In the field turn right and follow the field edge to join a track to a road.
- 20) Turn left along the road and follow it till it ends at a T junction. Turn left at the T junction and follow this road into Rushlake Green and the Horse and Groom pub.

- 21) From the Horse and Groom pub retrace your steps back to the second house on the left and then turn left onto the path that passes to the left of the house.
- 22) Continue downhill to cross a footbridge and then continue on a path which goes uphill across the middle of the first field and then following the left edge of two more fields to a road.
- 23) Cross the road to the path opposite and then follow this enclosed path until it ends at a field. In the field turn right keeping to the right edge of the field until the hedge/woodland end. At the end of the hedge/woodland bear left across the field to the top left corner.
- 24) Exit the field onto a road and then turn left following the road to steps in the bank on the right. Go up the steps and over a stile and then turn left to another stile. Cross this stile and then bear right diagonally across the field to a stile.
- 25) Cross the stile and then turn right and follow the field edge to a stile in the hedge on the right. Cross this stile and then continue straight across the field towards a house and locate a stile in the hedge.
- 26) Cross the stile and then bear right to a stile ahead. Cross the stile and then at a path junction turn left following this path to a footbridge. Cross the footbridge and then turn left to a stile.
- 27) Cross the stile and then continue forward with the hedge on the right to a footpath gate. Go through the gate and bear left crossing the field diagonally to join a concrete roadway. Follow the concrete roadway to a lane and then turn left along the lane.
- 28) Turn right onto a path beside Highlands Farm House and follow the enclosed path to a stile into a field. Cross the stile and continue forward to a gate on the left hand side of a barn. Go through the gate and continue forward to a stile into woodland in the far right hand corner of the field.
- 29) Cross the stile into the woodland and then continue forward on a path to the right of a gully. Continue on the path to a stile into a field. Cross the stile and then continue forward passing to the left of a pond. Continue to the top right corner of the field.
- 30) In the field corner turn right through a gap in the hedge and then bear left, diagonally across the field to the far left corner. Cross the stile in the field corner and then continue forward to cross the stile ahead into a field.
- 31) Bear right following a path across the field to the far corner. In the field corner there are two gateways in the left-hand hedge. Go through the right hand of the two gateways and then bear right to continue following the path to another gateway.
- 32) Go through the gateway and continue with the hedge on the left to a stile. Cross the stile and then continue forward straight across the field to another stile.
- 33) After crossing the stile turn left but do not follow the path into the woodland but continue to follow the field boundary around the woodland to a gap in the hedge. Go through the hedge and then bear right across the field to a gateway beside a telegraph pole.

- 34) Go through the gateway and then continue forward with the hedge on the left to a gate onto an enclosed path. Follow the enclosed path to the main road. Cross over the road and go slightly right to an enclosed path.
- 35) Follow the enclosed path to the Cuckoo Trail and then turn right. Continue along the Cuckoo Trail to a give way sign and then turn left onto a driveway through a gate.
- 36) Continue forward passing to the right of a house. Cross a footbridge and then continue forward on the waymarked path through the woodland to join an access road.
- 37) 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.