

## **Willingford Bridge.**

**4.28 miles approximately 2 hour.**

**Map. Explorer 124 and 136**

**Refreshments:** Batemans tea rooms (entry fee).

Rose and Crown Inn and the Bear Motel in Burwash.

This is a lovely short walk along the north side of the Dudwell Valley to Willingford Bridge. After crossing Willingford Bridge the return route is along the south side of the valley and passes Batemans Mill and House. The route is mainly over fields with two short sections of quiet country roads. There are a number of good views of the valley and at different times of the year many wild flowers.

**Start Burwash car park.** OS Grid ref. TQ673 246. Nearest post code TN19 7ET.

1. Leave the car park and turn left along the High Street. Continuing along the road out of the village, passing a petrol station on your right and then the 50mph speed limit sign. After the speed limit sign look for some steps up the bank on the left to a stile.
2. Climb the steps and cross the stile and then continue forward with a hedge/ fence on your right to the field corner. Cross the stile on your right and then follow the path to the next stile. Cross this stile and then turn right to a footpath gate in the field corner.
3. Go through the footpath gate and then over a footbridge. Follow the path to the left through a small wood to a stile into a field. Continue forward, down the field to a gateway to the right of a small wood. Go through the gateway into the next field and then bear right heading diagonally across the field to the far bottom corner.
4. Cross the stile and then follow the track through the derelict farm. Continue uphill to a gateway on the left, which is just past a house. Go through the gateway into a field and then bear right to follow a path across the field to a stile.
5. Cross the stile and then continue forward uphill to a gate. Go through the gate and then continue through two fields with a hedge/fence on your right. Go through a kissing gate and then bear right to another kissing gate.
6. Go through the kissing gate and then bear left to a footpath gate in the far left corner of the field. Go through the gate and then bear right to a stile in the far, right-hand hedge. Cross the stile and then follow an enclosed path to the road.
7. Turn left down the road and cross Willingford Bridge. After crossing the bridge look for a stile on the left into a field. Cross the stile and then bear right to the far right-hand corner. Cross a stile in the field corner and then continue forward through two fields keeping the hedge on your right.
8. At the end of the second field continue forward into a small wood and then cross two stiles before following a path to a kissing gate. After going through the kissing gate bear right, heading downhill.

9. At the bottom of the hill keep the river on the left. Continue pass a bridge and then at the end of the field go through the right-hand gate. **If there is an electric fence along the side of the next field immediately turn left through a footpath gate and then follow the field boundary to a bridge and gate on the left. If there isn't an electric fence you can just continue forward following the field boundary to the bridge and gate.**
10. Cross the bridge and go through the gate and then turn right keeping the hedge on the right to a kissing gate.
11. Go through the kissing gate and then continue forward on a path. Don't cross the footbridge on the left over the river but continue to follow the path with the mill stream on your right. Pass between the mill pond and mill and then keep forward on a track to a farm drive.
12. Turn left along the farm drive to Bateman's House. At the front of Batemans House turn right along the road and follow it to a farm. Just before the farm buildings, take a small path on the left into a small wood and then pass through two footpath gates. Continue forward with the farm and woodland on the right to a stile.
13. Cross the stile and a footbridge and then continue up the left-hand side of the field to the top corner. Go through a gap in the hedge into a woodland and then follow a path. Keep left at a junction of paths.
14. Cross over a ditch into a field and then go uphill following the left hand edge of the field back to the car park.