

Heathfield to Vines Cross

Approximately 6.47 miles 3.5 hours

Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps 123

This walk passes through the attractive old woodland of Slade wood and then crosses the Cuckoo trail to Theobalds Green Farm. The walk continues through Sapperton Meadow an area of Special Scientific Interest with its many wild flowers. The fields all the way to Nettlesworth Wood can be spectacular during the early summer when they are a blaze of colour. Nettlesworth Wood is amongst one of the best in the area for bluebells in the spring. Vines Cross was once a thriving village but now only has a public house (The Brewers Arms) and a garage at its centre. Leaving Vines Cross the walk passes through Hook Farm and then crosses fields to the village of Maynards Green. From Maynards Green the Cuckoo Trail is followed back to Heathfield.

Refreshments: The Brewers Arms, Vines Cross

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 vehicle entrance and then turn left down Mill Lane. At the bottom of the road turn right into Tilsmore Road and follow this to the end. At the end of Tilsmore Road continue forward across the road to the enclosed path opposite.
2. Follow the path to a lane and then turn right along the lane to an access road on the left beside Pook Reed house. Turn left onto the access road and follow until there is a gate across the road and a footpath on the left.
3. Turn left onto the footpath which goes through woodland to a footbridge. Cross the footbridge and then continue uphill, passing to the left of a house. Continue to follow the track uphill to the main road.
4. Cross the main road and then continue forward up the driveway to Theobalds Green Farm. When the driveway bends left, turn right onto an enclosed footpath.
5. Follow the enclosed footpath to a field and then continue forward across the field towards the farm buildings in the distance to locate a stile in the hedge (the stile could be slightly to your right). Cross the stile and continue forward across the field to another stile.
6. Cross the stile and then continue forward in the next field keeping the hedge on your right to a gateway in the field corner. Go through the gateway. Do not cross the stile but continue forward on a path across the field to a gateway in the far corner.
7. Go through the gateway in the corner of the field and then continue to follow the path bearing right to a stile in the far right hand corner of the field.

8. Cross the stile and then continue forward to cross a stile into a field. Bear right, diagonally crossing the field to a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap and then turn left. Pass to the right of a pond to a stile into woodland.
9. Cross the stile and follow a path through the woodland to a stile into a field. Cross the stile and continue uphill aiming to the right of a house to a stile beside a barn. Cross the stile and continue forward to a stile in the far right corner of the field and then follow an enclosed path to a road.
10. Cross the road to a path opposite and then follow the field boundary, keeping the hedge on your right to a gate onto a road. Turn right along the road, following it to its end at 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.
11. Turn right onto Hook Farm driveway and continue on a track passing to the left of Hook cottage. Continue 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.
12. 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.
13. 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 then cross a stile onto a road.
14. 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 an access road on the right just before a bridge. Turn right on the access road and then turn right along the Cuckoo Trail (a disused railway line). Follow the Cuckoo Trail, crossing all roads along the way to its end at a carpark.
15. At the car park continue forward to a road and then cross over the road to follow an enclosed path to the left of the industrial unite.
16. At the next road continue forward to a junction and then turn right, cross over the bridge and then turn left onto a path heading uphill to the High street. Turn left along the High Street back to the car park.