

Rye to Winchelsea Walk Directions and an alternative route from Winchelsea to Icklesham

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| Note: This walk is currently provided in electronic format only to be used in conjunction with Walk 25 (Winchelsea to Hastings) in the "Time Out Country Walks - Volume 1" book. (ISBN 1-904978-88-6). | | | |
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These directions provide a start from Rye station for the Winchelsea to Hastings walk described in the book "Time Out Country Walks – Volume 1" (ISBN 1-904978-88-6). The directions are to be used in conjunction with the printed book. (As from autumn 2005 Winchelsea station is served by only two trains a day, making a Winchelsea start impracticable.)

They also offer an alternative route from Winchelsea Station to the suggested lunch pub, the Queens Head in Icklesham. This gives you a chance to see the historic and pretty village of Winchelsea which is otherwise not passed on the walk, as well as taking you past a well-preserved windmill. The route broadly follows the signposted 1066 Country Walk, but with some variations.

Start: Rye station

Finish: Hastings station

Length: 22.5km (14 miles), 6 hours 45 minutes. For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 12 hours.

OS Landranger Map Nos. 189 and 199. **OS Explorer Map** Nos. 124 and 125. Rye, map reference TQ 919205, is in **East Sussex**.

Toughness: 9 out of 10

Walk Options - Rye round walk: You may combine the Winchelsea to Hastings walk with the Hastings to Rye walk from Volume 2 for a 21km (13 mile) round walk. Just prior to [7] in the volume 1 text: Ignore "Turn up a driveway to the right" and continue along the road, picking up the directions from [4] in volume 2.

Saturday Walkers' Club Take the train nearest to **9.15am** (before or after) from **Charing Cross Station to Rye** (changing at Ashford). Journey time 1 hour 50 minutes. Trains back from Hastings run hourly. Journey time 1 hour 40 minutes. Get a day return to Rye.

Rye to Winchelsea walk directions

Turn right coming out of Rye station ticket office, along the pavement. In 150 metres cross over the road (with a level crossing on your right hand side) to turn left. After 80 metres turn right along Wish Street. In 130 metres you pass a mini roundabout on your left-hand side and after a further 30 metres cross a road bridge over the river Tillingham. Immediately over this bridge turn right along a concrete footpath, marked by a 1066 country walk (CW) footpath signpost, your direction 290 degrees. In 30 metres go through a wooden gate and after a further 60 metres cross over the railway line, (flanked by two metal gates).

After 25 metres go through a wooden gate into a park and turn left along a tarmac path along the parks edge. In 140 metres, leave the park over a wooden bridge, to continue along the (now fenced in) tarmac path. After 150 metres (having crossed two more footbridges), follow the path round to the right, your direction 300 degrees. In 180 metres you go through some wooden car blocking bollards, to then turn left along a car wide tarmac bridleway, your direction 220 degrees.

You now follow the 1066 CW signs to Winchelsea station, but in more detail:

After 20 metres you pass by a red bricked utility building on your right hand side, to go through a metal gate. The path now becomes a narrow track with the old coastline cliff on your right, and a ditch stream on your left. Continue along this path, going through four metal gates (to the right of wooden fieldgates) along the way. After 1.6km you go through a metal gate (to the right of a cattle grid), to join Dumb Woman's Lane and continue ahead in the same direction, 260 degrees. After 250 metres at a junction, turn left along a lane signposted Winchelsea station and 1066 CW, your direction 160 degrees. In 450 metres you reach Winchelsea station.

You now follow the Winchelsea to Hastings walk directions in Country Walks book one

Alternative route from Winchelsea Station to Icklesham

After passing Winchelsea station on the route described above, *stay on the road*. In 150 metres this curves sharp right, and after another 300 metres of minor meanders, curves sharp left. In another 200 metres, it crosses over a river, and in a further 170 metres comes to hairpin bend on a main road, the A259.

Cross the hairpin bend with great care, and go straight up the hill, using the narrow concrete verge alongside the crash barrier to the left of the road. In 180 metres, fork left off the main road through an old arch (the Pipewell Gate of old Winchelsea) onto a residential road. In 100 metres, turn right uphill on another residential street.

In 80 metres, ignore roads left and right and keep on uphill. In 120 metres you come to the centre of Winchelsea. Here, *keep straight on* along the road, with the church to the left and the New Inn to your right.

Ignore all ways off. In 250 metres, you leave the houses behind. In another 300 metres, *as the road you are on turns sharp right, keep straight on down a minor road*. In 200 metres, this curves right downhill, and then left again. In 300 metres it passes under an old city gate – the New Gate – whose distance from the houses today shows just how Winchelsea has shrunk since its heyday.

There is soon a fine view of the marshes of Pett Level to your left. In 220 metres, at the end of this section, ignore a signposted path to the left and curve right, uphill with the road, which is now between high banks. In 80 metres, you pass the driveway to Wickham Manor Farm to your right. In another 130 metres, at the top of the hill, you emerge from between the banks, and carry on along the road between hedges.

In a further 160 metres, ignore a stile to the right, but in 20 metres *fork left, through a gate to the left of a wooden fieldgate*, signposted 1066 Country Walk. Head diagonally up across an arable field, aiming for the left hand edge of a clump of trees. In 130 metres, pass to the left of this clump of trees and keep straight on along the right hand edge of the field.

In 80 metres cross a stile to the right of a wooden fieldgate, ignoring a signposted path to the left. Keep on along the right hand edge of the next field. In 110 metres, cross a stile into another field, and keep straight on across it, heading slightly to the left of the windmill on the hill ahead.

In 230 metres, *cross a stile, and keep straight on along the road*. In 90 metres, just after a white house on the left, *turn right across a stile* to the right of a metal fieldgate, *and carry on uphill towards the windmill*.

In 130 metres, at the top of the hill, pass to the right of the windmill, and bear very slightly left to descend the hill again. In 130 metres, *cross a stile, and go straight on down a tarmac road*.

[!] *In 40 metres, turn right into an orchard through a hedge and a metal gate*, following a 1066 Country Walk signpost, *and immediately turn left again*, to follow the hedge along the edge of the orchard. *In 70 metres, turn right up a row of the orchard* following a yellow arrow on a post, and [!] *in another 10 metres, turn left* at another yellow arrow to follow a path that slants across the orchard.

In 10 metres, pass through a gap in the hedge into the next orchard field, and keep straight on across this and two more orchard fields, each about 100 metres across and divided from its neighbour by a hedge. On the far side of the third field, *pass through a gate and turn right on a tarmac lane* towards two converted oast houses. Ignore a stile immediately to the left, but in 30 metres, where the road curves right, *pass to the left of the oast houses*, and keep straight on along a driveway.

In 70 metres, where the driveway curves right past Stable Cottage, *keep straight on along a grass path*, with the orchard fence to your left and a hedge to your right. In 150 metres *ignore a fork right to the Church* (unless you are **not** planning to have lunch in the pub: in which case you now resume the book directions from **All Saints Church, Icklesham**): but to go to the lunchtime pub, *stay on the path as it bears left*. In 130 metres, *you emerge onto a road, where you turn right*, following the 1066 Country Walk sign. In 80 metres, *cross the busy A259 with care and go straight ahead up Parsonage Lane*, marked as a dead end.

In 100 metres in front of a white house, fork right and the **Queens Head Inn**, the recommended lunch stop is 30 metres ahead. *You can now follow the remaining directions of the walk this point in the book*.