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## Extending Walk 21 – Pluckley Circular

This is a route which extends the Pluckley Circular walk in Time Out Country Walks Volume 2 from the village of Pluckley along the Greensand Way, with fine ridge views over the Medway Valley.

There are two options – one which adds 3.7km (2.3 miles) to the walk, making a total walk of 14.7km (9.1 miles), and another which adds 6.5km (4.3 miles), making a total walk of 17.5km (11.1 miles). Both routes climb to a fine viewpoint on the Greensand ridge, with the longer version following the crest of the ridge for some distance.

Both also routes pass by an idyllic rural pub in Mundy Bois, which is a possible tea stop, though it does close from about 2.30pm to 6pm Monday to Saturday in summer, and has even more limited opening hours in winter. On Sundays, however, it is open for drinks at least until 5pm. A more reliable tea option is The George Inn in the village of Egerton, which is on the longer version of the extension only. This currently seems to stay open all afternoon year round.

Both options have the same start. The point of divergence is indicated in point 10 of the walk directions below.

### WALK DIRECTIONS

1. Following the book route from Pluckley village, you emerge onto the crest of a ridge, with fine views, and follow a path that slants downhill to the valley. At the foot of the hill, on page 238, column one, paragraph two, line 6, the book gives the direction "*In 100 metres, ignore a path to the right and veer left with the field edge*". Here you diverge from the book directions, by turning right, passing to the right of a ditch, and heading towards a gate 50 metres away (and a grey barn visible in the distance beyond it)
2. Pass through the gate, which has an Elvey Farm sign on it, and keep straight on along the left hand edge of a field
3. In 150 metres, exit the field, passing a brick farmhouse with a converted oasthouse (circular building with cone roof) to the right and a barn to the left. Keep straight on past a second black-sided barn on the left, to a signposted four-way junction in 80 metres.
4. At the junction, ignore tracks left and right and go straight on through double fieldgates, following the Greensand Way signpost. Keep straight on across the field,

- heading for white houses in the far distance (possibly not visible in summer). Ignore any faint path slanting left.
5. In 150 metres cross a stile and keep on towards the left hand end of a clump of trees ahead. In 50 metres, cross a stile to the left of this clump of trees and turn right up the edge of the field beyond.
  6. In 200 metres in the corner of the field, cross a stile, and turn right on a track beyond it. In 10 metres pass through a rusted metal fieldgate, and in 20 metres more turn left over a stile to the right of another rusted metal fieldgate
  7. Keep to the left hand edge of the field beyond. In 200 metres cross a stile, and in 150 metres cross another. 50 metres further on cross a third stile and veer slightly left to cross a ditch by a footpath post in 30 metres.
  8. Beyond the ditch, keep straight uphill towards a large house on the hilltop, with arched Dering windows
  9. In 50 metres, cross a stile, and 10 metres more another, and then veer right uphill to the upper right hand field corner to cross a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate in another 50 metres.
  10. You now come to a road. ---- **For the shorter 3.7km (2.3 mile) version of this extension**, turn left downhill on this road and follow it for 1.4km until you come to a T-junction with a larger road. Turn left and in 130 metres you come to the Mundy Bois pub on your right. Resume the walk directions at point 29 below. ---- **For the longer 6.5km (4.3 miles) version of this extension**, turn right uphill on the road
  11. In 60 metres, turn left off the road, following a Greensand Way signpost, down some steps and across a stile into a field. Keep straight on along the right hand edge of the field, on the crest of the hill, with fine views to the left
  12. In 250 metres, at the end of a field, cross a stile to the right of a rusted metal fieldgate. In the next field, keep straight on along a grassy shelf that contours along the hill. In 110 metres, this curves round the hill and beyond heads for a house on the hilltop ahead.
  13. In another 120 metres cross a stile next to a wooden fieldgate, and carry on down a fenced tarmac path. Follow this uphill.
  14. In 130 metres, pass through another gate, and turn left between houses to reach the road in 50 metres. Turn right on the road.
  15. In 130 metres, take the signposted path to the left, with a fenced off field to the right, and the church and village of **Egerton** visible to the right.
  16. In 250 metres this brings you out onto a suburban housing estate. Walk forward 50 metres to a road, and turn left, ignoring a brick-paved road slanting downhill to the left.
  17. Follow the road you are on, as it curves right in 70 metres, and brings you up to **The George Inn** (01233 756 304 [www.thegeorgeinn.uk.net](http://www.thegeorgeinn.uk.net)), a possible tea stop. This seems to stay open all afternoon daily.
  18. From The George Inn, you could just retrace your steps to the road mentioned in point 10, and follow the shorter route down to Mundy Bois. Though it involves doubling back on yourself, it is perhaps scenically superior to the route described below. However, for those who don't want to retrace their steps, **the onward route** is to turn left in front of The George Inn and again left downhill onto Rock Hill Road. (Coming out of the pub, simply carry straight on downhill on this road)
  19. Ignore ways off and follow this road (which has a little bit of traffic that you need to watch out for) downhill. In 700 metres, ignore Stone Hill Road to the left, and follow the road you are on to the right. You soon pass houses left and later right as well.
  20. In 260 metres, just before Water Villa, a white terraced house, **ignore** a signposted path up a track to the left, but 40 metres further on, where the houses on the left finally come to an end, turn left at a green footpath signpost (crossing a very decrepit stile that may soon be gone) onto a footpath between a garden fence left and a hedge right.
  21. In 80 metres, cross over a stile into a field, and keep on up its right hand edge.
  22. In 100 metres, cross over a wooden hurdle (the remains of a stile?) to the right of a metal fieldgate into the next field, and keep straight on, now on the left hand edge of a field. In 120 metres pass into the next field, and keep straight on along its edge for 140 metres, to emerge onto a road.
  23. Turn left on the road, and in 90 metres turn right up Newland Green Lane

24. In 280 metres, just past a brick house on the right, turn left up a tarmac driveway, passing a white-sided bungalow on your right hand side. In 40 metres, veer left into a field, following a footpath signpost
25. Keep to the left hand edge of this field. In 200 metres at its far end, cross a stile, and veer slightly right, diagonally across the next field towards a stile in its far corner
26. In 150 metres cross this stile, and turn left on a grassy car-wide track. In 10 metres ignore a grassy track forking to the left.
27. In 120 metres you come to a road, and turn right. There is not much traffic on this road, but cars do sometimes come along it fast, so take care
28. In 500 metres, at a crossroads, go straight on. In 130 metres more you pass the Mundy Bois pub (01233 840048) on your right. This only seems to have limited weekday opening in the winter (closed entirely Monday and Tuesday), though it is open for lunch on Saturdays and all afternoon till about 5pm on Sundays: summer opening times may well be more generous, however
29. Carrying on past the pub, in 50 metres, turn left up Elvey Lane.
30. In 330 metres ignore a footpath to the left. In another 150 metres the road curves left. 70 metres after this point, ignore the gravel driveway to Honey Farm to the right, but take the signposted footpath to the right just beyond it, along the field edge, with the garden of Honey Farm to your right.
31. In 150 metres, where the hedge ends, you are at point **[7]** in the book directions. Your onward route is to keep straight on across the large open field ahead, aiming for the left corner of the wood and a house on the low ridge in the distance.....and so on as per the book directions to the end of the walk.