

Main walk morning last checked	Main walk afternoon last checked	Shorter ending last checked	Edenbridge Town start last checked
12 September 2009	1 May 2010	12 September 2009	NOT YET CHECKED
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Edenbridge to Westerham

- Length:**
- **Main walk:** 17.3km (10.7 miles)
 - **Shorter ending** (Alternative Route A): 11.4km (7.1 miles)
 - Chartwell Loop (Option #1): adds 1.6km (1 mile)
 - Short cut to Emmetts Garden: saves 2 miles (3.2km)
 - Starting from Edenbridge Town (Option #3): adds 1.8km (1.1 miles)

- Toughness:**
- **Main walk:** 8 out of 10: quite a few hills, some rather steep
 - **Shorter ending** (Alternative Route A): 4 out of 10: gentle gradients apart from a couple of short steep sections.

Maps: OS Landranger 187 & 188; Explorer 147.

Walk notes

When you see a view from a ridge, you do not usually know much about the countryside you are looking at. But on this walk, you start in the Eden valley and climb slowly and gently across fields up towards the Greensand Ridge, with increasingly pretty views. By the time you climb up onto the escarpment, in a series of delightful stages, the view has become a familiar friend.

In the Second World War, Winston Churchill is supposed to have looked at this very view and said: "This is what we are fighting for." Certainly, **Chartwell**, his house, which is passed on this walk and which is now owned by the National Trust, was his refuge and great love, though he had little enough opportunity to visit it during his time as wartime Prime Minister. This walk, with its short afternoon, is ideal if you want to visit this property.

The walk also takes in **Emmetts Garden**, another National Trust attraction, and offers a shortcut to this in the afternoon if you want to spend more time there. Emmetts also has a wonderful display of **bluebells** in late April and early May, but even better wild ones – some of the loveliest ones in southern England - are to be seen throughout the walk, particularly in the

afternoon around **Ide Hill**, at the start of the optional **Hurst Green start**, and just beyond Mariner's Hill on the **Shorter Ending to Westerham**.

If that is not enough, the pretty town of Westerham at the end of the walk also has its points of interest in the shape of **Squerryes Court** and **Quebec House** (National Trust), two historic houses are associated with Wolfe, the youthful general who conquered the Canadian city for the British Empire. Both are open to the public in the summer months

Transport

The main walk starts from **Edenbridge** station (*not to be confused with Edenbridge Town: but see below*) on the Redhill to Tonbridge line, which is reached by trains out of **Charing Cross** and **London Bridge** via **East Croydon**.

Returning from **Westerham** you can get the **246 bus to Bromley South station** (about 40 minutes), from where there are fast trains to Victoria. This is a London Transport service, which runs at least hourly till near midnight and amazingly you can pay with an Oyster card or use LT travelcards.

Another alternative from Westerham is to take a **594/595 bus to Oxted** (not Sundays: currently operated by Southdown PSV): a return rail ticket to "Edenbridge Stations" will be valid from there. Arriva Kent and Sussex also operate a **401 bus to Sevenoaks**, which has fast train service to London, but you will need a separate rail ticket to return from there.

On Sundays when the house is open, the 246 and 401 buses also serve **Chartwell** until around 5pm.

Two alternative starts are also given from **Edenbridge Town** station (option #3) and **Hurst Green** (Alternative Route B), which are on the Uckfield line served out of London Bridge via East Croydon, but with good connections from Victoria at Oxted.

Suggested train

The first direct train from Charing Cross **before 10am** to Edenbridge will get you to Chartwell comfortably for lunch: if planning to eat in the pub in Crockham Hill, the first train after 10 am would be fine.

Walk options

There are various ways to vary the walk, some minor, some major. The **Minor Options** are short variations on the main walk route and are numbered **#1-#3** (plus one other for which directions are in the main walk text). The **Alternative Routes** involve completely different morning or afternoon routes, and are numbered **A to C**.

Directions for all appear at the end of the main walk text, except for Alternative Route C, where you need *Time Out Country Walks Book 2*, and the Shortcut to Emmetts Garden, for which directions appear in the main walk directions.

MINOR OPTIONS

These are short diversions from the main walk route, for the reasons explained below:

- **Option #1: Loop around Chartwell Estate:** This optional **1.6km (1 mile)** tour around the Chartwell estate can be done before or after visiting the property. It gives you a good view of the house and garden from permissive National Trust paths, and ends up back at the tea room in Chartwell.
- **Option #2: Diversion to Fox & Hounds pub in Toys Hill:** This very short (**700 metre**) diversion up through the woods takes you to and from a possible later lunch stop at the Fox & Hounds Pub in Toys Hill.
- **Shortcut to Emmetts Garden:** This shortcut through the woods **saves 3.2km (2 miles)** and some big hill climbs off the main walk. It might be useful if you want to get to tea earlier - the gardens are otherwise 4km/2.5 miles away from that point in the walk, rather than 800 metres via this short cut - or save your energy for viewing the garden. Directions can be found in paragraph 47 of the main directions.
- **Option #3: Starting from Edenbridge Town station:** Edenbridge has two stations on two different railway lines. This option starts from the other one, and soon joins the main walk. It **adds 1.8km (1.1 miles)** at the start of the walk, so the distance to all lunch and tea options given below needs to be lengthened by that amount.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Once you are familiar with the main walk, you might like to try one of these alternative starts (B) or endings (A and C).

- **Alternative Route A: Shorter Ending from Chartwell to Westerham.** This option starts at Chartwell, and takes you directly in 4.5km (2.8 miles) to Westerham, **saving 5.9km (3.6 miles)** and a lot of hill climbing off the main walk. It is particularly useful on a short winter's day, or if you want more time to visit Chartwell or Quebec House.
- **Alternative Route B: Starting from Hurst Green:** This lovely route starts at Hurst Green station and has some fine bluebell woods in its early stages. It later skirts along the bottom of the Greensand escarpment, then climbs up it to join the main walk route at Crockham Hill. It creates a walk **the same length as the main walk**.
- **Alternative Route C: Ending at Penshurst station:** By starting out on this walk and then switching to the directions from *Time Out Country Walks Book 2*, Walk 16, you can create a grand exploration of the territory on and below the Greensand escarpment. Details of how to do this are contained in the text – see paragraph 58 of the main walk directions, or paragraph 3 of the Option #2 directions. Using either the main walk directions from Edenbridge, or Alternative Route B, the start from Hurst Green, this also creates a walk **the same length as the main walk**.

LUNCH AND TEA PLACES

The Royal Oak in Crockham Hill 01732 866 335 (4.8km/3 miles into the walk) is a small pub that does food from 12-3pm Monday to Saturday and 12-4pm on Sundays. Booking is advisable on Sundays, when the pub does "amazing roasts" according to its proprietress.

Chartwell (6.9km/4.3 miles into the walk) has a National Trust-run self-service tea room and restaurant, which can be reached without going into the house. It does two or three hot food options every lunchtime from 12 to 3pm. It is open for tea until 5pm. Unlike most National Trust properties, it is open year around, apart from Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The **Fox & Hounds** in Toy's Hill is a possible later lunch stop reached by a short diversion 9.5km/5.9 miles into the walk. It serves food 12-2pm, to 2.30 pm on Saturday and 3pm on Sunday, and has a garden. Recent reports from walkers say this pub serves good food but has rather grumpy service.

Emmetts Garden (13.1km/8.1 miles into the walk, or 9.9km/6.1 miles via the short cut) has a National Trust tea room. It is open till 4.30pm from mid March to the end of October, but only from Saturday to Wednesday (ie **NOT** Thursday and Friday).

As well as the fine **pubs** in Westerham (see walk directions for details), the village also has several tea rooms. The most obvious at the end of the walk are the **Tudor Tea Rooms** on the north side of the green (closing time unknown, but shuts early at 2.30pm on Wednesdays). Nearby, at the far eastern end of the green, **Food for Thought** advertises cream teas and is open till 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, 10pm Friday, and 6pm Saturday and Sunday.

MAIN WALK DIRECTIONS

1. Coming off the London platform at Edenbridge station, go down the station approach to the main road, ignoring a residential cul-de-sac to the left.
2. Turn left on the main road, and in 50 metres or so, turn left along a signposted but easily missed footpath between high wooden fences.
3. In 250 metres or so, this brings you into a field. Go right, uphill, along the edge of the field to a road.
4. Turn left on the road. (Some cars come down this road rather fast, so take care.)
5. Initially there are houses to the left, but eventually you leave them behind. 250 metres after the last house, ignore a signposted footpath to the left opposite a rubbery-leaved garden hedge, but in 100 metres more, at the end of the garden of a house to the right, turn right up a tarmac driveway, following a footpath sign. There is a pond to your immediate left.
6. In 80 metres, at the end of the driveway, go on through farm buildings and gates (no signpost) into a field. Go downhill on the left hand side of the field.
7. In 80 metres, ignore a stile to the left, and keep straight on down the field edge. In another 70 metres cross a decaying stile by a fieldgate.
8. Keep on down the left hand edge of the next field, over a slight hill.
9. 80 metres beyond the top of the hill, go through a fieldgate and on down a broad wooded strip between fences.
10. In 200 metres, pass through a gate into a field, and keep on up its left hand side.
11. In 130 metres, pass through another fieldgate. Ignore a car wide track to the left and go straight on into a field through a fieldgate.
12. Turn right initially along the field edge following a blue Vanguard Way arrow. In the field corner in 40 metres, turn left just before the fieldgate and go right up the field edge, with a hedge to your right.
13. In 200 metres cross a stile into the next field, and in 150 metres cross another stile to emerge onto a road.
14. Turn left on the road, and in 40 metres turn right over a stile into a large open

field. Converge with the left hand edge of this, aiming for the corner of the wood ahead. When you get to the wood, keep to the right of it, along the left hand edge of the field.

15. In 500 metres, at the far end of this field, cross a stile and go on up the left hand side of the next field.

16. In 170 metres, ignore a gap to the left, and turn right along the field boundary. In 20 metres, turn left again to carry on up the left hand edge of the field, which curves to the right and then resumes your former direction.

17. [!] In about 250 metres, at the top of the rise, and 60 metres before the end of the field, turn left through the hedge over a stile, and go straight on along the left hand edge of the field beyond.

18. In 100 metres, cross a stile. Ignore the stile 20 metres ahead, and instead turn right along a path, with a fence to your right.

19. In 60 metres, you emerge into an open space with houses ahead. Keep to the fence and carry straight on.

20. In 250 metres, cross a stile and turn right on a gravel drive, then right on a road.

21. In 200 metres you pass a house to the left called Blackthorne Cottage. In another 100 metres, where the lane turns sharp right, go straight on through a wooden gate to the left of a metal fieldgate, and on up a car wide gravel path.

22. Follow this path uphill, ignoring ways off. In 500 metres you come out into a residential cul-de-sac. Keep straight on through this to merge with a road.

23. In 250 metres, you come out onto the main road in the centre of the village of **Crockham Hill**. Turn right on the main road for a possible pub stop, the **Royal Oak** in 80 metres. Otherwise, cross the main road with care and turn left uphill on it.

24. In 100 metres, turn right down a road to "Village Hall, School, Church".

25. In 140 metres, where the lane curves left up to the church, keep straight on through a kissing gate to the right of a

metal fieldgate. Curve slightly left across the field following faint grassy path.

26. In 75 metres, pass through a gate to the right of a stile, and veer slightly to the left across the next field. You are aiming for a kissing gate in 200 metres or so on the far side of the field, but it is a bit hidden by the dip and some trees: it is in fact in the field corner about 50 metres to the right of a metal fieldgate visible when you are halfway across the field.

27. Beyond the kissing gate, cross a footbridge over a stream, and keep straight on uphill up the left hand edge of the field.

28. In 130 metres at the top of the field, cross a stile, and keep on up a fenced path, which in 30 metres leads to some steps.

29. In 100 metres, at the top of the steps, go right on a tarmac road.

30. In 150 metres, opposite the drive to The Coach House right, turn left up a car-wide track, with an open field beyond a fence to the right. (*Note: if you are going to do the **Alternative Route A: Shorter ending from Chartwell to Westerham** you will climb this hill in the afternoon. So as not to repeat the route, you may prefer to use an alternative route to Chartwell, which is to stay on the tarmac lane, passing through a gate in 400 metres, and in 180 metres coming to a car road *, where you go left uphill. Chartwell is 400 metres uphill on the right: you first pass the house, with its brick wall, and 100 metres beyond the brick wall turn right down the visitor's vehicle exit (marked with a no entry sign), curving left to the tea room/restaurant for lunch. *If you want to do **Option #1: Loop around the Chartwell Estate** BEFORE lunch, then 100 metres after turning left onto the car road turn right onto a driveway to Chartwell Farm, a signposted bridleway, and jump to paragraph 36 below.)*)

31. In 350 metres, near the top of the hill, there is a double fieldgate to the right. Fork right off the track here, up a path which follows the field fence to your right, with fine views back and to the right. This is **Mariner's Hill**

32. In 500 metres, follow the path into the wood, passing a National Trust sign for Mariner's Hill. In 30 metres, at a T-

junction, turn right down a car-wide bridleway.

33. In 300 metres you come to a road. Here you have a choice.

- **1) For lunch at Chartwell**, *turn left on the road*, passing Chartwell House on the right in about 80 metres (two closed exits, separated by a brick wall). 100 metres beyond the end of the brick wall, turn right down the visitor's vehicle exit (marked with a no entry sign), and curve left for the tea/room and restaurant.
- **2) To miss out lunch at Chartwell**, or to do **Option #1: the Loop around the Chartwell Estate** before going to Chartwell for lunch, *turn right on the road*. In 180 metres, turn left up a driveway to Chartwell Farm, a signposted bridleway, and continue from paragraph 36 below.

34. After lunch, coming out of the tea room at Chartwell, turn right (southwards) to leave the complex by the vehicle exit.

35. Turn left on the road. In 180 metres ignore a bridleway to the right, but in another 180 metres turn left up a driveway to Chartwell Farm, a signposted bridleway.

36. In 200 metres, ignore a private tarmac drive to the left, but keep on downhill, passing a house to the right. Veer left through a large wooden gate and go past some converted oast houses.

37. Beyond the last oast house, go through a wooden gate and continue along what is now a concrete drive. In 80 metres, where the concrete ends, you have a choice.

- **to do Option #1: Loop around the Chartwell Estate** (which brings you back to Chartwell again in 1km from this point), *turn left here* onto a car-wide gravel path into the Chartwell Estate. Then refer to the special instructions for this option at the end of the main walk directions.
- **To continue with the main walk**, *go straight ahead* at the end of the concrete track, and cross a stile to the right of a fieldgate in 10 metres.

38. Beyond the stile, veer right on a car-wide path. In 40 metres, there is a wooden fence to your right and you pass under trees.

39. In 60 metres, where the fence ends, keep on along a path under trees, with an open field to the left and a scrub area to your right.

40. In 130 metres, you have open fields on both sides, and a wire fence to your right. (There is a nice bluebell wood on the far side of the field to your right in late April and early May).

41. In 250 metres, pass through a metal fieldgate and carry straight on between fields, slightly downhill.

42. In 150 metres, cross a stile to the right of a metal gate, and turn left onto a road.

43. In 40 metres, as you pass some houses, ignore a road to the left, and keep straight on along the road for 500 metres, as it climbs up to Toy's Hill. Near the top, in a cutting, ignore a track to the right signposted Bardogs Farmhouse.

44. At the top of the hill, a tarmac drive merges from the left, and there is an old well with a pitched roof over it on your right, and a fine view of the Weald. In 100 metres more, you come to a road junction. Fork left here around a green triangle and in 30 metres, you come to a crossroads.

45. Go straight across the crossroads down Scords Lane. Keep on this road for 500 metres as it descends into a dip and rises again to a junction with a gravel driveway to Scords Farm right.

- For **Option #2: Diversion to the Fox and Hounds pub** in Toys Hill, turn left at this junction up a signposted footpath, up wooden steps. Refer to the directions for this option at the end of this document.

Otherwise, **to continue with the main walk**, keep straight on up the lane

46. In 40 metres, you pass a house called Little Chart on the right, and in 20 metres more, another called Little Scords.

47. In another 50 metres, where the tarmac lane curves right to the wooden gate of a house, fork left uphill into Scords Wood (a National Trust sign). In 5 metres a path forks right and you have a choice of routes:

- For **a shortcut through the woods to Emmetts Garden**, saving 3.2km (2 miles) but missing some wonderful

scenery (see **Walk Options** for more details), *ignore the fork to the right and carry on up the main bridleway*. The path climbs for 400 metres, then goes into a dip and up the far side. At the top of the far side of the dip, turn right at a major crosspaths, following a yellow arrow on the post, and in 70 metres cross a stile to bring you in another 50 metres to the tearoom at Emmetts.

- **To continue with the main walk route**, *take the fork to the right, leaving the main bridleway*, and refer to paragraph 48 immediately below

48. Follow this path for 100 metres to a T-junction with a car-wide path (the Greensand Way). Here turn right, downhill.

49. In 180 metres, at a footpath post, ignore the National Trust Red Walk arrow to the left, and follow the Greensand Way straight ahead down into an area of young trees. In 70 metres, you emerge through a squeeze gate into an open field, with the church of Ide Hill visible on the hill opposite.

50. Beyond the squeezegate, turn left along the field edge.

51. In 60 metres, at the corner of the wood, by an isolated stile, fork right downhill, following a footpath arrow, heading for a gap between a wood to the right at the bottom of the hill, and a newly coppiced area of trees to the left.

52. In 100 metres, pass through a gate in the gap, and keep straight on (with wonderful wild garlic woods either side in late April or early May), heading for the far right hand corner of the field.

53. In 200 metres, cross a footbridge over a stream and then a gate into the next field. Keep straight on uphill, at first on the left hand edge of the field, but later merging with a track up the right hand edge, with a hedgerow to the right

54. In 250 metres (ie, after following the track along the hedgerow for 100 metres), cross a stile next to a fieldgate and keep on up the right hand edge of the next field.

55. In 80 metres, follow the track as it veers slightly right out of the top corner of the field, and **[!]** *in 5 metres more, turn right through a black kissing gate onto a*

footpath that goes gently downhill, with a wire fence and field to the right

56. In 150 metres the path enters a wood. In 40 metres, it crosses a stream and veers right, and then in 20 metres goes left across a minor ditch and steeply uphill. There are wonderful bluebells on the whole next section in late April and early May.

57. In 120 metres, ignore a major fork left uphill, but keep on the more level right fork, which nevertheless soon starts to climb again

58. In 170 metres you come to crosspaths with a footpath post, where you have a choice:

- **To follow Alternative Route C: Ending in Penshurst** *keep straight on here*, and follow the directions in *Time Out Country Walks Book 2*, walk 16. In 20 metres are at the stone bench memorial to Octavia Hill, mentioned on page 178 (2006 Ebury Press edition) paragraph two, and can follow the remaining directions from this point.
- **For more bluebells** in late April or early May, also keep straight on. But you need to return to this point to continue the walk
- **Otherwise, to continue the main walk**, *turn left uphill at the crosspaths, and then **[!]** immediately fork left again.*

59. Assuming you have forked left immediately after turning left at the crosspaths, you emerge in 40 metres into a small open space. Keep straight on across this, heading for a wide gap between two benches (a third bench further to the left soon also comes into view).

60. Keep straight on along a clear path. In 50 metres more, you emerge from the trees and follow a path fenced off from a field to the left.

61. In 100 metres, at the end of the field, veer right to a tarmac lane, with the churchyard beyond. Here go left.

62. In 100 metres more you emerge onto the green of the village of **Ide Hill**. Turn diagonally across it towards the pub, **The Cock Inn**.

63. Take the minor road that veers left off the main road, passing in front of the pub (signposted just after the pub as Camberwell Lane). Follow this road as it curves left downhill past houses

64. In 200 metres, where the road ends in a cul du sac, look for not very clearly marked footpath, straight ahead between two sets of double houses (numbers 16 and 17), and to the right of a telegraph pole. A concrete marker on the ground confirms you are on the right route.

65. In 30 metres cross a stile into a field, and keep on down its left hand edge. In another 30 metres, where the hedge ends, veer right across the field, heading roughly for its far right hand corner (or a house which can soon be seen through a gap in the trees).

66. In 250 metres cross a stile and turn left down a concrete track, and then left again in 10 metres onto a tarmac lane.

67. Keep on along this lane for 400 metres to a T-junction with a much busier road, where you go right. **Care is needed here**, as the road is narrow and there is some fast traffic along it.

68. In 100 metres, just beyond a bungalow, turn left off the road up a gravel tarmac drive, a signposted footpath.

69. Keep straight on through a gate marked PRIVATE DRIVE, and carry on uphill. In 300 metres, pass through a wooden gate to the left of a fieldgate and keep on up the drive.

70. 120 metres after this point, veer left with the drive, passing a sign to **Emmetts Garden**. You are now in this National Trust property on a public right of way. *If you are not a not an NT member and want to divert off the path to visit the garden, you should pay the entry fee at the shop. The gardens are open from mid March to the end of October till 5pm.*

71. Otherwise, keep on up the driveway, and in 150 metres at the top of the hill you come to picnic tables on the left, and just beyond on the right the **National Trust tea room**.

72. After tea, the onward route is to pass immediately to the left of the tea room on a gravel path, and on up a footpath that starts where the building ends (there is a

concrete footpath marker in the ground here).

73. The path immediately climbs uphill into a wood. In 50 metres cross a stile and keep straight on. In 70 metres more go straight on at a major crosspaths.

74. In 300 metres you come to a road, with the entrance to Ide Hill House ahead. Turn left along the road, **taking care** as some cars come too fast along here.

75. In 80 metres, where the wooden fence to your right ends, turn right up a footpath marked with an NT arrow on a post. **[!]** *In 10 metres further, take the right fork* (not so obvious in summer) which more or less follows the fence to your right.

76. In 150 metres this comes to a faded car-wide track, with a fieldgate marked PRIVATE PROPERTY 50 metres to your right. Go left on this track.

77. In 270 metres you come to a tarmac lane, with houses beyond. Turn left on this.

78. In 80 metres you come to road by a sign for the village of **Brasted Chart**, where you go right. Again **take care** on this road, which has the occasional fast car.

79. In 80 metres, 30 metres past the end of the houses, go left up a signposted footpath – **[!]** **not** the car wide track, but a fainter path forking off right from it along an old tree boundary and wire fence.

80. In 100 metres ignore a path to the left marked by a not very visible footpath post, and curve right with the path, still with the wire fence to your right.

81. In 300 metres you come to an open field. Cross the stile, ignoring a path to the right along the field edge, and head diagonally down across the field, with a view of the North Downs in the distance to your right.

82. In 120 metres, just before a large tree in the field corner, turn left over a stile, and carry on down a lightly wooded path.

83. In 100 metres cross a track leading to a house left and go down across a stile into an open field. Go straight on diagonally down across this field, aiming for some houses on the hill ahead.

84. In 250 metres cross a stile and a footbridge and carry on up a path between fences.

85. In 60 metres, cross a stile and in 15 metres another, and carry on up steps.

86. In 150 metres go right uphill on a lane. In 30 metres you pass an interesting "Private Burial Ground" on your right, and then some houses.

87. 30 metres beyond the houses, ignore a signposted footpath to the right, but in 130 metres more, turn left up an easily missed footpath. *If you do miss this footpath, staying on the road for about 500 metres will bring you to the major road T-junction in paragraph 92 below.*

88. In 60 metres cross an area cleared of trees for a line of mini-pylons and keep straight on, ignoring minor side paths, until in 300 metres you come to a path T-junction *with a sharp gully beyond*. Here go right.

89. In 25 metres, at a footpath post, follow the yellow arrow to the left down a staircase of tree roots, and then in 5 metres turn right down wooden steps into the bottom of the gully.

90. In 60 metres on the right you pass the first of several caves on the right (old quarry workings?) where **bats** live. Keep on past them along the path, going gently downhill.

91. In 150 metres you come to a road and go left.

92. In another 150 metres, at a T-junction with a major road, turn right (the right hand side has a verge and later a pavement).

93. In 120 metres, just after the pavement starts, turn left off the road up a signposted footpath, initially between fences. In 100 metres, there is an open field on the left, and in 200 metres you pass through a squeeze stile onto an open hillside.

94. Go forward 40 metres to a footpath post and then turn right at it on a faint grassy path, aiming somewhat to the left of the church spire of **Westerham** that you can see ahead.

95. Keep straight on down the hill to cross a stile in in 170 metres, and beyond it keep on downhill on a faint grassy path.

96. In 200 metres, at the bottom of the hill, look for a wooden gate with a yellow footpath arrow on it. Exit through this gate and on up an enclosed pathway to emerge in 200 metres in the centre of Westerham, with statues of **General Wolfe** and **Winston Churchill** on the green opposite.

The stop for the **246 bus to Bromley** is immediately to your left on the main road. The stop for the **401 bus to Sevenoaks** is the one just to the right on the opposite side of the road (*this is also the stop for the 246 bus to Chartwell on Sundays only*).

For the **594/595 bus to Oxted** (not Sundays), the stop is by the Kings Arms, just up the road to the left. (The bus comes from the A233 and turns right onto the A25, the main road through the village, heading west.) **Quebec House** is 300 metres down the hill on the right, at the junction of the A25 and B2026.

Tea options are numerous. On the far side of the green is the **Tudor Tea Rooms**, and on the right hand side of the green is **Food for Thought**. Pubs include the **Grasshopper on the Green** directly opposite, and the **George & Dragon** and **Kings Arms** are a little way up the hill to the left.

Option #1: Loop around Chartwell Estate

This is an optional 1.6km (1 mile) loop around the Chartwell estate, which can be done before or after visiting the tea room. It gives you a good view of the house and garden from permissive National Trust paths, and ends up back at the tea room in Chartwell.

*To do it **after lunch in Chartwell**: follow the main walk direction from paragraph 34 to paragraph 37: turn left as indicated, and then follow the directions below.*

*To do this option **before lunch at Chartwell**, follow the second option in paragraph 33 of the main walk directions, then follow those directions from paragraph 36 to 37, turning left in paragraph 37 as indicated. Then follow the directions below.*

1. Having turned left onto the gravel path as indicated in paragraph 37 of the main walk directions, at the National Trust sign, take the leftmost of the two options, a path with a field and wooden fence to the left.

2. You soon have fine views across a lake of **Chartwell House** to the left. Follow the path through all its twists and turns to the very top of the hill in 500 metres. Here turn right uphill, following the NT arrow on a post.

3. In 50 metres, *turn left at a path crossing* and follow this wide path through the woods. Eventually it bends left and goes steeply downhill.

4. Shortly after the path merges with another wide path from the right, go through a kissing gate on your left into a picnic field. Bear right and make your way diagonally across this field and through another gate, heading for the main car park.

5. Veer left and go through the car park to find the **restaurant** up ahead on your right, and the **visitor centre** for the house and garden a little way further along on the left.

6. **To return to the main walk**, follow the directions from paragraph 34, or to follow **Alternative Route A: Shorter Ending from Chartwell to Westerham**, refer to the directions for that option above.

Option #2: Diversion to Fox & Hounds pub in Toys Hill

This option starts at paragraph 45 in the main directions, and is a very short (700 metre) diversion up through the woods to a possible late lunch stop at the Fox & Hounds Pub in Toys Hill.

1. Climb up the flight of wooden steps. In 220 metres, at the top of the hill, you come to a path T-junction, and go left

2. In 15 metres, at a major five-way path junction, carry straight on uphill.

3. In 150 metres, at the top of the hill, you come to a road, where you go right. The **Fox & Hounds** is 100 metres along on the right.

- If you are planning to do **Alternative Route C: Ending in Penshurst**, you

can now switch to the directions in Time Out Country Walks book 2, walk 16 just after point [5]: or you can stay with these directions until paragraph 58 of the main walk directions: this option takes you on a slightly different route from the book around Ide Hill, taking in wonderful bluebell woods in late April and early May).

4. Otherwise, **after lunch at the Fox and Hounds**, come out of the pub and turn left on the road.

5. In 100 metres, turn left onto a path, passing a National Trust sign for Octavia Hill Woods.

6. Keep straight on, initially on the level, but then downhill on a clearer path, ignoring ways off

7. In 130 metres, at a five way junction, keep straight on, ignoring tracks left and right, and a path slanting downhill to the right

8. In 15 metres ignore a path to the right (the one you came up) and keep straight on.

9. In another 100 metres, pass a horse blocking barrier, and keep on downhill. In another 80 meters, keep straight on at a crosspaths, following a red and yellow arrow on a post (*unless you want to take the **Short Cut to Emmetts Garden** mentioned in the main walk directions in paragraph 47, in which case turn left*).

10. In another 80 metres, follow the path as it curves left, with houses visible through the trees to the right. In another 60 metres, the path curves right downhill again

11. In 140 metres more, ignore the path signposted with a red arrow to the left and keep on downhill on the Greensand Way (yellow arrow).

12. In 70 metres, emerge through a squeezegate into an open field, with a fine panoramic view ahead, and the church of Ide Hill visible on the hill to the left. Re-join the main walk directions at paragraph 50.

Option #3: Starting from Edenbridge Town station

This option is useful for anyone who finds Edenbridge Town a more convenient

starting point. It also makes the walk 1.8km (1.1 miles) longer, if you fancy more of a leg stretch before lunch. The route soon links into the main walk directions.

1. Coming off the London platform at Edenbridge Town, go through the subway to leave the station on the other side. Head west along Station Approach for 250 metres, up to its junction with Station Road.

2. Turn right and go up to the traffic lights. Cross over the B2026 here and enter Stangrove Park; there is an information panel with a map and a brief account of its history.

3. Aim for the Pine Grove exit 300 metres away. The simplest route is to pass to the left of the group of trees in front of you (concealing Stangrove Pond) and continue across the grass in the same direction. Eventually you meet a tarmac path coming in from the left, which leads into Pine Grove.

4. Bear left (passing three giant pine trees) to reach a T-junction with Crouch House Road in 100 metres. Turn right and follow this winding road north-west for 500 metres, with open fields on your left.

5. At the end of a row of cottages, turn left onto an unmade-up lane, with a ground-level footpath marker to "Great and Little Browns, $\frac{3}{4}$ M".

6. In 120 metres, *bear right onto a wide grassy path*, following a footpath sign to Great Browns. For the next 1km, you will be heading north-west across a golf course, following a series of tall wooden posts with yellow footpath arrows (not to be confused with the short white or yellow posts indicating golf hazards). There are few signs to warn you about flying golf balls, so take care, especially when crossing the fairways. In more detail:

7. In 100 metres, just before you reach a fairway, bear left to walk along its edge. In 40 metres, follow the arrow on a marker post to cross this fairway, diagonally to the left.

8. Continue along the other side of the fairway to the next marker post, 40 metres beyond a "150" distance marker. Go through the belt of trees on your right to

another post on the edge of the next fairway.

9. Cross this fairway and go onto a wide grassy path going up and around a green on your left. At a path junction at the top of the slope, turn left to go down past the green and then a pond on your left. 30 metres after this pond, you reach the next marker post.

10. Turn right and go across the next fairway, again slightly to the left, towards another marker post. Go onto a wide grassy path which takes you round the back of another green.

11. As this path veers right, fork left onto a faint path across some rough grass towards another marker post. Continue ahead through a small wood and a scrubby area. This brings you to one last fairway, where you can see a stile in the wire fence opposite. Cross the fairway and go over the stile to leave the golf course.

12. Follow a narrow path into a small wood and up to a stile at the corner of a tall wire fence. Go over the stile and turn right to head north, staying close to the fence on your right.

13. Cross a stile and bear right across a patch of grass to join a driveway leading out to a minor road, Little Browns Lane. Turn left and follow this road for 150 metres to a junction.

14. At the junction, turn right into Hilders Lane. Cross a bridge over the Redhill-Tonbridge railway line (if you look down to the right, you will see where the Oxted-Uckfield line briefly emerges from the middle of a short tunnel to go under the other line, an unusual piece of engineering).

15. Just after Hilders Lane has curved sharply to the right, turn left into a cul-de-sac. Follow this lane for 300 metres, past Yew Tree Farm and then another large house on the left.

16. As the lane bends to the left, turn right onto a wide track and go over a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate. Follow this track through a belt of trees, climbing gently.

17. After 500 metres, the way ahead is blocked and there are metal fieldgates on both sides. Go through the left-hand gate into a large field and continue from paragraph 12 of the main walk directions.

Alternative Route A: Shorter ending from Chartwell to Westerham

This alternative afternoon route starts at Chartwell, and takes you directly in 4.5km (2.8 miles) to Westerham (versus 10.4km/6.4 miles by the main route). It is particularly useful if you want more time to visit Chartwell, or to see Quebec House in Westerham.

1. Coming out of the tea room at Chartwell, turn right (southwards) and leave the complex by the vehicle exit.
2. Turn left on the road, passing the house itself behind a high brick wall). In 180 metres, just where the wall ends, turn right onto a signposted bridleway slanting uphill into a wood.
3. Go up this bridleway and in about 300 metres turn left at a Limpsfield Walk marker post. In 30 metres, this path takes you past a NT signpost for **Mariners Hill** and out of the wood, with wonderful views ahead.
4. Follow the path round to the right, with a wire fence on your left. Along the way you pass two wooden benches with fine viewpoints to the south-east. 200 metres along this path, and 30 metres after the second bench, [!] turn right through a gap in the hedge and go up a short slope to a path crossing.
5. Go ahead at the crossing and continue on a path between fields for about 100 metres. You soon pass another bench, then in 50 metres a **memorial** stone commemorating the donation of the land to the NT in 1904.
6. At the end of the path cross a stile and continue ahead across a field for 60 metres to leave it via another stile.
7. Go downhill for 20 metres, and follow the path round to the right, past yet another bench at a viewpoint, looking west. In 100 metres turn left down a flight of steps to come to a private road at the point where it joins the B2026 at a bend. (In late April and early May, keep straight on rather than turning left down the steps for a lovely bluebell wood).
8. Turn right at the bottom of the steps and cross the main road carefully onto a

footpath opposite, heading west. In 125 metres, after a short climb, you come to a junction with two paths off to the right.

9. Turn right and immediately fork left onto the narrower of the two paths, going uphill through the trees of **Crockhamhill Common**.
10. In 60 metres fork left to head north-west. In 80 metres the path merges with a minor path from the left, and up ahead on the left you might be able to see some beehives in a small clearing.
11. In another 40 metres the path comes to a T-junction with a major path, marked with a footpath post. Turn left to go onto the parking area in front of an isolated house, The Warren.
12. [!] Veer right across the parking area and turn right onto the first of two paths into the wood, heading due north, directly away from the house.
13. In 80 metres continue ahead at a path crossing. In 60 metres turn right at a T-junction, then 30 metres further on, turn left at a path junction to resume your northerly direction.
14. Follow this path gently downhill through the wood for 500 metres. Eventually the path goes more steeply downhill to a stile in a wire fence at the edge of the wood, with the **Darent valley** stretching ahead of you.
15. Cross the stile and bear left onto a grassy path towards another wood. Off to the left there is an isolated house at the end of a neck of the valley. In 100 metres go up a short slope and bear right past a redundant stile to continue alongside the wood (which is the site of an **Iron Age hill fort**, although this is now completely overgrown).
16. In 400 metres go over a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate and continue ahead. In 50 metres, turn right onto a car-wide track between a fence and a hedge, towards **Tower Wood** on the other side of the valley.
17. In 100 metres pass a fieldgate on the left and another in 25 metres. Beyond these, cross a stile on the left and continue on a grassy path down this attractive valley, keeping close to the infant River

Darent (and some old fish ponds) on your right.

18. In 750 metres go over a stile, then almost immediately turn right at a path junction. Go over a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate and cross the river to go into another valley.

19. In theory you should go along the path at the bottom of this valley for 200 metres to meet a public footpath coming from the other direction, then turn sharp left in front of a stile to go up the steep grassy slope on your left, but it is easier to veer left diagonally up the slope at some point. Whichever route you take, **Westerham** gradually comes into view from the plateau at the top of the slope.

20. Almost any route here will take you into the town, but the recommended route is to head north across the plateau for 250 metres to find a stile in the middle of a fence ahead. Cross this and go downhill towards the town.

21. In 200 metres, at the bottom of the slope, go through a kissing gate onto an alleyway (Water Lane). This goes back across the river and gently uphill.

22. In 200 metres you emerge in the centre of Westerham, with statues of **General Wolfe** and **Winston Churchill** on the green opposite.

The stop for the **246 bus to Bromley** is immediately to your left on the main road. The stop for the **401 bus to Sevenoaks** is the one just to the right on the opposite side of the road (*this is also the stop for the 246 bus to Chartwell on Sundays only*).

For the **594/595 bus to Oxted** (not Sundays), the stop is by the Kings Arms, just up the road to the left. (The bus comes from the A233 and turns right onto the A25, the main road through the village, heading west.) **Quebec House** is 300 metres down the hill on the right, at the junction of the A25 and B2026.

Tea options are numerous. On the far side of the green is the **Tudor Tea Rooms**, and on the right hand side of the green is **Food for Thought**. Pubs include the **Grasshopper on the Green** directly opposite, and the **George & Dragon** and **Kings Arms** are a little way up the hill to the left.

Alternative Route B: Starting from Hurst Green

This option starts from Hurst Green, which is served by trains out of Victoria via East Croydon. It initially follows the route of walk 16 in Time Out Country Walks Book Two, but soon diverts off from it to skirt along the bottom of the Greensand Ridge through open fields, and then gradually climbs up to Crookham Hill, with fine views en route, to join the main walk directions. It is the same length as starting from Edenbridge.

- 1.** From platform two at Hurst Green station, exit and turn right. In 25 metres go up steps to the road, and the turn left to cross Greenhurst Lane.
- 2.** Continue along Hurstlands. Ignore the road to the right in 70 metres, and in another 120 metres ignore Wolfs Wood right.
- 3.** In 130 metres more, cross Home Park, and continue up Wolfs Hill. **[!]** In 30 metres, turn right along an unmarked tarmac footpath, between wooden fences.
- 4.** In 80 metres cross a brick road and continue on along a tarmac footpath. After 100 metres this becomes an earth footpath, and curves to the right around a playing field.
- 5.** In 180 metres, at the end of the playing field, carry on uphill on the footpath between wooden fences.
- 6.** In 180 metres, cross a stile and over a road. In 100 metres the path starts to climb, with fine **bluebell** woods to the right in late April and early May.
- 7.** In 200 metres go through a wooden gate, and on up a tarmac lane, passing a house on your right.
- 8.** In 300 metres, at the end of the lane, go over a crossroads to continue up Pastens Road.
- 9.** In 500 metres, where the road ends in front of Arden Lodge, turn left up a tarmac lane, by a four-armed footpath signpost.
- 10.** Pass Pastens Cottage almost immediately on the right, and then in 40 metres Chartfield Cottage on your left. **[!]** In 20 metres more, at an easily missed three-armed footpath signpost, *turn sharp*

right to double back on a footpath going slightly downhill.

11. Follow this footpath downhill in a cutting (more **bluebell** woods to the left in late April or early May). In 350 metres, cross a stile to emerge into an open field, with a fine view ahead.

12. Continue down the right hand side of the field. In 300 metres, at the bottom, go through a metal fieldgate and continue with a ditch to your right.

13. In 140 metres, you come to a house (Tenchleys Manor). Here turn right to cross a footbridge, and then follow the path around to the left to cross another footbridge in 40 metres and come to a car-wide earth road. Here turn right.

14. Follow the track for 230 metres to a tarmac road, where you turn left.

15. In 140 metres ignore signposted footpaths left and right. In another 230 metres, curve right with the road past a stone house – One Moat Farm.

16. In 80 metres, you come level with a pond to the right. **[!]** 40 metres after this point, as the road bends right, and just beyond a gravel drive to Old Lodge to the left, leave the road and go straight on up a signposted footpath, whose start is somewhat hard to make out.

17. In 5 metres, cross a stile and turn left along a path with a garden to the left and a fenced-off field to the right.

18. In 170 metres, at the top corner of the field, ignore a path to the right and go left across a stile. Then turn right along the field edge, to roughly resume your former direction.

19. In 80 metres, cross a stile, and veer left to follow the left hand edge of the next field.

20. In 150 metres, pass through a gap next to a redundant stile, to cross a tarmac lane, and keep straight on across a stile into the next field, heading for a footpath post to the left of an oak on the far side.

21. In 100 metres, you pass the oak tree and the footpath post and keep straight on up the left hand side of the next field.

22. In 330 metres cross a stile, and veer slightly right to keep on along the left hand edge of the next field.

23. In 250 metres, cross a stile and a stream into a wood. Go up the steps beyond and curve left with the path into a wood (more **bluebells** in season).

24. In 100 metres, you emerge from the wood and cross a stile 10 metres later. Beyond the stile, keep on uphill along the left hand edge of the field.

25. In 120 metres, cross a stile to the left of a wooden fieldgate and a grey-roofed chalet-style house, and turn right on a gravel and tarmac driveway.

26. Follow this driveway, with houses to the right and later the left, for 170 metres to a road. Turn right here and in 100 metres, you come to the B2026, ignoring Deanery Lane to the right just before you get to it.

27. The **Royal Oak**, in **Crookham Hill**, a possible lunch pub, is 80 metres downhill to the right. But to continue the walk *turn left* uphill on the main road, and for your next direction turn to paragraph 24 of the main walk directions.