

Main walk last checked	a) Loop to Bewl Water last checked	b) Longer Bewl Water route to Wadhurst last checked	c) Shorter Bewl Water route to Wadhurst checked	d) Robertsbridge start last checked
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Etchingham to Wadhurst via Ticehurst

Hilly Wealden landscapes, ancient villages and Bewl Water reservoir

Length: Main walk 17.1km (10.6 miles)

Plus **a) Loop to Bewl Water 19.6km (12.1 miles)**
 Plus **b) Longer Bewl Water route 20.6km (12.8 miles)**
 Plus **c) Shorter Bewl Water route 18.5km (11.5 miles)**
 Plus **d) Robertsbridge start 21.1km (13.1 miles)**

Options b) and c) are alternatives to each other, but the other three options can be combined. The **longest possible walks** are:

From **Etchingham:** main walk + a) + b) = **23.1km (14.3 miles)**
 From **Robertsbridge:** d) + main walk + a) + b) = **27.1km (16.8 miles)**

Toughness: 5 out of 10: quite hilly, but with mainly gentle gradients

Maps: OS Explorer 136, Landranger 188 (199 for the Robertsbridge start)

Features

After a fairly flat start across the valley of the River Rother, this is a classic Wealden walk - a hilly mix of pasture and woodland, fine panoramic views across valleys, a succession of converted oast houses, a cobnut orchard, and the typical Wealden villages of Ticehurst and Wadhurst. The route also passes very close to the shore of the beautiful Bewl Water reservoir and there are optional extra sections (see page 2) which take you down to hidden places on its shoreline.

While the walk is very rural throughout, there are three sections of road walking. One is a necessary 2km (1.2 mile) walk along the main road through the village of Ticehurst, which can be broken up by a visit to the pretty village centre (or even lunch at The Bell, though the Bull Inn in Three Leg Cross 1.1km/0.6 miles further on is also highly recommended). The other two are idyllic saunters down back lanes whose verges are alive with wild flowers in spring. The first of these is just after lunch, a 2.1km (1.3 miles) back lane which was cut off by the construction of the reservoir and is now something of a hidden rural idyll. The other is the 3.3km (2 mile) ending from Wadhurst village to Wadhurst station.

These road sections, and others on gravel tracks and lanes, make this walk fairly well suited to winter, which is also the time when the somewhat early closing times of the Wadhurst tea rooms will be less of a problem. At this time of year there could be flooding at the start of the walk, where it crosses the Rother valley, though there is a road alternative to this if necessary.

Easily the best time to do the walk is in spring, however, when the lanes verges are covered in flowers and this ancient landscape looks at its best. From mid May to early June there are also good displays of buttercups at the start of this walk, on the Robertsbridge start, and on the loops to Bewl Water. This is also an idyllic walk for a summer day, when there is ample daylight for a leisurely exploration of the margins of Bewl Water, or in October, when the wooded landscape provides plenty of autumn colour.

Walk options - diversions to the edge of Bewl Water

The main walk route takes you close to the edge of the picturesque Bewl Water Reservoir, but never actually visits it. So these three options give you a chance to do just that. You will probably only want to do **one** of these on any particular day, though it is possible to combine option a) with one of the other two if you wish. *To do any of these options, simply follow the main walk route, and you will be prompted at the point where the option starts.*

a) Loop to Bewl Water. Starting from the Bull Inn, the recommended lunch stop, this takes you on a beautiful circuit down to the edge of the reservoir, returning you to a point a little way into the afternoon of the main walk. It **adds 2.5km (1.5 miles)** to the walk length and diverges from the main walk directions in paragraph 36 on page 5.

b) Longer Bewl Water route into Wadhurst. This is the longest of the three options and spends the most time on the reservoir's edge. It explores a remote promontory that sticks right out into the reservoir, and with fine panoramic views as well as intimate close-ups of the water's edge. It **adds 3.5km (2.2 miles)** to the walk length, and diverges from the main walk directions in paragraph 68 on page 7.

c) Shorter Bewl Water route into Wadhurst. This is the ideal way to visit the reservoir with the minimum of effort. It is in effect a shortened version of option b) which **adds just 1.4km (0.9 miles)** to the walk length, and diverges from the main walk directions in paragraph 68 on page 7.

Walk options - a longer start

The main walk starts at Etchingham, which gives you 7.4km (4.6 miles) to walk to the recommended lunch stop - enough for most walkers. However for those who prefer a longer morning, option **d) Robertsbridge start** makes a very pleasant **4km (2.5 mile)** addition to the walk. Robertsbridge is the next station after Etchingham and this option takes an hour at a reasonable pace, enabling you to link up with less vigorous friends taking the train an hour later. *To do this option, start with paragraph 122 on page 10.*

Train information

Etchingham and **Wadhurst** are both on the railway line from **Charing Cross** and **London Bridge** to Hastings. Trains currently stop hourly at Etchingham and half hourly at Wadhurst (hourly after 7.30pm), taking just over an hour from London.

The train that currently leaves London around **10.15am** would be enough to get you to lunch in time, but if you want more time to explore Bewl Water in the afternoon, or if you want to get to the tearooms in Wadhurst before they close, the **9.15am** train might be more advisable. Buy a **day return to Etchingham**.

For option **d) Robertsbridge start** get the **9.15am** train and buy a **day return to Robertsbridge**.

Shortening the walk with buses

The **254 bus** runs Monday to Saturday between Ticehurst, Wadhurst village, Wadhurst station and Tunbridge Wells station enabling you to start or finish at Ticehurst or save yourself the 3.2km (2

mile) walk from Wadhurst village to its station. **Buses from Ticehurst** go from the shelter roughly opposite The Bell Inn hourly at 54 past till 17.54 Monday to Saturday. **Buses from Wadhurst** go from the Greyhound Inn ten minutes after the Ticehurst times. If you are heading for London it might be better to stay on the bus all the way to Tunbridge Wells station (about 20 minutes after Wadhurst) which has a much more frequent train service.

To **start the walk at Ticehurst** (6.4km/4 miles into the walk) it is better to get the bus from Tunbridge Wells: it leaves from the far side of the main road on the east side of the station at 39 past the hour Monday to Saturday. If you get off at the Bell Inn in Ticehurst and turn around to go back the way you have come, you are at paragraph 32 in the main walk directions on page 5.

Lunch

There are two possible pub lunch stops for this walk. The first you come to, 6.4km/4 miles into the walk, is **The Bell**, High Street Ticehurst, (01580 200234 www.thebellinticehurst.com). It has a spacious interior and a nice patio area with outside seatings. The menu is rather on the trendy side, with prices to match, but service is efficient and friendly. It also has a room that can be reserved by groups. (*The **Chequers Inn**, passed 100 metres before The Bell, seems to be a traditional locals-type pub: if it does food, it does not advertise the fact.*)

The **recommended lunch stop**, however, only 1.1km (0.6 miles) further on, is the **Bull Inn** in Three Leg Cross (01580 200 586 www.thebullinn.co.uk, 7.5km (4.6 miles) into the walk. This is a large walker (and dog) friendly pub in a pleasant rural location, with an interesting and not overpriced menu, and plenty of outside tables in summer. It majors on table service but you can also eat in the bar area, and even when fully booked they are good at squeezing people in. It serves food from 12-2.30pm Monday to Saturday, and later on Sunday "according to demand". The pub is also open for drinks all afternoon and does food 6.30-9pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Ticehurst also has two cafes, though both have somewhat limited hours. The **Greedy Goat Cafe** (01580 200 955) does hot meals and is open to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, but only to 1.30pm on Wednesday and midday on Saturday. The **Courtyard Cafe**, despite its name, is situated in a modern residential development and has unromantic decor: it serves omelettes, baked potatoes and sandwiches until 2pm Tuesday, 3pm Monday and Wednesday to Saturday.

Ticehurst churchyard, just beyond the Greedy Goat Cafe, makes a very nice **picnic spot**, with pleasantly situated benches - this is also a pretty part of the village which is otherwise not visited on the walk. There is a **convenience store** on the corner at the start of Church Street. Other pleasant picnic spots can be found on the shores of Bewl Water on option **b) Loop to Bewl Water**.

Tea

On the main walk, it is 6.4km (4 miles) from the Bull Inn to Wadhurst Village - more if you do of the Bewl Water options: see page 2 for details.

The best place, if you can get there in time (which is almost impossible), is the characterful **Wealden Wholefoods Cafe**, open until 4.30pm Monday to Saturday, with last orders half an hour earlier. The **Piccolo** cafe nearby keeps the same hours. Otherwise the **One Shop** convenience store has a hot drinks machine as well as cakes and pastries, and is open until 10pm daily. There is also a **Jempsons** supermarket, open till 10pm Monday to Saturday.

Both the pubs in Wadhurst seem to be open all afternoon and serve hot drinks. The **Greyhound**, the first you come to, is a more traditional pub. It has plenty of tea pots but can refuse to use them when the bar is busy. It has a large (but well-hidden) garden that can be very pleasant in summer. 100 metres up the road the **White Hart** has been revamped and is now quite smart with a gastro menu. It serves tea in pots.

Note that it is a **3.2km (2 mile)** walk from Wadhurst village to Wadhurst station, for which it is best to leave **one hour**, though it can be walked briskly in 50 minutes. Since there are no refreshment options or other places to while away time in the vicinity of Wadhurst station, it is as well to time your departure from Wadhurst village carefully. In extremis, you can take the main road to the station, which is **2.2km/1.4 miles** by the main road), which takes about **40 minutes** to walk. See also **Shortening the walk with buses** on page 2.

WALK DIRECTIONS

If starting from **Robertsbridge** go to paragraph 122 on page 10.

Etchingam station to Sheepstreet Lane (2.7km/1.7 miles)

1. From platform 2, the southbound platform at Etchingam station, cross the footbridge and exit the station. Walk straight ahead down the station approach road, which in 60 metres curves left to the main road. Turn right on this.
2. In 20 metres turn right into the churchyard. Pass to the right of the church and in 100 metres exit the churchyard into a more wooded area.
3. In 80 metres pass through a gate and carry on along a road.
4. In 230 metres, just before the road turns right to cross a railway line on a brick bridge (preceded by a 'Weak Bridge' sign), leave the road by going straight ahead over a stile and carry on down the right-hand side of a field, with a line of trees and the railway line to your right.
5. In 120 metres cross a stile and carry on down a car-wide strip with a hedge to your left, which in 40 metres broadens out into a wider field.

If the fields ahead look flooded, this way may be impassable. The alternative then is to return to the road and follow it over the railway line and uphill for about a kilometre to a T-junction, turning left there for another kilometre to find the turning described in paragraph 15, which will be on your right coming in this direction.

6. The right of way goes down the right-hand side of the field but this is rather boggy. The route that seems to be in common use keeps to the left edge of the field, skirting the boggy area and passing through a gap into the next field in 100 metres.
7. Cross this second field, skirting the boggy areas. In 280 metres, at its the end, return to the railway line to cross into the next field over a stile to the left of a fieldgate and carry on down the right-hand edge of the field beyond.

8. In a further 350 metres, at the end of this field, go through a fieldgate and then in 10 metres turn right over a stile to cross the railway line.
9. Beyond the railway line cross another stile and keep straight on for 50 metres to cross a footbridge part hidden by shrubs.
10. In 20 metres cross another footbridge (hidden by vegetation in spring and summer) and keep straight on, with no clear path, through an area of scattered shrubs, covering gradually with its left-hand edge, a line of low trees.
11. In 300 metres, in the very top left-hand corner of this area, cross a stile (hidden until you are 10 metres from it) and keep on straight ahead up a path into a mainly young growth wood.
12. The path soon starts climbing steadily and in 150 metres there is a house to your left (less visible in summer).
13. In another 170 metres the path veers left onto the gravel driveway of the house, where you turn right uphill.
14. In 350 metres you come to a road and go right on it. (Traffic is infrequent, but take care as some of it comes faster than it should.)

Sheepstreet Lane to Ticehurst (3.7km/2.3 miles)

15. In 120 metres, just opposite a house called Robinwood, turn left up a concrete driveway (signposted to Burgam and with a stone footpath marker, but both are behind you so you may not see them)
16. Follow this driveway downhill, ignoring ways off including a fork left to Brockhurst in about 100 metres.
17. In another 100 metres the drive becomes a tarmac lane and curves left.
18. In 250 metres the lane turns right and passes between a house and a converted barn. Turn left just after the house, still on the track, which is now concrete again.
19. In another 100 metres, just after passing a non-converted barn left and a wood-sided house right, curve right with the track to cross the river on a

- stone bridge, ignoring another concrete track to the left.
20. Beyond the bridge ignore a concrete track ahead and instead go left on another, as indicated by a yellow footpath arrow. (**This differs from the right of way shown on the Ordnance Survey map**, but the yellow arrow looks authoritative.)
 21. In 40 metres ignore a dead end concrete track to the right and instead veer right just beyond it, still on the concrete track, which is now running up the side of a field with a fence to the left (and soon also to the right).
 22. In 170 metres, at the top of the hill, turn left along a gravel track, following a yellow footpath arrow.
 23. In 230 metres you pass a small wood on your left. In another 70 metres, just beyond the end of the wood, you enter a large field. The right of way is to turn right up the edge of this, then left around its top edge, but a path seems to be in use that goes diagonally up across the field. In either case, your destination is a clump of trees on the hilltop in the far top corner of the field.
 24. In 300 metres, when you come to this far corner of the field, turn right across a stile just before a fieldgate (and just after one of the trees) and keep along the left-hand edge of the field beyond.
 25. In 100 metres pass through a fieldgate and keep on down the edge of the next field.
 26. In 200 metres go straight on through a metal gate, ignoring a stile to the left.
 27. In another 40 metres pass through a wooden gate and keep on up the left-hand edge of a large field.
 28. In 350 metres, at the very end of this field, do **not** go ahead through the green gate, but instead **turn left** over a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate, and then turn right along the top edge of a field, with a slope and view to your left.
 29. In 200 metres cross a hidden stile 10 metres to the right of a rusting metal fieldgate and pass into the next field. The right of way crosses this diagonally towards the right-hand end of a wood you can see in front of the houses on the hill, but the path in common use goes up the right-hand edge of the field. In 250 metres (about 100 metres before the road ahead) turn left along a broad grassy track between fields for 150 metres to come to the wood corner. Then veer right for 130 metres to the road.
 30. Turn left on the road verge, initially grassy. In 60 metres you can cross the road to the other side and follow the pavement.
 31. Stay on this road all the way to the centre of Ticehurst. In 600 metres the **Chequers Inn** is on your right, and in another 100 metres **The Bell**, the first of two possible pub lunch stops, is on your right.
 - Turn left down Church Street opposite The Bell if you want to see the pretty centre of Ticehurst. The **Greedy Goat Cafe** is also down here in 80 metres on the left.
 - For the **Courtyard Cafe**, take the road to the right just before The Bell, Pickforde Lane. In 70 metres ignore a car park entrance to the right, but in 40 metres more go right into a residential cul-du-sac: the cafe is on the left halfway up this.
- Ticehurst to Three Leg Cross (1.1km/0.6 miles)**
32. Carry on past The Bell if not stopping, or turn right out of it after lunch, and carry on down the main road through the village.
 33. 300 metres after The Bell turn right up a side road - Cross Lane (but the sign saying this is behind you).
 34. In 150 metres the road turns left and there are fields to the right and a pleasant view.
 35. In another 300 metres there is a signposted path to the left by a black water tank.
 - **If not stopping for lunch at the Bull Inn or if you do not want to do option a) Loop to Bewl Water**, take this path to the left and continue with paragraph 53 on page 6.
- Otherwise, **stay on the road** to come to the Bull Inn in 150 metres.
36. After lunch, you have a choice:
 - **To continue with the main walk route**, go back up the road the way you came (that is, *turn right* out of

the pub). In 150 metres turn right up a signposted footpath next to a black tank. Continue with the directions in paragraph 53 on page 6.

- To do option **a) Loop to Bewl Water** *turn left* out of the pub (or carry on past it if not stopping for lunch). Continue with the directions below.

Three Leg Cross to Jasmine Cottage via Bewl Water (3.6km/2.2 miles)

This is option a) Loop to Bewl Water

37. Having turned left on the road out of the Bull Inn (or carried on past it if not stopping for lunch) keep on up the road into the village.
38. In 70 metres ignore Tinker's Lane right and keep straight on
39. In 150 metres more, near the bottom of a hill, turn left up a tarmac lane, passing Corner Cottage on your right.
40. In 70 metres fork right, following a tarmac lane which soon becomes concrete, ignoring a track ahead to Bakers Farm.
41. In 70 metres the track curves left and then after a flat section heads downhill, with a fenced-off field to the left.
42. In 600 metres the track crosses a cattle grid. Just beyond this turn left on a bridleway signposted 'Round Bewl Water Walk'.
43. In 170 metres you pass a house. 70 metres after it the path turns left downhill and you can see Bewl Water ahead (when the reservoir is full anyway).
44. In another 170 metres pass through gateposts (gate missing) and cross a footbridge, and then veer right on a path through a grassy area, with willows to the right (which are flooded by the reservoir when it is full) and occasional glimpses through the trees to the reservoir.
45. In 500 metres the path is more enclosed with trees either side. In another 200 metres it crosses a small stream (possibly dry in summer).
46. In another 170 metres the path crosses another stream and goes sharp right, emerging into an open grassy area. In 200 metres more you should see the reservoir to your right (if it is not too low: when the water is high it comes up to the base of the small trees to the right of the path).
47. In 250 metres, where your way is blocked by a hedge, turn left up a path between the hedge right and a wooden fence left, almost doubling back on yourself.
48. In 60 metres pass through a gate to the left of a fieldgate and carry on down a path that in 60 metres goes into a wood.
49. In 80 metres pass through a gate to the right of a fieldgate (note that this is an old lane that was flooded when the reservoir was made) to walk uphill, away from the reservoir.
50. In 100 metres pass through another gate (to the left of a fieldgate) onto a road.
51. Keep on up the road. In 200 metres ignore a road to the left (two arms of it) and keep straight on uphill. In another 100 metres ignore another turning left. (There is a nice view back to the reservoir as you climb, though it is a bit obscured by vegetation in spring and summer.)
52. You pass various houses and farms, but in 600 metres you pass two sets of semi-detached houses on the right with cream walls and tile roofs. **Beyond the second set of houses** (Jasmine Cottage) **turn right** through a gate to the left of a fieldgate.
Continue with paragraph 62 overleaf.

Three Leg Cross to Jasmine Cottage - direct (1.1km/0.7 mi)

53. Having turned off the road up the signposted path, carry on up a grassy track between orchards, with a line of trees to your right.
54. In 200 metres, at the top of the field, pass through a gap into the next one and immediately turn left through another gap onto a wide grassy path with young cobnut bushes to your right and trees to your left.
55. In 30 metres, at the very top of the hill, turn half right, slightly downhill, on a car-wide grassy strip between two plantations, aiming for a two-armed

footpath sign at the end of a windbreak hedge 80 metres away.

56. Keep to the left of the windbreak hedge when you get to it, heading downhill, with the plantation still to your left.
57. In 170 metres, at the bottom of the field, go straight on into a wood. The path curves left initially and then in 40 metres goes more steeply downhill.
58. In 130 metres more cross a stream on a wooden footbridge and beyond veer left following a footpath arrow.
59. In 120 metres the path narrows between fences and in another 100 metres it climbs steps to a path T-junction. Go right here, passing through a gate in 20 metres.
60. In 60 metres you emerge onto a tarmac drive with a house with an unusual pyramidal oast house tower ahead. Keep to the right of this, up a fenced in path that starts in 40 metres.
61. In another 60 metres cross a stile and carry on down the right-hand edge of a field. In another 80 metres cross a stile and turn right on a road for 10 metres, and then go through a gate to the left of a fieldgate.

Continue with the next section.

Jasmine Cottage to Birchett's Green (1.7km/1 mile)

62. Carry on downhill with a field fence to your left and a house driveway to your right. In 70 metres cross a stile and keep straight on downhill to cross another stile in 80 metres.
63. Keep on down the little field beyond to exit through the remains of a fieldgate on its left-hand side, and then turn right on a road.
64. You now stay on this quiet road for 2km (1.3 miles). In 80 metres it starts to descend. In another 120 metres it turns right (ignore a private driveway straight ahead to Upper Tolhurst Oast), and descends further for 200 metres, before turning left in front of three wood-sided houses.
65. You are now climbing between high hedges. In 200 metres the road tops out and passes through more wooded territory, starting to descend gently again in 170 metres, and bottoming

out and starting to climb once more in 270 metres.

66. You now face a steady climb for 450 metres, initially in a deep gully and then out in the open once more.
67. Eventually the road starts to descend again. In an other 100 metres, at a three-way road junction, turn right uphill, signposted Wards Lane.
68. In another 400 metres, near the top of the hill and at the point where the trees end on both sides of the road, **you have a choice**

- **To continue on the main walk**, (3.1km/1.9 miles) to Wadhurst village from this point), *turn left off the road* through a fieldgate with yellow arrows on it and keep on down the right-hand side of a field. Continue with paragraph 94 on page 9.
- For option **b) Longer Bewl Water Route into Wadhurst** (7.1km/4.4 miles from this point into Wadhurst village) *stay on the road* and refer to paragraph 69 below.
- For **c) Shorter Bewl Water Route into Wadhurst** (4.5km/2.8 miles from this point to Wadhurst village) *stay on the road*. In 150 metres ignore a tarmac driveway to the right to Chesson's Farm and in another 150 metres one to the left to Southfields. In another 200 metres **turn left** down a side lane signposted Bewl Water Route and also New Barn and Bryant's House. In 200 metres ignore a concrete drive to the right but in 50 metres more, as the lane curves right to a house, turn left up a car-wide earth and gravel path, signposted Bewl Water Route. Continue with paragraph 83 overleaf.

Longer Bewl Water route into Wadhurst (7.1km/4.4 miles)

This is option b).

69. In 150 metres turn right up tarmac driveway to Chesson's Farm.
70. In 350 metres, in the farmyard, ignore a track to the left and keep straight on for 70 metres to pass through double fieldgates and down the left-hand edge of a field.

71. In 250 metres turn left through double wooden gates in the hedge **, and beyond them go right and then left along a windbreak hedge between two fields. (It is not clear which side of the windbreak the path goes: either is fine, but the views are nicer on the right-hand side.)
- ** The section between these double wooden gates and the road in paragraph 73 is a permissive path. If permission to use this route is withdrawn, the right of way keeps straight on down the field edge (ie not turning left through the gates) and comes down to the road: turn left on this for 200 metres to find a path on the right, mentioned in paragraph 73.*
72. In 150 metres, after the end of the windbreak hedge, turn right downhill along the far edge of the field, with a new windbreak hedge to your left.
73. In 170 metres pass through a wooden kissing gate, cross a road (veering slightly to the left), and go straight on down a path which crosses a footbridge and goes downhill between fields.
74. In 150 metres you emerge into an open space and come to the reservoir edge (about 15 metres away when the water level is at its highest: a lot further away if the reservoir is low). Turn left here, following a fence to the left, along the edge of the reservoir.
75. In 500 metres there is a bench downhill to the right (just out of the water when the reservoir is high) and a converted oast house uphill to the left, and the path goes straight on into a wooded area, soon emerging on the edge of the field, with the field fence to your left.
76. In 150 metres at the end of the field turn left with the fence and in 30 metres enter a wood. The path goes down into a dip and up again and in 100 metres again emerges into the open.
77. In another 100 metres you are in an area of low trees and in another 100 metres more you are in woodland proper. After another 100 metres you cross a footbridge.
78. 100 metres after the bridge, the path forks. At low water you can keep straight on, but this path is flooded at high water: at such times take the left fork up steps and along the fence. The two paths rejoin in 170 metres.
79. 100 metres after the paths rejoin you cross a tarmac lane and are briefly in the open, with a hut and bench to the right, before plunging back into the woods.
80. The path now runs dead straight and level through the wood for 400 metres, before turning right with a fence either side, and in 70 metres more climbing some steps to emerge onto a concrete drive.
81. Turn left uphill on the concrete drive, following a sign for Wards Lane and Hook Straight.
82. In 300 metres you come to a T-junction with a tarmac road. Go right on this, and in 50 metres more, as the lane curves right to a house, turn left up a car-wide earth and gravel path, signposted Bewl Water Route.
83. The path is level and then gently descends. In 250 metres it turns directly downhill to the right.
84. In 100 metres pass through a kissing gate. Go left, passing through a clearing in 40 metres and in 100 metres more emerging into the open.
85. In 100 metres there are trees to your right and in 100 metres more you re-enter the woods, curve right (almost doubling back on yourself) and cross a stream, to gradually emerge into the open once more.
86. Carry on along the edge of the reservoir (or where the edge of the reservoir should be) with a fence to your left, curving around a promontory.
87. In 600 metres you are back in woods again. In another 200 metres the path descends and curves sharp right, once again almost doubling back on itself.
88. Open fields can soon be seen over a wooden fence to your left. In another 500 metres, as the path starts to descend after going over a long rise, **turn left over a stile** in the wooden fence marked 'Footpath to Wadhurst 1 mile'.
89. After the stile veer left into a field, and keep up its right-hand edge, with a wood to the right.
90. In 200 metres, 60 metres beyond the end of the wood, cross a stile on the

right-hand edge of the field, to emerge onto a car-wide path.

91. Follow this path (soon a farm track) uphill for 700 metres all the way to a farm. Carry on through the farm buildings, still on the track, until in 250 metres you come to a road.
92. Keep straight uphill on this road. In 400 metres this brings you to the centre of **Wadhurst village**, opposite the **Greyhound** pub, with the **bus stop** for the 254 just before it.
93. In 100 metres more on the same side is the **White Hart** pub, with the **One Shop** convenience store just beyond it. The **Wealden Wholefoods Cafe** is in 50 metres beyond this on the right, and almost opposite it is the **Jempsons** supermarket, with the **Piccolo** cafe just beyond it.
 - After tea, you can if you wish **carry on along the main road** to Wadhurst station, which is a 2.2km (1.4 mile) walk (*allow 40 minutes*) with pavement all the way. However for a **more tranquil route**, 1km (0.6 miles) longer (*allow an hour*), continue with paragraph 111 on page 10.

Main walk route into Wadhurst (3.6km/2.2 miles)

94. In 200 metres, at the bottom of the field, pass through a line of trees and turn left along its far side, with the valley to your right. Descend in a gully along the edge of the field.
95. In 200 metres this brings you to double fieldgates: pass through them and cross a stream on a track bridge. Beyond carry on up a grassy track, with a fence and wood to your right.
96. After about 100 metres veer left away from the wood, following the faint track as it curves right and up around the bowl of the hill, eventually heading for a point between two houses at the top of the hill.
97. In another 200 metres, as you approach these houses (you can now see that actually there are three of them), aim to the right of the first house and a large tree to its right, to pass through a fieldgate 20 metres beyond it and turn left on a tarmac drive.
98. Follow the drive as it curves right uphill. In 170 metres, as the gradient

eases, a fine view opens out to the right, again with the spire of Wadhurst church on the horizon.

99. In another 150 metres, where a field ends to your right, turn right down stone steps and through a rusty metal kissing gate to carry on downhill with a wire fence to your right (and a hedge which at time of writing had just been cut down).
100. After 100 metres veer slightly left away from the fence, heading for a point about 100 metres to the left of the bottom right-hand corner of the field.
101. In 150 metres or so, as you approach the tree boundary, you can see that the actual exit from the field is even further left, across a stile about 70 metres to the left of two large oak trees.
102. Cross this stile and 5 metres beyond it veer left onto a clear path through the wood.
103. In 100 metres this path veers right to cross a ditch on a car-wide bridge with metal rails. Beyond this veer slightly right to follow a track that emerges in 20 metres into a large field (ignoring a fieldgate to the left halfway up the track).
104. Veer left up the edge of this field, steadily climbing with a fence to your left.
105. In 400 metres, at the end of the field, you come to a dark wood. Turn right directly uphill along its edge.
106. Halfway up this climb turn around for a fine view back. Otherwise, in 200 metres, at the top of the hill, exit the field by a concealed gap in its top left-hand corner (**not** the more obvious car wide gap 30 metres to the right of the corner).
107. Cross the lane and pass to the right of a metal fieldgate (which should be directly opposite if you came out of the right gap).
108. Veer diagonally left across the field beyond, on a faint grassy path that heads for its far corner.
109. In 250 metres, when you reach this corner, cross a stile and turn right on the main road (there is a pavement).
110. In 600 metres you come to the centre of Wadhurst, passing the **Greyhound Inn** on your left first, with the **bus**

stop for the 254 just before it. In 100 metres more on the same side is the **White Hart** pub, with the **One Shop** convenience store just beyond it. The **Wealden Wholefoods Cafe** is in 50 metres beyond this on the right, and almost opposite it is the **Jempsons** supermarket, with the **Piccolo** cafe just beyond it.

- After tea, you can if you wish **carry on along the main road** to Wadhurst station, which is a 2.2km (1.4 mile) walk (*allow 40 minutes*) with pavement all the way. However for **a more tranquil route**, 1km (0.6 miles) longer (*allow an hour*), see the next section.

To Wadhurst station via the back lanes (3.2km/2 miles)

- 111.** Turn sharp right up the little side road (Church Road) *opposite* the White Hart – and in 50 metres turn left along the brick path into the churchyard.
- 112.** Follow the path round the left side of the church, to reach a metal kissing gate in 70 metres. Beyond this, keep on along an earth footpath, with a hedge to your right.
- 113.** In 250 metres go down some steps and turn left down a lane.
- 114.** In 150 metres take the lane forking left uphill.
- 115.** In 400 metres keep straight on across a crossroads, on Turners Green Road.
- 116.** In 150 metres fork left, and in 70 metres keep straight on at another crossroads, still on Turners Green Road.
- 117.** In 180 metres, as a lane comes in from the right, turn left across a stile, heading towards the left side of a house on the far side of the field, your direction west.
- 118.** In 100 metres pass through a gate and in another 100 metres cross a stile and continue down the right-hand edge of a field with a fence left.
- 119.** In 150 metres exit the bottom of the field and turn left down a lane.
- 120.** In 180 metres turn right at a T-junction.
- 121.** Stay on this lane for a kilometre, until it turns left and climbs steeply uphill for 130 metres to the main road. Turn

left on the main road for 80 metres to reach **Wadhurst station** through its car park on your right.

Robertsbridge to Etchingham (4km/2.5 miles)

This is option d) Robertsbridge start.

- 122.** Exit platform 2 at Robertsbridge (the southbound platform) and turn right down the station approach road. In 40 metres turn right on the main road to cross a level crossing.
- 123.** 20 metres beyond the crossing, just beyond the first house on the right-hand side, turn right up a tarmac path, a signposted footpath.
- 124.** Follow this path as it turns right and left between fences. But in 80 metres, where the path turns left towards houses, keep straight ahead up an earth and stone path, with the railway station to your right.
- 125.** In 200 metres pass through a kissing gate into a field and keep on downhill on its right-hand edge, ignoring any paths that seem to slant left.
- 126.** In 200 metres, in the field corner, pass through a band of trees to emerge into the next field. Keep on down its right-hand edge.
- 127.** In another 250 metres, at the far end of this field, keep straight on along a footbridge and broadwalk, ignoring a signposted path to the right going in an arch under the railway line.
- 128.** Beyond the broadwalk turn left uphill up a narrow field, following a footpath sign.
- 129.** In 200 metres, at the top of this field, pass through a gap into a much larger field and turn right along its near edge, heading uphill following a footpath sign, ignoring paths ahead and half right.
- 130.** In 100 metres, where the field is narrowed to a corner by a fence, veer left just beyond the end of the fence to carry on uphill on a path between fences with fields either side.
- 131.** In 120 metres veer right through a gate and turn left up the edge of the

next field to resume your former direction.

- 132.** Ignore a signposted path to the right in 30 metres. Instead keep on for 50 metres more to the field corner. Here cross a broken stile by a hut and keep on across the track beyond it to keep on down the right-hand edge of a small plantation of cobnut (hazel) trees.
- 133.** In 120 metres, at the bottom of the hill, cross a footbridge and a stile and climb a small slope into a field. Keep straight on diagonally across this, ignoring a faint path along the field edge to your right.
- 134.** In 300 metres cross a brick bridge over a stream. In 20 metres pass to the *left* of the hedgerow in front of you down the right-hand edge of a field.
- 135.** In 80 metres pass through a gap and veer left then right to carry on in your former direction up a track along the left-hand side of a field, climbing a hill.
- 136.** In 130 metres, at the top of the hill, veer left with the track up a bank and carry on down the left-hand edge of a neighbouring field.
- 137.** In 200 metres exit the field in its corner to emerge into a farmyard. Turn right before a barn onto a concrete track. In another 30 metres pass to the **left** of a four-armed footpath sign and a fence onto a concrete track that leads to houses, **ignoring a car-wide grassy path to the right of the signpost and fence** that curves right downhill.
- 138.** In 60 metres curve right in front of the houses on the concrete drive to emerge into a field and turn left along its upper edge, with a wood to your left.
- 139.** In 150 metres, at the end of the field, curve right downhill with the wood edge. In 30 metres turn left into the wood, with a wire fence to your left, and follow a car-wide path downhill and around the top of a bowl in the hillside (which has some **bluebells** in late April/early May).
- 140.** In 170 metres the path goes more steeply downhill and in 80 metres it emerges into a plantation of more regularly spaced trees, where it veers right and then in 60 metres left to emerge in 60 metres more in the corner of a field. Keep on along the right-hand side of this field, with a fence to your left and a tree boundary and river to your right.
- 141.** In 200 metres pass through a kissing gate and carry on up the right-hand edge of the next field.
- 142.** In 300 metres pass through a kissing gate, ignoring a stile to the right, and turn left to go around a corner in the field boundary in 20 metres. Turn left uphill along the field boundary.
- 143.** In 150 metres, at the top of the hill, pass between two large trees right and a farm complex left and carry straight on towards a hidden stile just before two oaks in the far left-hand corner of the field 100 metres away.
- 144.** When you get to this stile, cross it, a track and another stile and keep straight on diagonally downhill, heading for a fieldgate in the corner of the field.
- 145.** In 170 metres pass through the fieldgate and keep on in the same direction diagonally across the next field towards the houses of **Etchingham** on a faint grassy track.
- 146.** In 100 metres you pass what looks like a large shrub (marking the position of a stream) to the right. After this veer right to go across a concrete footbridge in 60 metres and pass through a kissing gate to the right of a white house to the road. Cross the road and turn right on it.
- 147.** In 100 metres, just when you get to the far end of the churchyard, turn left up its furthest edge.

*Continue with the **second** sentence of paragraph 2 on page 4.*