

1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check		
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2014	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2015		
Current status	Document last updated Saturday, 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2019		
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## Robertsbridge Circular via Brightling

**Start and finish:** Robertsbridge station

**Length:** 18.3km (11.4 miles).

**Time:** 5½ hours. For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 8 hours.

**Transport:** Trains go from London Charing Cross to Robertsbridge, journey time 1¼ hours. If finishing at Battle buy a day return to Battle otherwise a day return to Robertsbridge.

**OS Landranger Map:** 199

**OS Explorer Map:** 124

Robertsbridge, map reference TQ733235 is East Sussex 22km south-east of Tunbridge Wells.

**Toughness:** 3 out of 10.

**Walk Notes:** The major shortcoming of this walk is that there is no lunch stop. Consequently this walk can't really be considered to be a true SWC walk. That over, if you are happy enough to picnic along the way, then this walk should make for an agreeable enough outing finishing with a refreshment stop at one of the various pubs in Robertsbridge. The first 4km of this walk to Sockernish Manor will be familiar (albeit in the reverse direction) to anyone who has been on walk 112 Stonegate to Robertsbridge. Thereafter the route goes via Oxley's Green and south of Brightling with its strong Jack Fuller associations, passing by the Jack Fuller Tower along the way, before heading south and then east through Darwell Wood along the south side of the reservoir. This section of the route south of the Derwent Reservoir can be extremely muddy, and even after a spell of dry weather the mud may still be present. For the mud adverse walker it is probably best avoided from October through to March, unless it has been a particularly dry autumn and winter. Concerning lack of a lunch stop, all is not lost if you are happy to make an earlier start for the Battle or Stonegate ending and take lunch approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way into the walk.

From June to September, if walking to Stonegate, it is best to avoid the (ii) via Brightling option (and take instead the (i) Shortcut option) as one particular footpath is often very overgrown. Further on in the Stonegate option a 300m section of the

footpath at this time of year can become very overgrown. Whilst not impassable, if you bring along a walking stick it will help you to clear the route.

**Walk options:**

- a) Alternative (shorter) ending at Battle via Netherfield.** You may vary the end of this walk, take a late lunch at Netherfield after 13km and finish at Battle. The length of this route is 19.7km (12.2 miles). Follow the walk directions until [6], and then follow the short link directions at the end of the main text, to then pick up from the Battle Circular walk directions at [5]
- b) Alternative ending at Stonegate.** You may vary the end of this walk, take a late lunch at Burwash Weald after 13km and finish at Stonegate. The length of this route is 18.5km (11.5 miles). Follow the walk directions until [3], and then follow the link directions at the end of the main text, to then pick up from the Stonegate Circular walk directions from CW2 walk 19, for which you will additionally require the published book, or the download from the SWC website.
- c) Alternative (longer) ending at Battle via Brown Bread Street.** An earlier start is required if you want to make it for lunch in time at Brown Bread Street, 22½ km into the walk. The length of this route is 34.5km (21.4 miles).

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** Take the train nearest to 10.15 am from London Charing Cross to Robertsbridge. If taking option (a) or (b) with a later lunch stop, take the train nearest to 9.10am. For the long walk option (c), take the train nearest to 8.05am.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

**[1]** Coming off the London train from platform 2 at **Robertsbridge Station** go through the exit into the station car park and *turn right for 40 metres to then cross over (Station) road* to go to the right of The Ostrich PH, through its Car Park (CP). At the end of the CP, go over a stile in the right-hand corner to go along the right-hand side of a building. In 35m go through a wooden kissing-gate to continue in a southerly direction along the right-hand side of a small narrow field with the railway off to the right. After 130m, turn right over a stile to continue in same direction along an enclosed footpath and after 35m you come out onto a road, to *turn right under a railway bridge. After 70m fork left off the road through a gate in a wooden fence into the corner of a field, to go up across it, W.*

In 160m at the far corner of the field go down some wooden steps (and across a plank bridge) to cross over a lane to go down a car-wide shingle track, 240°. In 120m go through a metal kissing-gate (left of a metal fieldgate) to continue along the left-hand edge of a field. After 130m in the corner of the field go through a metal kissing-gate and *turn left to cross over a car-wide bridge after 15m, to then turn right along a car-wide track, W.*

After 60m continue in a westerly direction through some farm buildings. *Just past the farm buildings veer left up a car-wide track (bordered by a field on your right), 190°. In 130m at a lane junction at the top, turn right* to continue up a car-wide shingle track (with a field on your right), W. In 100m at a footpath junction continue ahead, W, along the car-wide shingle track.

In 110m (where the main shingle track

curves to the left), continue ahead through a lightly wooded area, W. In 150m you emerge from the wooded area into the corner of a field to continue along its right-hand side on a shingle footpath, 260°. In 180m at the right-hand corner of the field, go through a fieldgate gap into the corner of the next field to continue along its right-hand side, in the same direction.

After 160m at the right-hand corner of the field, go through a metal kissing-gate, into the next field to go along its left-hand side, initially 320°. In 100m cross a car-wide track flanked by 2 metal kissing-gates, to veer up to the left, 265°. In 120m go through a metal gate and turn right along a lane. In 370m *at a T junction with a road, turn right.*

*In 140m turn left over a stile into the corner of a field to cross it, N. After 280m at the far corner of the field cross over a stile and turn left down a lane. In 120m where the lane curves slightly to the left and (more steeply) down, turn left through a metal kissing-gate (right of a metal fieldgate), to go down an enclosed footpath, through a wooded area, 250°, (crossing 2 plank footbridges along the way). After 100m go through a metal kissing-gate into the corner of a field, and veer right down across it, W.*

In 80m on the far side of the field, go through a wooden gate to follow the footpath down through a wood, in a westerly direction, passing by a redundant stile along the way.

In 180m cross a stile to *emerge from the bottom wood into a field, and veer right, in a westerly direction, aiming for a fieldgate exit. In 90m go through a wooden fieldgate into the corner of the next field and in 20m, turn right over a*

*footbridge*, to come up into the corner of the next field and *turn left*, up along its left-hand side, 290°.

In 350m at the left-hand corner of the field, go over a stile (right of a wooden fieldgate) to continue down the right-hand side of this next field, 230°. In 260m at the corner of the field go over a stile (left of a wooden fieldgate) to cross a bridge over a stream to continue along the right-hand side of this next field. In 220m at the right-hand corner of the field (with an isolated and possibly deserted house 40m down to the left) exit through a car-wide gap to continue along a car-wide grass track (enclosed by hedgerows).

In 120m at the right-hand corner of the field, go over a stile (left of a metal fieldgate), to continue along a path through the wood. In 50m go to the left of a decrepit wooden fieldgate to continue along the path through the wood. In 110m *fork left*, 250°, to *emerge from the wooded area*, to continue along a fenced-in wide footpath with a lake down to your left. After 270m go between two large oak trees to veer up to the right, (with the metal boundary fence for Sockernish manor house 30-40m off to your right). In 130m go through a metal gate to reach a *track junction*, **[2]** *turn left* down a fenced in car-wide tarmac / shingle track leading towards a wood, 220°.

In 180m continue along a car-wide shingle track through the wood. In 350m the car wide track curves to the left with a lake on your right-hand side. After 170m emerge from wooded area with a wood on your left, and a field on your right-hand side, as the car wide track gradually ascends.

After 500m *you reach some houses*, to

then pass by the entrance to a large converted oast house with outbuildings on your left-hand side, *to then pass by a pond on your right to then immediately fork right*, up a footpath for 6m to cross over a stile, to go along a footpath along the edge of a garden. In 60m cross a stile to follow the footpath through a wooded area. In 160m you emerge from the wooded area into the corner of a field, to *veer left along the upper left-hand side of the field*, 200°.

In 60m leave the field to follow a path through a lightly wooded area, passing by a pond on your left-hand side after 45m, to then *come out onto a road*, and *turn right*. In 170m at a cross roads *fork left* passing by the sadly missed Jack Fullers pub on your left-hand side to continue along a lane, 190°. After 400m go under an enclosed conveyor belt for the nearby Gypsum mine. In 60m at a dip in the road, cross a bridge over a stream, to continue up the lane. **[3]**

[If you are taking option **b**) **Alternative ending at Stonegate** walk, [refer to the directions at the end](#) of this main section.]

Otherwise:

In 300m *at a junction with the main road*, *veer right*, 220°. **[!]** *In 80m*, *turn right up a shingle driveway leading to houses*, 300°. (If you reach Reading Room Cottage a further 20m on your right, you've gone too far.) *After 25m immediately before a house directly ahead of you*, *fork left to join an enclosed footpath*.

**[4]** *After 150m* at a footpath junction with a wooden kissing-gate ahead, *turn left over a stile* into the corner of a field to go up its right-hand side, 220°. After 140m go over a stile (right of a metal fieldgate) to continue in your prior

direction through a wooded area to reach Fuller's Tower (sometimes accessible) on your left-hand side after 30m.

Continuing on, in 25m you emerge into a field to go down across it towards a stile (right of metal fieldgate), 230°.

After 120m cross the stile to *turn right along a road*. In 60m *turn left* through the entrance to Ox Lodge, to go steeply down a car-wide shingle bridleway, 210°. After 300m pass by a pond on your right-hand side and a pond further below on your left, to continue on car-wide shingle track in a southerly direction, (initially 200°), ignoring turn offs to the left and right, with the track descending more steeply further on.

**[5]** In 1km *at the bottom of a dip by a stream at a path junction, turn left*, initial direction 80°, and after 25m cross a footbridge to the left of a ford, to go up a car-wide shingle track. After 280m go past a small single story brick building (Cobyle Barn) on your right-hand side. In a further 130m where the car-wide track curves to the right into the driveway entrance of a house, fork left along the footpath along the right-hand side of a field, 60°. In 150m step over a wire fence to go down a footpath for 20m to the road. (Actual official footpath is a very narrow and overgrown path between fences on your right-hand side.)

*Turn right down the road*, initially 150°. After 400m cross over a bridge **[6]**

[If you are taking the shorter option **a)Alternative (shorter) ending at Battle via Netherfield** walk, [refer to the directions \(a\) at the end](#) of this main section,

OR if you are taking the longer option **c)Alternative (longer) ending at Battle via Brown Bread Street** walk,

[refer to the directions \(c\) at the end](#) of this main section.]

Otherwise:

*Turn left, through a small CP to take the left most track*, passing by a car blocking barrier after 40m to continue along a car-wide track (initially with a mini pylon cable run), 10°. In 430m *ignore a car-wide track forking down to the left* to follow the track to the right, **[!]** *but in 60m, fork left* (marked by a bridleway signpost) off the car-wide track, 15°, along a wide earth track.

*After 500m turn sharply right* with the car-wide track, *to then after 10m turn left* (marked by a path signpost) *along a narrow path* through the wood, 80°. (There is another path 10m before this one, that runs parallel and links up after 70m.) In 70m you go past a noticeboard for Darwell Reservoir Wood, 80°. After 230m you emerge into a clearing to reach a path junction to *cross over a car-wide bridge over the enclosed conveyor belt*. 10m further on, *turn right* (marked by footpath signpost) **[7]** down a footpath back into the wood, initially 80°. After 300m the Darwell reservoir is now visible through the trees to your left as you continue along the path in an easterly direction south of the reservoir.

**[!]** After 500m you *emerge into a small clearing*. *Off to your left is a path into woods, ahead is a path which leads to the edge of the reservoir*. (Which is a dead end as further progress east is prevented by a tributary to the reservoir.) *Turn right, initial direction 190°, to follow a path*, (which will take you further up the side of the tributary and then across it). After 120m you pass by a footpath post, 120°, and in a further 30m *cross over a wooden railed footbridge over the tributary, to go up a*

*holloway, initial direction 130°.*

**[!]** *After 80m fork left off this holloway up a narrow footpath, (with a prominently marked tree on the right-hand side with yellow arrows), initial direction 110°.*

*After 170m cross a stile to emerge from the wood into a field to go up across it, initial direction 100°. After 220m go through a wooden fieldgate into the next field and veer left, down its left-hand side, 60°. In 70m at the corner of the field, turn right down a shingle car-wide track down the left-hand side of the next two fields (separated by a wide wooded boundary). After 300m cross a car-wide bridge (over a stream) flanked by two stiles. In 30m go over a very small bridge over a stream (sometimes dried up) to then fork right, off the shingle car-wide track, up across the field, 60°. In 80m at the top of the field, veer left to continue initially up along its right-hand side, through scattered trees.*

*After 100m you pass by a redundant stile on your right-hand side, 40°. In 80m, go through a car-wide entrance between the end of some fencing on your right and a tree on your left to veer right, 50°, across a field, to aim to the left of a small white clock tower on a farm building.*

*After 160m (70m from building with the clock tower on top), at a corner post (with a footpath sign), turn right down across a field, 130°, aiming for a car-wide gap in a hedgerow at the bottom. After 200m go through the car-wide gap into the next field to go down its right-hand side. In 100m at the bottom right-hand corner of this field, go over a 2 rail wooden footbridge across a small stream to follow a footpath up through a wooded area, initial direction S.*

*In 200m the footpath comes out to a lane, turn left for 20m to then turn right, through a metal gate (right of a metal fieldgate). In 50m go over a stile (right of a metal fieldgate), into a field, to go down its right-hand side, 110°. In 220m go over a stile and a wooden 2 rail footbridge, to follow a footpath through a wood. In 10m where the path forks, continue ahead, (ignoring the right fork) and after a further 15m continue up ahead (ignoring a footpath forking down to the left), 60°. In 320m cross over a stile (right of wooden fieldgate) and in 30m turn right down a road.*

*In 130m (with Castle Farm on your right-hand side), turn left across a broken stile (left of metal fieldgate), down a footpath across a field, 60°. In 120m exit the field into a wooded area and in a further 40m go over a car-wide bridge over the railway, to then go over a stile (left of a metal fieldgate), to follow a footpath up through a wood, 70°.*

*In 350m go through a metal fieldgate into the corner of a field, to initially go along its left-hand side, aiming for a stile on the far side of the field, (to the right of Mountfield Court Building).*

**[8]** *In 270m at the far field corner, cross over the stile and turn left along a driveway, NW, and after 70m go through a metal fieldgate to continue down a shingle track along the left-hand side of a field. In 120m at the bottom corner of the field, continue down along the car-wide fenced in track for 40m to go through a metal fieldgate into the next field, to follow the footpath down passing by a pond (surrounded by trees) after 130m on your right-hand side. Veer slightly right, and in a further 110m on the far side of the field, go through a fieldgate entrance and past a redundant stile, to continue in the same direction,*

following a track, veering to the left, down across this next field, aiming for its far bottom corner.

In 350m cross a car-wide plank bridge over a stream (footpath post on right-hand side), and in 50m go through a metal fieldgate and *under the railway, to then* go through a metal fieldgate to *turn right and in 40m* go over a wooden rail footbridge, to *follow a footpath through a wood*. In 220m, cross a wooden rail footbridge to *emerge from the wood, and veer right across a field, 350°*.

*In 100m cross a wooden railed footbridge (flanked by 2 squeeze stiles), to then turn right* past a redundant stile, along the right-hand side of a field, initial direction 30°. In 350m at the right-hand corner of the field, go through a metal fieldgate to continue along the right-hand side of this next field (railway off to right-hand side). In 90m at the corner of the field, *turn right over a footbridge to then turn left along a path between the stream (on your left-hand side), and railway (on your right-hand side)*.

In 200m cross a stile to cross a small field, and in 45m cross a wooden railed footbridge, to then continue along the right-hand side of the next field, (railway off to your right-hand side). In 130m cross a plank footbridge to continue along the right-hand side of a field. In 260m cross a wooden rail footbridge to turn half right along the right-hand side of a field. In 140m at the corner of the field, *exit over a stile onto a lane and turn right, to go under railway bridge after 40m*.

After 60m *at a T-junction with a road, turn left*. After 15m cross a bridge over a stream. and *in 80m where the road swings to the left, fork right*, to retrace your morning route.

## Walk options

### a) Alternative (shorter) ending at Battle via Netherfield.

Continue along the road. In 400m you reach a cross roads with the B2096. Go straight over (signposted Penhurst) and continue in a southerly direction. After 750m you go past a house and some farm buildings (Little Spray Farm) on your right-hand side. In a further 220m, *turn left over a stile (to the right of a metal fieldgate), to go along a fenced in car wide track, 40°*. You now pick up the Battle Walk (Extra Walk 30) directions from [5]

### b) Alternative ending at Stonegate.

If taking the short-cut, skipping Brightling, follow section (i), otherwise [via Brightling follow section \(ii\)](#)

#### (i) Shortcut:

**This shortcut route is fine all year.**

**[!]** *100m from the bridge by a wooden electricity pole on your right, turn right along an easily missed footpath (which is between the car wide entrances to two houses, the one on the left with a sand shingle driveway leading up to Hollytree Cottage, and the one on the right with a sand shingle driveway leading down to Rose Cottage), 280°*.

In 30m go over a stile to cross a field, (aiming for a stile leading into a wood), 310°. After 140m *go over the stile into the wood and in 15m cross a stream* via a one railed wooden footbridge, *to turn right* and follow a footpath up through the wood. **[!]** *In 45m where the footpath forks, fork right*, initially 320°. **[!]** *In 160m where the path forks, fork down to the right, 310°*, (the left fork, 230°, leads to a fieldgate after 50m), to follow the



footpath through the wood, exiting the wood after 60m, (past a redundant stile on your left-hand side), now initially 350°. In 70m go over a car-wide bridge to cross over the enclosed conveyor belt.

In 15m turn left over a stile to go up across a small field, 310°. In 60m cross a stile (right of a metal fieldgate) to turn left along a road. In 40m by a small lay-by on your right-hand side (immediately before the road bridge), turn right over an easily missed stile, to go through a lightly wooded area, 310°. Resume directions from the [asterisk \[\\*\] below](#).

## **(ii) Via Brightling:**

**This route is not recommended June - September.**

In 300m at a junction with the main road, veer right, 220°. **[!]**In 80m, turn right up a shingle driveway leading to houses, 300°. (If you reach Reading Room Cottage a further 20m on your right, you've gone too far.) After 25m immediately before a house directly ahead of you, fork left to join an enclosed footpath.

After 150m at a footpath junction with a wooden kissing-gate ahead, go through the wooden kissing-gate to continue along an enclosed footpath (which is often very overgrown in summer June - Sept making it virtually impassable (2014), cut back and passable 2015) and in 100m go through 2 metal kissing-gates followed by a wooden kissing-gate after a further 25m, to come out into a field to go up across it, 290°. In 150m cross into the next field via a wooden kissing-gate, to go up its right-hand side, 290°.

In 200m come out to a road with a T-junction on your left-hand side. Veer left to continue in your prior direction up the

main road into Brightling (signposted Woods Corner 1¼) towards Brightling Church. In 120m follow the road round to the right and after 20m turn left up the steps into Brightling Churchyard, and to Jack Fuller's Mausoleum.

Coming out of the churchyard, turn left and in 80m, where the main road curves to the left, turn right down a shingle car wide driveway. In 35m turn left through a wooden gate along a footpath (with allotments on your right-hand side), 50°. After 60m enter a lightly wooded area and in 25m you emerge into a clearing to veer left down this clearing, NE. In 90m a mini pylon cable run joins the footpath on your left-hand side. In 160m (and 30m before the cable run above forks off to the right at a mini pylon pole ahead), fork right down an unmarked footpath leading to the road, E. In 60m turn left down the road, initially E. After 150m cross a road bridge over the enclosed conveyor belt and in 15m by a small lay-by on your left-hand side, turn left over an easily missed stile, to go through a lightly wooded area, 310°.

**[\*]** In 100m you go past a redundant stile on your left to follow a footpath down into Great Wood. After 540m at bottom of the wood go over a 2 railed wooden footbridge. In 200m where the path forks, fork right to reach a signposted crosspaths after a further 50m. Veer left to continue on your prior direction along the footpath through the wood, initially 290°. In 150m you cross a 15m wide clearing (passing under a mini-pylon cable run) to re-enter the wood.

In 90m cross a stile and bridge over a stream to emerge from the wood, to go up the left-hand side of a field, bordered by a fenced-in wood, NW.

In 400m at the top left-hand corner of



*the field, cross a stile into a wood, to follow a footpath up through it, and in 80m turn right down a road. In 100m turn left onto a footpath into Leggett's Wood. In 20m at a fork in the path, fork right down through the wood, 340°. In 250m at a T-junction with a car-wide track, turn left for 10m to then turn right onto a footpath down through the wood, 300°. (Note there is a parallel footpath off your left, which if followed will take you out to the same point [Ω].) In 120m turn left along a car-wide track and after 20m [Ω] turn right through a wooden horse blocking barrier to continue on the footpath down through the wood.*

*In 140m cross a 2 plank footbridge, to continue down through the wood. In 130m cross a car-wide track to continue down through the wood, 280°. In 30m cross a plank footbridge to follow the footpath down through the wood, as marked by painted arrows on trees.*

*In 100m cross a wooden single railed footbridge, followed by a doubled railed footbridge after 20m, and in 45m go through a wooden horse blocking barrier to turn left up a path through the wood, 300°.*

*In 60m you come out into a clearing to cross a car-wide shingle track to now follow a car-wide shingle track up through the track clearing through the wood in a NW direction.*

*In 450m, (the shingle track having levelled), at a small clearing continue ahead along a car-wide track into the wood and in 10m at a cross paths, fork right, 310°, (not the footpath sharp right, 10°), down a footpath through the wood; further on the footpath narrows (and can become overgrown in summer).*

*In 400m emerge from the wood through a kissing-gate into a small field, to go*

*down its right-hand side, 340°. In 150m at the bottom right-hand corner go through a wooded area to then go through a wooden gate to reach a footpath junction, and turn left to go through a metal fieldgate into the next field. -> [#]*

[You now follow the Stonegate directions from the section sign [§]: "Continue ahead, following the westerly arm of a three-armed footpath signpost. In 130 metres turn right ...." which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence in the paragraph, 5 paragraphs before the one that mentions The Wheel Inn.]

### **c) Alternative (longer) ending at Battle via Brown Bread Street.**

*Continue along the road. In 400m you reach a cross roads with the B2096. Go straight over (signposted Penhurst) and continue in a southerly direction. After 750m you go past a house and some farm buildings (Little Spray Farm) on your right-hand side. In 220m, you pass by a stile on your left (which you'd take for the shorter Battle via Netherfield ending), in a further 80m turn right through a wooden gate into the corner of a field.*

*Follow the right-hand side up and then round and down to the left for 400 metres. At the lower right-hand field corner turn right through a car wide gap into the next field and turn left down the left hand side of the next field, 220°.*

*In 200 metres at the left-hand corner follow the field round to the right for 60m, to then turn left into a wood, to go down a bridleway, 210°. In 100m you emerge from the wood into a field to go down its right hand side, (keeping to the upper left-hand side of the sunken track, muddy in winter, nettles in summer).*

*In 220m just before a cattle trough, turn sharp right* towards a wooden fieldgate and turn left to continue down the sunken car wide track. In 120m go through a wooden fieldgate to continue down an (initially) car wide track, as you pass by a garden fence / wall on your right-hand side and a barn on your left, as the path starts to descend, entering a lightly wooded area further on.

In 500 metres go over a footbridge, and in 50m *at a path T-junction*, with a 3 way path signpost on your left-hand side, *turn right*, up a car wide track, 330°. In 60m follow the car wide track round to the right, passing by a red-slate semi-detached house on your left. In 80m follow the car wide track round to the left, 320°.

In 120m where the car wide track curves to the right, turn left through a wooden gate (between 2 wooden fieldgates) into a field to go up its right-hand side, 240°. In 180m at the right-hand field corner go through a wooden fieldgate to continue along a wide grass track, bordered by a wood on your right and a field fence on your left.

In 450m go through a metal fieldgate into a field and veer left to go across it, 260°, towards its far upper corner. In 280m go through a wooden fieldgate, to continue across this next field in a westerly direction, towards a fieldgate gap

In 200m go through the fieldgate gap and veer right across the field, NW, towards a small clump of trees on the field edge, (with a not clearly visible path entrance). In 100m enter the clump of trees and in 10m cross a stile and another after 6m and turn left, 250°, up across a small field towards a stile. In 70m cross the stile onto a lane and turn right for 10m, to then turn left up a

concrete driveway for Thorndale Farm, 240°, (passing by a pond on the right-hand side). In 80m veer left through a wooden fieldgate to cross a field, towards its far corner, 200°.

In 160m enter a small wooded area to cross a (previously not visible) stile and turn right through a wooded area for 20m to then turn left to emerge into a field and turn right to go initially along the wooded boundary, to then cross the field aiming for a distant stile (50m to the right of the far left field corner, where field hedgerow ends), 240°. In 270m cross the dilapidated stile and veer right, across this next field, 260°, (after 50m or so a metal fieldgate - often open - is visible with a stile 30m off to its left.) In 250m go over the dilapidated stile and turn right along the right-hand side of this field, down towards Lattenden Farm, 280°.

In 180m at the bottom right-hand corner of the field, go over a stile and another and turn left for 20m to then turn right along a concrete farm track passing by some barns on your left-hand side to then go through a metal fieldgate after 35m to then pass by a pond on your left-hand side, and in 30m go through a metal fieldgate into a field to go down across it, 250°.

In 160m cross a stile (left of a metal fieldgate) into a small wood to continue down a footpath, and in 20m cross a stile and footbridge, to follow the path up through the wood. In 60m cross a stile into a field to go up its right-hand side, 260°. In 260m go through a metal fieldgate 30m to the left of top field right-hand corner, to follow a car wide grass track up the left-hand side of the next field. In 130m go through a metal fieldgate to come out onto a lane after 45m.

Turn left and in 35m just past a lane down to the left, turn right up a car wide gravel track, to pass by a house and then some green painted metal corrugated barns on your right-hand side. In 100m go through a metal fieldgate to go down a car wide track, 260°. In 130m go through a metal fieldgate and continue down a car wide track along the left-hand side of a field that slopes down to the right.

In 130m go through a metal fieldgate into the next field to go down its upper left-hand side, SW. In 220m at the corner of the field on your left-hand side, continue down to the bottom lower side of the field, 250°. In 140m follow the path through the uncultivated edge of the field along a faint car wide track, that curves to the right after 30m, to then in a further 30m go through a rusty metal fieldgate, to continue on a dilapidated concrete car wide track.

In 60m turn left over a car wide bridge and then left again to go along a car wide gravel track with a stream down to the left and a lake on the right-hand side, south.

In 230m the gravel track gives out to continue on a car wide earth track, 150°. In 300m at a T-junction with a car wide gravel track, turn left and in 20m cross a bridge, to go up a concrete byway, east.

In 400m at a T-junction with a lane turn left, and in 25m turn sharp right along a car wide earth track (byway). In 70m go through a metal gate (right of a metal fieldgate), 170°, and continue along a car wide earth track, (that soon starts to descend).

In 700m at the end of the green lane, turn left through a metal fieldgate, along a byway, 70°, along the left-hand side of a field for 90m to then go through a

fieldgate gap into the next field and veer left down its left-hand side, 50°. In 160m go through a metal fieldgate to continue down a car wide track through a wooded area. In 160m go over a footbridge to the left of a ford, to continue up an (initially) car wide track.

In 370m go through a metal fieldgate and in 40m go over a stile (or through a metal gate, both to the right of a metal fieldgate). Turn right down a car wide track, 160°, towards Winters Farm. In 100m curve to the left (passing by a house on your right), and in 60m go through a metal fieldgate into a field and continue along its right-hand side, east. In 100m go through a fieldgate gap into an adjacent field and veer right down across the field, aiming for the far bottom corner, 100°.

In 250m at the far bottom corner go over a stile into a small wood, and cross a footbridge after 20m, to follow the footpath up through the wood. **【!】** In 70m turn right over an easily missed stile into a field to turn left to go up across it, towards a mini pylon pole, 100°. In 65m pass by this pylon pole (with a waymark on it), to go under the mini pylon cable run, aiming just to the right of a cluster of large trees on the far side of the field and to the left of a house in the far distance, (further on the stile - 15m to the right of the trees - becomes visible).

In 250m go over the stile on the far side of the field and turn half left, towards the corner of a wooded area, 70°. In 70m at the corner of the wooded area, follow the path (bordered by the small wood) round to the right, to come down to a small ditch stream (often dried up in summer) after 60m. Cross the ditch to come out into the next field and turn left up its left-hand side, 100°. In 50m at the field corner, cross a stile to go up a footpath

through a wooded field boundary. In 35m cross a stile onto a lane.

*If not stopping at the pub lunch stop, turn left and pick up the directions at the double asterisk [\*\*] below.*

*Otherwise for the pub lunch stop, turn right to reach **The Ash Tree Inn**, on your right after 200m. After lunch, retrace your steps back to the stile.*

**[\*\*]** *Continue along the lane.* In 500m (and 30m past a lane on your left leading to Ashburnham Village Hall), turn right through a kissing-gate to go along the 1066 footpath along the left-hand side of a field, 80°. In 170m go through a metal gate (left of a wooden fieldgate). In a further 80m go through a metal gate (left of a fieldgate) to come out onto a road and turn left. In 15m turn right along a lane signposted Penhurst.

After 700m cross a bridge over a stream and in 40m, pass by a lane forking down to the left, to continue up the lane.

*After 120m fork right to enter a wooded area, and in a further 25m go through a kissing gate to come out to a small green and in 50m turn right along a fenced in footpath. In 180m go through a wooden gate to turn left to go down across a field aiming to the right of a mini pylon plus transformer box which you pass by after 120m and in a further 35m go through a fieldgate gap (right of a redundant stile) into the next field.*

In 150m go past a redundant stile and go diagonally down across this field, 130°. After 250m go over a stile to cross a footbridge after 20m to veer left for 50m to cross a stile into a wood. Cross a footbridge and go up through the wood for 60m to cross a stile into a field, to go up to Tent Hill, 120°, passing by a footpath post in some shrubbery after 180m. In a further 150m you reach the top of the hill. Continue towards a metal gate, 130°.

After 140m go through the metal gate to go across this next field, aiming just to the right of a large clump of trees, 100°. In 350 metres pass by the clump of trees (with a footpath post). In a further 200 metres pass by a fenced in corner of a wood on your right, and in 50 metres enter a wooded area. In 60 metres you emerge into a field, to go up across it. In 180 metres you pass by a clump of trees, on your left-hand side, (with a cattle trough and the footpath post on its edge), to continue up across the field, 100°, aiming 40m to the left of a mini pylon pole, the cable run which you go under after 200 metres, to continue towards the left hand corner of the field.

In a further 120m at the field corner go over a stile and in 30m *turn left* along a grass verge. In 20m turn right across the road to go along a car wide track.

After 400m, go under some mini pylon cables and in 15 metres, go over a stile and turn right along a car wide earth track. In 1.4km you go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden fieldgate and 20m further on pass by a pond on your left hand side. After 300m you turn left at a T-junction with a main road, to then pass by the **White Hart pub [2]**, Catsfield, on your left hand side.

In 400m (having previously ignored a left turn into Catsfield playing field) fork left to cross over a stile (to the left of a metal fieldgate) into a field, and veer right across this field aiming for a stile in the far corner, 200°. In 220m go over the stile, and turn left along a main road. In 50 metres turn right to go along a car wide track. In 100m cross over a stile (left of a metal fieldgate) into a field, to go along its left hand side. After 90m turn left to cross over a stream into the next field to go diagonally across it, aiming for a stile in its far corner, 60°.

In 250m go over a stile into a wood. In 100m at a path junction turn left, as the footpath starts to descend and in 170m turn right over a (broken) stile (to the left of a metal fieldgate) to go up a car wide track.

After 300m at the crest of the track you pass by a farm track on your left, to continue down the track.

In 320m go through a metal gate to enter a wooded area. In 270m go through a metal gate to emerge from the wooded area to continue along the right hand side of a narrow strip of land. After 80m veer right up across a field, 30°.

In 370m you join a car wide earth track. In 200m go through a fieldgate gap (to the left of a metal gate) to continue along the car wide earth track, 70°. After 320m go through a wooden gate to join a car-wide track.

In 140m you reach **The Pilgrims Rest**, the recommended tea stop on your left hand side, with the main entrance to Battle Abbey further up on your right.

From the Pilgrims restaurant go past Battle Abbey entrance on your right-hand side to turn right along the raised pavement along the main road with the Abbey wall on your right. In 200 metres, at a roundabout, veer right downhill. In 250 metres turn left down the station approach road to reach the station after 180 metres.

### Lunch & tea places:

Robertsbridge:

**The Ostrich** *Station Road, Robertsbridge, TN32 5DG (01580 881737)*. 11am-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun. This pub serves tea and coffee.

**The George** *High Street, Robertsbridge, TN32 5AW (01580 880315)*.

**The Seven Stars** *High Street, Robertsbridge, TN32 5AJ (01580 880333)*

Stonegate ending:

**Wheel Inn** *Heathfield Road, Burwash, TN19 7LA (01435 882102)*. Located 13km from the start of the walk.

Battle ending:

a) Alternative (shorter) ending via Netherfield.

**The Netherfield Arms** *Netherfield, TN33 9QD, (01424 838282)* Food served noon – 2pm daily. Located 13.5km from the start of the walk.

**The White Hart** *Netherfield, TN33 9QH, (01424 838382)* Food served noon – 2pm Tue - Sun (closed on Mondays). Located 13km from the start of the walk.

c) Alternative (longer) ending via Brown Bread Street.

**The Ash Tree Inn** *Brown Bread Street, Ashburnham, TN33 9NX (01424 892104)* Food served noon – 2.30pm daily. Located 22.5km from the start of the walk.

A wide variety of choices in Battle.

**The Pilgrims Rest** *1 High Street, Battle TN33 0AE (01424 772314)* is the suggested tea stop.