

Last checked, Main	a) Shorter pm	b) Longer	c) Alternative	d) Shorter am
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## Stonegate Circular

### The peaceful Burwash Weald and Kipling's retreat.

**Start and Finish:** Stonegate station

**Length:** 15.5 km (9.6 miles). For a shorter walk and other variations, see *below* **Walk options**.

**Time:** 4 hours 45mins. For the whole outing including trains, sights and meals allow 9 hours 15minutes.

**Transport:** Trains between London Charing Cross and Stonegate run hourly (journey time: 1 hour 10 minutes). Take the train nearest to 10.15am. For those driving, car parking (charged) is available at Stonegate station.

**OS Landranger Map:** 199

**OS Explorer Map:** 136 and 124 (for part of the long walk).

Stonegate station, reference TQ659 272 is in East Sussex, 14km south-east of Tunbridge Wells.

**Toughness:** 3 out of 10

**Walk notes:** This walk is a good introduction to the Sussex Weald, an area which isn't well known to most walkers; its relative quietness is one of its attractions. Passing over gentle hills and into tranquil valleys, through classic English wood and pastureland, the Weald's attractions include the unspoiled village of Burwash for lunch, and

Bateman's, the one time rural retreat of Rudyard Kipling. In summer, one stretch before lunch through Upper Collingtons wood can become quite overgrown with nettles and brambles, so wear long trousers and select a suitable stick on entering the wood. For those venturing on the long walk section after lunch at Burwash Weald, this could with some justification be described as a wilderness walk.

**Walk options:** Directions for the following options are given at the end of the main walk text.

**a) Shorter walk:** You may reduce the length of the walk by over 4km to 10km (6.2 miles) by following the main route directions given until [5]. Then follow the shortened route directions at the end of the main text, before picking up the main route directions at [8].

**b) Longer walk:** You may increase the length of the walk by 14km (8.7 miles) to 29.5km (18.3 miles) by following the main route directions given until [6]. Then follow the lengthened route directions at the end of the main text, before picking up the main route directions at [9].

**c) Alternative ending at Wadhurst (Longer Walk):** You may also vary the

end of the Longer walk and finish in Wadhurst for tea. This increases the length of the long walk by 3km to 32.5km (20.2 miles). Follow the Longer walk directions to [B5], then follow the alternative ending directions at the end of the main text, before linking up with the main Wadhurst directions at [8] (the previous walk, walk 18).

Alternatively, to shorten the main walk, you can catch the 318 bus (hourly until 6pm Mon–Fri, every other hour until 4pm Sat) from Burwash High Street to Etchingam station (one stop down the line from Stonegate). For information, phone 0870 608 2608. Note: Buy a return rail ticket to Etchingam.

Various other options for this walk are available on the website of the Saturday Walkers' Club [www.walkingclub.org.uk](http://www.walkingclub.org.uk) in the 'Time Out Country Walks 2' section.

**d) Alternative short morning route to Burwash:** An alternate short morning route (3.3km) for the Stonegate walk described in CW2, thus trimming 2.7km off the Stonegate main (19), short (19a) and long (19b) walks.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

[1] Coming off the London train from platform 2 at **Stonegate Station** go through the exit into the station car park and *turn half right up a fenced-in car-wide concrete track*, your direction 85 degrees. In 200 metres go through a metal fieldgate with a house directly ahead.

[If you are intending to take the short walk into Burwash refer to the **(d) Alternative short walk to Burwash** at the end.]

In 35 metres the track curves to the right with a pond on your right. After 45 metres *turn left up a car-wide shingle track*, passing through a metal fieldgate, your direction 30 degrees. *In 200 metres fork right to go through a metal gate (right of a metal fieldgate) into a field* and

go diagonally across the field, aiming for a metal fieldgate to the left of a border of trees, your direction 70 degrees.

In 280 metres go through a metal gate (right of a metal fieldgate) and continue in the same direction diagonally down across the next field. After 200 metres go over a stile 20 metres left of the bottom corner of the field to enter a wood.

Follow the footpath down through the wood. In 100 metres cross a plank footbridge and continue up the footpath. In 60 metres you *emerge from the wood into a field*. [2]

*Turn right* along the lower right-hand edge of the field, your initial direction south. In 80 metres, at the field corner, follow the edge of the field round and up to the left. In 80 metres, at a footpath signpost, *turn right through a lightly wooded area between ponds*, your direction 200 degrees.

In 50 metres, *on emerging from the lightly wooded area, turn left* to go along the left-hand edge of a field, your direction 120 degrees. In 50 metres you reach a wooden post on your right at the border to the next field.

*Follow a yellow (footpath) arrow half right, diagonally down across this next field*, along a faint path, your direction 170 degrees. After 220 metres, at the corner of the field, go over a footbridge and *turn right down a car-wide shingle track*, your direction 220 degrees.

In 500 metres, with a pair of ornate wooden gates just ahead of you, turn left through a wooden gate and in 7 metres, turn right to continue in your prior direction soon passing by a pond off to your right, your direction now 210 degrees. After 100 metres *turn left, ignoring a footpath ahead which leads to the railway*, your initial direction 120 degrees.

After 50 metres you pass by a decorative church stone window frame 20 metres to your left. In 50 metres you enter a lightly

wooded area and in a further 50 metres (having crossed a stream) you come up into a field. *Turn half left*, your direction 80 degrees, *up across this field*, towards the easily missed gap (just to the left of a large oak tree) of a footpath *leading into a wood*. [!] In 140 metres having crossed the field, veer right onto the easy to miss footpath into Upper Collingtons Wood, your initial direction 150 degrees.

Follow this footpath as it meanders through the wood. In 140 metres go past a derelict stile; there is now a fence to the left of the path. In 130 metres, at the end of the fence, fork right (slightly downhill), marked by a yellow footpath arrow on the tree ahead, your initial direction 100 degrees.

After 140 metres you emerge into a small clearing, to continue in a north easterly direction. In 50 metres you cross a stream (often dried up in summer). The path continues up a gentle incline. In 150 metres *at a footpath junction* (at the top of a gentle incline), *turn right over a stile into a field*.

Go along the top left-hand edge of the field, your direction east. *In 100 metres*, at the field corner, if the fieldgate 20 metres down to your right is open, then go through it and *turn right down the right-hand side of this next field*. (If by chance the fieldgate is locked, then cross the stile in the field corner into the next field and turn right over another stile to go down the right-hand side of this next field.)

After 150 metres cross over into the next field and turn half left down across the field towards a stile. In 70 metres, *cross the railway line*, flanked by two stiles.

Once across, *turn left for 30 metres to then turn right down the left-hand side of the field*.

In 280 metres towards the end of the field, go through a gap in the hedgerow field border, to *cross into the next field* and continue in the same direction along the edge of this field, with the hedgerow

now on your right, your direction south. After 50 metres cross into the next field to go, along the left-hand edge of the field, with a stream on your left.

In 70 metres *turn left to cross a bridge flanked by two gates*. *Turn half right* across the next field, in the direction shown by a blue bridleway arrow on the second gate, your direction 130 degrees. Aim for a metal fieldgate with a bridleway signpost next to it.

In 140 metres cross a stile to the right of the fieldgate and continue diagonally up across the next field, towards its top left-hand corner to the left of some farm buildings, your direction 130 degrees.

After 200 metres, at the top of the field, go over a stile (left of a metal fieldgate). Continue up a farmyard track passing by a pond on your right. In 60 metres go through a double wooden fieldgate and on past a bungalow to your left. In 50 metres go through a wooden gate and *turn right onto a road [3]*.

In 120 metres you pass by a metal fieldgate on your left. In a further 10 metres, *turn left through a metal gate to follow a fenced-in footpath gently downhill between fields*. In 200 metres the path curves to the right through a lightly wooded area. Carry on over a footbridge and a stile. In 30 metres you emerge from the lightly wooded area; to continue up through a field, your direction 140 degrees. In 200 metres, as the field gets narrower, continue on the left-hand side of the field.

After 200 metres, at the top left-hand corner of the field, *cross a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate onto a road* (the A265). [4]

*Turn right* along the road. After 100 metres you pass by a brick building (Totts Barn) on your right. In 70 metres you pass by the entrance to Capstone on your left. After another 40 metres *turn left to cross the road and go through some stone brick gateposts*, the entrance to Glebe Farm.

After 25 metres ignore a car-wide track forking off to the right (leading to a metal fieldgate). In a further 10 metres *turn right to go over a stile* (right of a metal fieldgate) into a field. *Go along the top of the field following the line of a ridge*, your direction 210 degrees.

In 300 metres you pass by a corrugated metal barn on your right. Carry on through a wooden kissing gate into the next field. After 150 metres go through a wooden kissing gate. In a further 100 metres go through a wooden gate into the churchyard of the church of **St Bartholomew, Burwash**.

Go through the churchyard past the church entrance to leave through the main churchyard entrance gate onto the High Street, with The Bell Inn (closed) directly opposite.

*Turn left along the High Street*, your direction west.

In 140 metres you pass by the Burwash Map on your left and then, 25 metres further on, the Rose and Crown pub sign on your right, with the **Rose and Crown** 30 metres off to the right. 60 metres further along the High Street you reach a footpath sign on your left (immediately after a terrace of cottages Nos. 1–5) **[5]**.

[If you are intending to take the **Shorter walk** option, follow the directions given [at the end of this main walk text.](#)]

Otherwise, for the main walk, *turn left down this footpath*. In 60 metres go through a gap *and turn half right diagonally down across a field*, your direction 210 degrees.

After 200 metres cross over a footbridge and go through a metal gate into the next field, to continue down in the same direction. After 150 metres cross over a small ditch stream and go through a metal gate, now with a hedgerow on your right. In 160 metres cross a stile to continue gently downhill in the same direction, diagonally across a field with

fenced-in clumps of trees on your left and a fenced-in group of trees to your right.

After 250 metres and *100 metres further on from the clumps of trees on your right at the lower corner of the field*, go through a car-wide exit. *Veer left downhill* with a hedgerow on your left, your direction due south. After 180 metres cross over a stile and *turn right onto a lane*, heading towards Bateman's, which you reach after 240 metres.

If you wish to visit **Bateman's** turn right for 80 metres to the entrance gate on the left. Otherwise, *at the lane junction in front of Bateman's*, turn left and follow the lane as it curves to the right. After 140 metres cross over a stream. In 200 metres you reach Corner Cottage on your right. *Turn right immediately after Corner Cottage*, marked by a wooden footpath signpost.

After 20 metres you reach a pond. *Follow the footpath to the right of the pond* to then pass by a wooden slat bridge on your left. Follow the path, with a stream on your left, your direction 260 degrees. In 160 metres go over a stream and through a wooden gate, now with a larger stream on your right. After 70 metres ignore a footbridge off to your right.

In 120 metres go through a wooden kissing gate to come out into a field after 40 metres, to follow the path through the field, your direction 250 degrees. After 200 metres *turn left through a metal fieldgate to cross a car-wide plank bridge over a stream into the next field*. *Turn right* to continue in the same westerly direction with a wooded boundary on your right.

In 150 metres go through a metal fieldgate into the next field. **[S]** Continue ahead, following the westerly arm of a three-armed footpath signpost. In 130 metres *turn right through a metal fieldgate* next to a footpath signpost, *and cross a car-wide concrete bridge back over the stream*. *Turn left and follow the left-hand edge of a field*. In 80 metres go

through a wooden kissing gate *and follow the footpath up through Bog Wood.*

In 300 metres go through a wooden kissing gate to emerge from the wood, into a field.

Continue up the right-hand side of the field, your direction 290 degrees. In 260 metres, at the top right-hand corner of the field, follow the field edge round to the left and continue along the upper right-hand field border, your direction 230 degrees.

In 120 metres, *at the top corner of the field*, go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal fieldgate. *Turn half right*, your direction 290 degrees. *In 50 metres* go through another wooden kissing gate to the left of a wooden and metal fieldgate. *Turn left and follow the path diagonally across the field, aiming for the upper corner of the field*, your direction 200 degrees.

In 150 metres go through a metal gate into the next field. Go diagonally across this field, your direction still 200 degrees. (There is still a faint path.) In 80 metres you pass by the corner of a field on your left. Continue downhill aiming to pass 30 metres to the right of a large sycamore tree in the middle of the field; then after 140 metres go over a stile into the next field.

Continue on a fenced-in footpath along the upper right-hand side of this field. In 120 metres, at the field corner, go through a wooden kissing gate and *turn right up a lane*. In 450 metres you reach a T-junction with the A265, at the centre of Burwash Weald. Cross over to the **Wheel Inn [6]**, the suggested lunch stop for the long walk and the tea stop for the main walk.

[After The Wheel Inn, if you are intending to take the **Longer walk** option, [refer to the directions at the end](#) of the main walk text.]

Otherwise, for the main walk, coming out of The Wheel Inn *turn left along the*

*pavement*, your direction east. After 350 metres, *where the pavement comes to an end, cross the road and continue along the right-hand side*. After 80 metres *turn left to cross back over the road, onto a shingle driveway*. The entrance to Green Farm is on your immediate right and there is a footpath post with an arrow on your left.

Ignore the track up to your left to take the car-wide shingle track ahead, following a bridleway arrow, your direction north-west. After 30 metres where the track forks, take the right-hand fork (indicated by a concrete public bridleway stone marker), and in 45 metres you pass by an oast-house on your right, to continue down a car-wide earth track.

After 170 metres *follow the bridleway round to the right*, your initial direction 30 degrees.

In 700 metres (having just passed by a white house beyond the fence on your right-hand side) you reach metal fieldgates on your left and right with a 3 armed wooden path signpost on your right hand side. Now there are two alternatives. (i) Continue along this bridleway, or (ii) If the going to this point has been particularly muddy you may prefer to take an alternative north eastern route.

**(i) Bridleway:** *Keep on this bridleway for the next 1.3km until it reaches Spring Lane*, where you turn left. Rejoin the route at the [asterisk \[\\*\]](#) below.

**(ii) Alternative north eastern route:** *Turn right* through a metal fieldgate to cross a small field (with the white house off to your right) and *after 40 metres* go through another metal fieldgate to *turn left down the left-hand wooded edge of a field*, your direction 50 degrees. In 100 metres at the left-hand field corner go through a metal fieldgate and continue in the same direction across the next field. After 180 metres go through a metal fieldgate to go along the left-hand edge

of the next field, your direction 50 degrees.

After 160 metres at the left-hand field corner go over a stile into a small wood. Follow an indistinct path through the wood for 80 metres into a field by a two-armed footpath signpost. (Alternatively veer up to the left for 30 metres to emerge from the wood and fork right to follow a feint path along the edge of the wood which you follow round and down to the right to reach the footpath exit from the wood by the two-armed footpath post.)

Continue across this field aiming for a wide gap into the next field on the far side, your direction 50 degrees. In 100 metres you join a line of trees on your left-hand side to go down through the gap after 50 metres into the next field.

Continue in the same direction across this field (subsequently slicing its left hand corner) aiming for a car wide gap (40 metres to the left of a cable run) on the far side of this field, your direction 50 degrees.

In 200 metres go through the car wide gap to go across this next field aiming for a red tiled house 220 metres distant.

Having crossed this field, go through a wooden fieldgate and turn left up a lane. In 300 metres you pass by a bridleway on your left-hand side.

**[\*]** After 60 metres, *at a small junction, turn right onto a minor lane, [7]* your direction 30 degrees.

After 150 metres you pass a memorial plaque marked 'F/Lt. R.F. Rimmer, Aged 21, Killed in action September 27<sup>th</sup> 1940'. In 80 metres *turn left at a crosspaths,* your direction 310 degrees.

Cross over a stile to the right of a double wooden fieldgate. In 30 metres you go up some steps. **[8]**

Go down the edge of the field with a wooden fence on your right. In 280

metres cross over a stile, a car-wide track and another stile in 10 metres, to cross a third stile after 30 metres, which takes you into a field.

Go along the right-hand edge of the field, noting the lake ahead to the right, your direction 340 degrees. At the corner of the field, go over a stile (up to the left of a wooden fieldgate) into the corner of the next field.

*Go diagonally across this field, heading towards a not-too-visible wooden footbridge 30 metres to the left of the far corner of the field, your direction 340 degrees. (You may prefer in muddy conditions to go along the left-hand edge of the field.)*

In 350 metres *cross over the two rail footbridge and veer slightly left across a field, your direction 300 degrees, to then go through a gap in the hedge opposite.* This takes you into the corner of a hop field. Go along the left-hand edge of the hop field and then several further fields, your direction 310 degrees.

*After 550 metres, at the end of the hop fields, go through a metal fieldgate and turn half right, towards a car-wide gap, your direction 340 degrees. In 180 metres go through the car-wide gap and continue, veering slightly left towards a metal fieldgate, your direction 310 degrees. When you reach the fieldgate turn right onto a road.*

Go along the grass verge of the road, which crosses a bridge after 70 metres. Continue for another 330 metres until you *pass by a house on the right called Martlets, with a car-wide track immediately after it. [9]*

*Turn right down the track. (If pressed for time continue along the road for 250 metres to cross a bridge over the railway and then turn right for Stonegate station.)*

Go through a metal fieldgate, indicated by a bridleway arrow on a signpost, and go down a car-wide earth track with a fence

to the left, your initial direction 90 degrees. The track goes slightly downhill. At the bottom go through a wooden fieldgate and follow the bridleway arrow uphill towards a (not initially visible) metal gate, your direction 100 degrees.

In 300 metres go through the gate to *cross a car-wide bridge over the railway* and then through a second metal gate. Continue along the bridleway across a field towards a metal fieldgate, your direction 70 degrees. You pass some corrugated metal farm buildings and later a pond on your left.

*In 180 metres go through the metal fieldgate and turn left* onto a car-wide shingle track, your direction 340 degrees. After 50 metres you pass a car-wide earth track on your right. Continue along the shingle track with the pond to your left and veer to the left (retracing your initial route up from Stonegate station) down the car-wide track back to **Stonegate station**.

## WALK OPTIONS

### a) Shorter walk directions

*Follow the main walk directions until point [5].*

From [5] ignore the footpath sign on the left to continue along the High Street in the same direction. After 80 metres you pass the Bear Inn on your left.

After a further 160 metres, when you come level with Burwash Village Hall on your left, and Christ the King Catholic on your right, *fork right down a shingle car-wide track*. Go through a wooden kissing fieldgate to the left of a wooden gate with a notice saying Dawes Farm on it.

After 60 metres ignore the footpath to the left-hand side, and follow the path as it curves to the right more steeply down the car-wide track. In 120 metres you pass by Dawes Farm on your left and a two-armed footpath signpost on your right. In 30 metres at the bottom of the track go

over a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate.

Go down the right-hand edge of the field, your direction 330 degrees. In 80 metres you pass under some mini pylon cables. Go through a small wooded area, keeping to the right-hand edge of the field. In 220 metres, at the corner of the field, you *cross a footbridge flanked by two stiles*. *Turn left* to go down the left-hand side of a field, your initial direction 290 degrees.

In 140 metres, at the bottom field corner, go through a wooden fieldgate and in 30 metres through a metal fieldgate and cross a footbridge, to go through a metal gate. Go up the right-hand edge of the next field. After 200 metres, at the upper right-hand field corner, go through a metal fieldgate. In 25 metres, *fork right down a lane*, your initial direction 300 degrees.

**[!]** In 100 metres and *20 metres before a house and garage, turn left up an easily missed footpath*, as indicated by a footpath post (2 metres off the lane to the left).

After 25 metres *cross over a stile*. *Turn right* and go up the right-hand edge of an orchard, your initial direction 310 degrees. In 180 metres, at the top right-hand corner of the orchard, go through a wooden fieldgate onto a lane. Continue straight ahead and across a stile to the right of a double wooden fieldgate. In 30 metres you go up some steps.

*You now follow the main walk directions from [8].*

### b) Longer walk directions

*Follow the main walk directions to [6].*

Coming out of The Wheel Inn, cross over the A265 to *go down a lane*. After 20 metres *fork right down a footpath* leading off the lane, through a lightly wooded area, your direction 200 degrees.

In 250 metres go through a wooden gate and turn right to then cross a footbridge after 5 metres. Continue up through woods with a barbed-fence to your left, your initial direction 200 degrees. In 150 metres go over a stile to emerge from the wood into a field; go up the left-hand edge of the field. In 100 metres, *at the top left corner of the field, cross a stile and veer left up a tarmac lane.*

In 70 metres you pass a corrugated metal barn on your left, your direction now 220 degrees. After a further 90 metres ignore a footpath leading off to the right to continue along the lane between hedgerows. In 120 metres the hedgerows give way and you come out to an open space with a house up to your right.

Continue straight ahead along a shingle car-wide track. In 20 metres ignore a stile on the left, to go through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction initially with a wooden fence on your right-hand side. In 130 metres go through a wooden fieldgate to follow the footpath down through a wooded area, your direction 220 degrees.

After 150 metres cross over a stile to *emerge from the wooded area, to go down the right-hand side of a field*, your direction 200 degrees.

In 120 metres on approaching the right hand field corner ignore a stile to the right, and cross over a stile after a further 50 metres in the field corner. Continue down in the same direction across the field aiming for the gap in the lower wooded boundary of the field. In 180 metres go through the gap into the next field and continue down in the same direction to reach a footbridge at the bottom after 300 metres.

*Go over the two rail footbridge flanked by two metal gates to veer left up the right-hand edge of a field, bordered by a wooded area, your direction 110 degrees. After 100 metres veer right to go through a gap into the next field to go downhill. In 70 metres go across a car-wide track over a stream into the next field.*

Follow a yellow footpath arrow on a post and veer left, aiming for a tree 30 metres to the left of a derelict farm building, your direction 100 degrees. In 200 metres *go over a stile to pass by the derelict farm building on your right* after 20 metres. Continue down in the direction of an oast-house, your direction 160 degrees.

After 130 metres *cross over a stile* **[B1]** by a wooden footpath signpost.

*Turn right to go up a wide earth bridleway*, your direction west. In 250 metres at a staggered crosspaths marked by a two armed bridleway signpost continue up the car-wide earth track through a wooded area, your direction 220 degrees.

After 600 metres (the car-wide earth track having levelled out), you pass by a two-armed bridleway signpost, with a deer high fieldgate on your left-hand side where the track veers to the right, your direction 280 degrees. After 200 metres you pass by another deer high fieldgate on your right, next to a bridleway post, your direction 250 degrees. In 350 metres *turn left onto a lane*. After 20 metres the lane curves to the right, your direction now 280 degrees.

In 400 metres you *pass some corrugated metal barns on your left. 30 metres beyond the barns you pass some double metal fieldgates on your left* (leading to a van parking area). *After 50 metres you reach a telegraph pole on the left. 15 metres beyond, at a four-way footpath junction* **[B2]** marked on the left by a hidden four-armed wooden signpost with some arms broken off.

**[!]** *Turn right along a driveway.* (This is immediately to the left, and parallel to the concrete driveway to Watkins Farmhouse.) You will have a *wooden fence on your right and a hedge on your left; you pass a house immediately on your left*, your direction north. You may have to go over an aluminium sheep pen barrier between the wall of the house on



your left and the wooden fence on your right.

In 50 metres cross a stile built into the right-hand side of a rusted metal fieldgate. Continue straight ahead with the wooden fence on your right. In 35 metres pass by a telegraph pole with a yellow footpath arrow. After 45 metres cross a stile next to a two armed footpath signpost to *go across a field* towards a stile in the left hand corner of the field, your direction north.

In 100 metres, *at the corner of the field*, cross over the stile. *Continue diagonally across this next field*, towards a footpath post in the bottom left-hand corner, your direction 320 degrees. After 120 metres at the corner of the field pass round a redundant stile next to a two-armed footpath signpost, *to enter a wood*.

In 10 metres veer right to follow a yellow footpath arrow on a tree, your direction north. After 30 metres continue along the footpath to the right of a slight cutting, your direction 20 degrees.

In 120 metres *the footpath curves to the left and in 30 metres, at a footpath junction, with a footpath off to the right*.

**[!]** *Turn right* down a sunken footpath, your direction 30 degrees. In 80 metres *the footpath is joined by a wire fence to your left, to now continue down with the wire fence on your left*, your direction 60 degrees.

**[!]** In 70 metres, *at the corner post of the wire fence on your left, turn left* to follow the fence marked by a yellow footpath arrow on the corner post, your direction 10 degrees.

After 120 metres *cross a stile to emerge from the wood into a field and turn half left*. Slice the corner of this field to then after 50 metres go through a wooden fieldgate into the next field. Go up across this field and *aim for a stile, 40 metres down from the top left-hand corner* of the field, your direction west. In 140 metres *cross the stile and turn right* to then cross another stile after 10 metres *to go down*

*a sunken field boundary* footpath between hedgerows, your direction 340 degrees.

After 120 metres *go over a stile into a field* with a three-armed footpath signpost to the right marking a footpath junction. *Follow the left fork downhill aiming just to the right of a clump of trees*, your direction still 340 degrees. After 140 metres you pass by a yellow footpath arrow on a post and the clump of trees on your left. Continue downhill in the same direction.

In 120 metres *go down into a wood to cross a stile* after 20 metres and in 10 metres *cross a two rail footbridge* over the river Dudwell to *continue up through the wood*.

After 50 metres you pass through a (normally open) metal fieldgate to continue up through the wood. In 10 metres follow a footpath arrow on a post to *fork right*, your direction 330 degrees. After 170 metres where the footpath levels *fork left*, your direction west. In 50 metres follow a footpath arrow on a post to *turn right*, your direction 350 degrees.

After 25 metres go over a stile and *continue up a fenced-in footpath*, your direction 350 degrees. In 80 metres go past a redundant stile to *emerge from the wood into a field, to go up the upper right-hand edge of the field*, your direction 340 degrees.

After 300 metres, *at the top corner of the field, go past a derelict stile to continue ahead up through a lightly wooded area*. After 350 metres the footpath leads out to a car-wide track. In 500 metres go through a metal fieldgate to *reach a T-junction with the A265*. **[B3]**

Cross over this main road to *follow a restricted byway signpost along a car-wide shingle track*, your direction 340 degrees. After 100 metres, *the car-wide track curves down to the right* (with a telegraph pole on the right-hand side). *Fork left off the track along a fenced-in path*, with a tennis court up to your left, your direction 330 degrees. In 100

metres go through a metal gate to go down a path with a hedgerow / wooded boundary on your left.

After 50 metres the path joins a shingle car-wide track downhill. In 180 metres the shingle track now becomes a tarmac lane. After 80 metres you *come down to a T-junction and turn right down a lane*, your direction 20 degrees.

After 100 metres you reach a triangular lane junction. **[Important:** *If you have not arrived at this point at least 3 hours before sunset.* You should take this 6.2km shortcut the majority of which is along lanes and which will halve the remaining 11.5km of the walk. **Shortcut:** Fork right at this triangular lane junction (initial direction 30 degrees) for 3km to then turn right (eastwards) at a lane T-junction for 2km until you reach a T-junction with the main road where you turn left (northwards) to reach Stonegate station after 1.25km. ]

*Fork left*, your direction north. In 80 metres you pass by the entrance to Prospect Farm on your left, and continue down the lane, your direction now 350 degrees. In 300 metres *at a crossroads turn left*, you pass by the wooden gate entrance to Corner Farm on your left, your direction 310 degrees. In 120 metres, and *immediately after a corrugated metal farm building to your right*, **[!]** *turn right* along a shingle driveway between a house on your left and the corrugated metal farm building on your right *towards a wooden fieldgate to the left of a metal fieldgate*.

After 15 metres go through the wooden fieldgate and *turn half left to go diagonally down across a field, towards the bottom corner*, aiming to the left of a utility building, your direction 300 degrees. (It maybe easier to just follow the car-wide shingle track to the building, and then fork right for 35 metres.) *In 160 metres, at the corner of the field, go through a metal gate, and turn right to go down to the bottom corner of this narrow field*, your direction 320 degrees.

In 150 metres, at the bottom corner of the field, *cross a plank bridge* and a stile to continue down through a narrow field in the same direction (320 degrees). *In 100 metres ignore a left-hand fork to a fieldgate and veer slightly right to enter a wooded area*, passing by a fenced-in pond (often dried up in summer) on your left. (Sections of the path are often overgrown, necessitating skirting round to the left.) After 80 metres go through a gap to emerge from the wooded area to go down across a field towards a gap in the hedgerow, your direction 320 degrees.

In 160 metres, at the field edge, cross over a metal-barred stile (80 metres to the left of the right field corner; in summer this stile can become very overgrown), and continue down across the next field in the same direction (320 degrees) towards a footbridge (20 metres to the left of a large oak tree). After 180 metres *cross over the two rail footbridge*, to go up for 15 metres *and then turn right, along the right-hand edge of a field*, your initial direction 40 degrees.

In 180 metres, go through a metal fieldgate and continue ahead, your direction 330 degrees. After 80 metres go through another metal fieldgate. In 90 metres *turn right through a wooden fieldgate* to continue *along the right-hand side of a field*, your direction 10 degrees.

After 150 metres *at the right-hand corner of this field cross a stile* (to the left of a wooden fieldgate), next to a footpath signpost. **[B4]** *Follow the left fork of the signpost towards the left-hand corner of the field*, your direction 350 degrees.

In 250 metres *at the left field corner, go over a stile to go along the left-hand edge of a field*, your direction north. **[!]** *After 100 metres, and 40 metres before reaching the far field corner, turn left to cross an easily missed two-plank footbridge* flanked a metal gate and a stile. Follow a yellow footpath arrow on the stile *half right towards the corner of the field*, your direction 300 degrees.

In 150 metres, at the corner of the field, cross a two rail footbridge, to veer slightly left up towards the gap in the wood ahead, your direction 340 degrees. In 100 metres go over a footbridge and over a wooden barrier to enter *Little Calem Wood*, your direction 350 degrees.

In 400 metres cross a stile (left of a metal fieldgate) to emerge from *Little Calem Wood* and turn half left up across the field for 60 metres to a metal fieldgate. (With crop in field, the path is more often: from *Little Calem Wood*, continue ahead for 30 metres, to reach a T-junction with a car-wide track and turn left up the track for 50 metres to the fieldgate.) Go through the fieldgate into the next field and veer left towards a metal fieldgate leading out to a farmyard, your direction 300 degrees.

In 150 metres, at the top left-hand corner of the field, go through the metal fieldgate to turn right up a concrete farm driveway. In 80 metres having gone through several metal fieldgates you reach a T-junction with a lane.

Turn left along the lane, your direction 280 degrees. In 400 metres, just past the crest of the lane, you reach a 2-metre high metal gate entrance to a Transco plant station on your left. Continue on for 35 metres to turn right to cross a stile (opposite to a second set of gates to the Transco plant). Cross a farm track and go down the right-hand edge of a field, your direction 20 degrees. In 180 metres, at the right-hand corner of the field, go through a wooden gate and turn right along the top right-hand edge of a field, your direction 110 degrees.

After 120 metres, at the right-hand corner of the field, go through a wooden fieldgate and turn left down a tarmac lane, your direction 20 degrees. In 150 metres pass by a red-slatted house to your left. In 60 metres go over a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate into a field. Continue down the left-hand edge of the field to cross over a stile in the left-hand field corner after 180 metres. Go down across the next field. After 50 metres you

pass to the right of a fenced-in pond, aiming for a wooden gate, which you reach after 150 metres. **[B5]**

[If you are intending to finish the walk at Wadhurst refer to the **Alternative ending directions** at the end of this section, plus the Wadhurst walk directions.]

Otherwise, to finish the walk at Stonegate, go through the gate and turn right down a car-wide track lined with concrete slats, your direction 120 degrees. In 70 metres you cross over a ditch stream and continue uphill now on a car-wide shingle track.

In 120 metres you reach a junction. Turn left down a lane, your direction 40 degrees. In 60 metres pass round a wooden fieldgate and cross over a bridge. After 30 metres, at a path junction marked by a two-armed signpost, **[B6]** turn right through a wooden gate along the left-hand edge of a narrow field, your direction 120 degrees.

In 300 metres cross over into the next field and turn left to follow the left footpath arrow on a post, your direction 30 degrees. After 50 metres you turn right along a car-wide track (with a pond on your left). In 30 metres you reach a path junction marked by a 3 armed footpath signpost. **[B7]**

At this point you have the choice of two routes for the 2km route to Batt's Wood. The preferred route is north and then east, the alternate route is east and then north.

If taking the alternate route east and then north pick up the directions at the [double asterisk \[\\*\\*\] below](#).

Otherwise, for the preferred route, turn left up a car-wide track. In 7 metres go through a fieldgate opening into a field. Go up a car-wide shingle track, your direction 10 degrees. In 400 metres (where the car-wide track curves up and round to the right), fork left and down into a wood, your initial direction 350

degrees. In 30 metres follow the path, your direction now 40 degrees, with a wood of more mature trees on your left. In 25 metres, *fork right up a wide grass path between trees*, your direction 80 degrees.

After 220 metres you cross a car-wide track to then *go through a fieldgate entrance into the next field* with the corner of a wood to your right. *Go along the lower right-hand edge of this field with the wood on your right*, your direction east.

In 200 metres you *pass by a metal fieldgate (often open) on your right*. In 40 metres *turn right over a stile, to go down through the wood*. In 50 metres you cross a decrepit two-plank bridge.

In 80 metres *turn right over a two-rail footbridge and in 25 metres cross a stile to emerge from the wood; go along the top left-hand edge of a field*, with a fenced-in wood to your left, your direction 170 degrees.

After 180 metres at the corner of the field cross a stile (right of a metal fieldgate) into the next field to continue down the left-hand edge of the field, your direction 120 degrees. After 150 metres near the corner of the field *cross a stile to turn half left towards the corner of the field to slice the squiggly left field boundary*, your direction 50 degrees.

In 200 metres (having ignored an earlier stile off to your left), at the corner of the field, cross a stile to then cross a two-plank footbridge, to come up after 40 metres into a small field with young trees, to continue ahead, your direction 60 degrees. In 70 metres follow an arrow on a footpath post through a wooded field boundary. In 20 metres continue along the path with young trees on your left, and more mature trees on your right, your direction 110 degrees.

After 80 metres *at a footpath junction fork up to the left*, your direction east. In 60 metres *cross a stile (right of a wooden fieldgate) to emerge into a field, and turn*

*half left up across it towards its far top corner*, your direction 60 degrees.

After 250 metres at the upper corner of the field cross over a stile (right of a wooden fieldgate) to go up a car-wide track into Batt's Wood. *You now follow the walk directions from [B8] below.*

**[\*\*]** *Continue along the car-wide concrete track*, which after 30 metres becomes slat concrete, your direction 110 degrees. In 300 metres, where the track dips, you pass by a pond on your left bordered by a wooden fence. In 120 metres go over a stile (right of a metal fieldgate) and pass by a white clapboard house on your left.

In 70 metres you *reach a metal fieldgate ahead and a metal fieldgate to your right marked by a two-armed footpath signpost*. *Turn right through the metal fieldgate to follow the right arm of the footpath signpost to enter a wood*. Go down through the wood, your direction 150 degrees. After 120 metres *cross a stile to turn left to emerge from the wood*, your direction 130 degrees.

*In 200 metres cross a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate and continue straight ahead to enter the right-hand edge of a wood*, your direction 140 degrees. *After 50 metres ignore a car-wide bridge to the right, to veer left*, your direction 120 degrees. In 80 metres you pass by a three-armed footpath post on your left. In 40 metres the footpath comes out to a tarmac drive; continue ahead, your direction east.

In 30 metres you pass by a tennis court on your right, and then after 80 metres pass an oast-house on your right. After 80 metres you pass some garages on your left to continue along the left-hand edge of a field. In 100 metres, at the top corner of the field, go through a wooden fieldgate and continue along a tree arbour car-wide earth path.

In 140 metres *at a three-way path junction, turn left up a car-wide earth track marked by a wooden post with a*

*yellow footpath arrow*, your initial direction 350 degrees.

After 200 metres you reach the brow of the track to continue downhill. In 100 metres where the track comes to a dip you cross a stile on your left; then turn right to continue up in the same direction along the right-hand edge of a field, your direction north.

After 50 metres you cross a stile on your right, and turn left to continue up in the same direction (10 degrees), along the car-wide earth track. (This short detour off the track is to avoid an occasional muddy track.) After 200 metres the car-wide track reaches the bottom corner of a field. Continue up the right-hand side of this next field.

In 300 metres, at the upper corner of the field cross over a stile (right of a wooden fieldgate) to *go up a car-wide track into Batt's Wood*.

**[B8]** In 60 metres at a Batts Wood notice board, (ignoring a wide grass path to the right), continue ahead for 10 metres, to a *path junction and turn right*, your direction 70 degrees. *After 60 metres, turn left to go down a car-wide grass track* through Batt's Wood, your direction 20 degrees.

In 100 metres go straight over a crosspaths, marked by a post on your left, as the path starts to descend more steeply. After 300 metres *the car-wide track curves round to the right*. In 20 metres the car-wide path now runs *alongside a 2-metre high deer protective fence to the left* with Wadhurst Park Lake beyond, your direction 110 degrees.

*After 550 metres the path forks. Take the left downhill fork* marked by a yellow footpath arrow on a post at the fork junction, with the 2-metre high deer protective fence still to your left, your direction 80 degrees.

In 120 metres go over a plank bridge across a stream. After 250 metres, *at a path T-junction, turn left* to follow the left

yellow arrow on a post ahead, your direction 40 degrees.

After 60 metres go over a stile to cross a stream. In 20 metres, where the footpath forks, *take the right fork, to emerge from the wood into a field*, to go along its left-hand edge bordered by a wood, your direction 80 degrees.

*After 70 metres turn left to enter the wood*, your direction 20 degrees, to go up the right-hand edge of the wood. After 200 metres you *emerge from the wood and turn left* down the left-hand edge of a field, marked by a yellow footpath arrow on a post, your direction 30 degrees. In 200 metres *at the bottom left-hand corner of the field, cross over a stream* and continue along a car-wide earth track, your direction 60 degrees.

*In 100 metres you reach a three-armed footpath signpost on your left. [B9]*

*Turn right to go through a metal fieldgate*; then go along the bottom right-hand edge of a field, your direction 150 degrees. After 200 metres, at the right-hand field corner, cross a stile into the next field. In 100 metres go through a wooden gate.

After 50 metres *cross a car-wide plank bridge and turn half right. Go diagonally across a field aiming for a wooden gate 40 metres to the right of the left field corner*, your direction south. After 200 metres *go through the wooden gate to go diagonally across a field, aiming for a not clearly visible stile on the far side* (look for the gap in the hedgerow, 100 metres to the right of the far left corner of the field), your direction 160 degrees.

After 300 metres *cross over a footbridge and the stile*.

*Veer slightly left in the direction of a footbridge plus stile* (which is 70 metres to the right of the left corner of the field, look for the gap in the hedgerow, 5 metres to the right of a tree), your direction 150 degrees. After 300 metres at the field edge, cross the footbridge and

stile. Continue straight on across the field, passing under mini pylon cables after 100 metres. 20 metres further on you reach a stile with a four-armed footpath signpost to its right. Do not cross this stile but turn left up the right-hand edge of the field, your direction east.

In 100 metres, at the corner of the field, go through double metal fieldgates and follow the earth farm track up through the farm. In 150 metres the now-concrete car-wide track curves round to the right and you pass by a house on your left, your direction 130 degrees.

In 180 metres you reach a T-junction. Turn left along the right grass verge of the B road. In 60 metres you pass by a house on the right with a car wide track immediately after it. You now follow the main walk [directions from \[9\]](#).

c) Alternative ending at Wadhurst (Longer Walk)

Follow the long walk directions to [B5].

Go through the gate and turn left to go down a car-wide track lined with concrete slats, your direction 300 degrees. In 150 metres go over a car-wide plank bridge where the bridleway narrows down to a metre-wide shingle path. In 140 metres, at a footpath junction marked by a post, turn sharp right, your direction 70 degrees.

In 40 metres cross over a footbridge and turn left into a lightly wooded area, your direction 350 degrees. In 60 metres (having gone through some fieldgate posts) the path forks. Fork right up along a sunken bridleway marked by an arrow on the wooden post at the fork junction. (In muddy conditions you may prefer to fork left along the parallel path.)

In 70 metres both paths link up. After 50 metres you emerge from the lightly wooded area. In 280 metres you reach a

bridleway junction. Continue ahead up a car-wide track, your direction 30 degrees.

After 60 metres, go past a redundant stile to continue along the left-hand edge of a narrow field. In 250 metres go past another redundant stile to go up across this long, narrow field towards a stile in the top corner (which becomes visible after 100 metres), your direction 40 degrees. 300 metres further on you cross over the stile to enter a lightly wooded area, and then cross another stile after 15 metres to arrive at a footpath junction marked by a three-armed footpath signpost.

You now follow the main Wadhurst walk directions from [8]. (Walk 18)

d) Alternative short walk to Burwash

Use the first paragraph of the main Stonegate walk directions.

In 35 metres the track curves to the right with a pond on your right. After 45 metres ignore a left-hand track. In 200 metres the track curves sharply to the right to go down through a fieldgate into a field. Go down the left-hand side of the field, your direction 170 degrees. In 130 metres at two metal fieldgates, go through the left fieldgate into the next field to go down its right hand side, your direction 130 degrees.

After 250 metres at the bottom right hand corner, go down a car wide track to exit the field through a metal gate. In 30 metres cross over a stream and go through a wooden fieldgate to go up a path. In 50 metres continue along the path (bordered by a fence on your left), your direction 190 degrees. In 70 metres the footpath curves up to the left.

After 160 metres, at a path junction you turn right through a metal gate to cross the railway. Go through a metal gate into a field. Turn half left to go down across the field, your direction 170 degrees, aiming for the corner of an adjacent field jutting into this field. In 200 metres at

*the corner of the adjacent field on your left, veer left to slice the corner of the field aiming for a car wide wooden bridge 100 metres distant (25 metres to the right of the field corner), your direction 140 degrees. (In muddy conditions it may be better to walk around the field edge.)*

*Cross over the bridge to veer right across the next field aiming for the right hand side of a clump of trees, your direction 130 degrees. In 150 metres at the corner of the clump of trees (by a bridleway post), continue along with the trees on your left-hand side. In 35 metres at the end of the clump of trees, turn right across the field aiming for a car wide metal railing bridge, your direction south. In 120 metres cross this bridge (Wreckley bridge) and continue in the same direction along the left-hand side of the next field.*

*In 140 metres at the left hand field corner, turn left to cross Sellers Brooke and turn right to continue in the previous direction (190 degrees) along the right hand side of this next field. In 250 metres at the right-hand field corner, cross a wooden footbridge over a stream into the next field. Turn half left up across the field to slice off its corner, aiming for a metal gate leading into a wood, 80 metres distant. Go through this metal gate and cross a wooden two-rail footbridge to go up through the wood. In 150 metres go through a metal gate to emerge from the wood into the bottom corner of a field. Veer right up across this field aiming for a wooden kissing gate in the far upper right hand corner of the field, your direction 140 degrees. In 250 metres go through the kissing gate to cross a car wide shingle track to go up a fenced in footpath along the right hand side of a field with a wooded area to your right, your direction 140 degrees. In 80 metres go through a metal gate and veer left to go up the right hand side of the next field, your direction 130 degrees.*

*In 90 metres turn right through a car wide entrance, to go up across a field, your direction 200 degrees. In 270 metres exit the field via a car wide track and turn left up a shingle lane. In 300 metres you reach the **Rose and Crown** on your right hand side, the suggested lunch stop.*

Coming out of the Rose and Crown turn right to reach Burwash High Street after 40 metres.

*Turn right and in 60 metres along the High Street you reach a footpath sign on your left (immediately after a terrace of cottages Nos. 1-5).*

*You now follow the main walk directions from [5].*

## Lunch & tea places

**Rose and Crown** Ham Lane, Burwash, TN19 7ER (01435 882600). **Open** noon-11pm daily. **Food served** noon-2.30pm, 6-9pm Tue-Fri; noon-2.30pm Sat. Located 6km from the start of the walk, this is the suggested lunch stop for the main walk.

**Bear Inn & Burwash Motel** The High Street, Burwash, TN19 7ET (01435 882540). **Open** 8am-midnight daily. **Food served** noon-2.30pm, 6.30-9.30pm Mon-Fri; noon-9.30pm Sat, Sun. An alternative lunch stop, 90m west of the Rose & Crown.

**Bateman's** has a tea room.

**Wheel Inn** Heathfield Road, Burwash, TN19 7LA (01435 882299). **Open** 11am-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun. **Food served** noon-2.30pm, 6.30-9.30pm Tue-Sat, 12.30-3pm Sun. Situated 10km from the start of the walk, this pub serves inventive lunchtime food. It is the suggested tea stop for the main walk.