

Kipling Country - Burwash circular



Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an unspoilt medieval Landscape. Passing Batemans the home of Rudyard Kipling and the associated millpond and watermill. Enjoy some spectacular views across the Dudwell and Rother valleys. Admire the village of Burwash and its church.

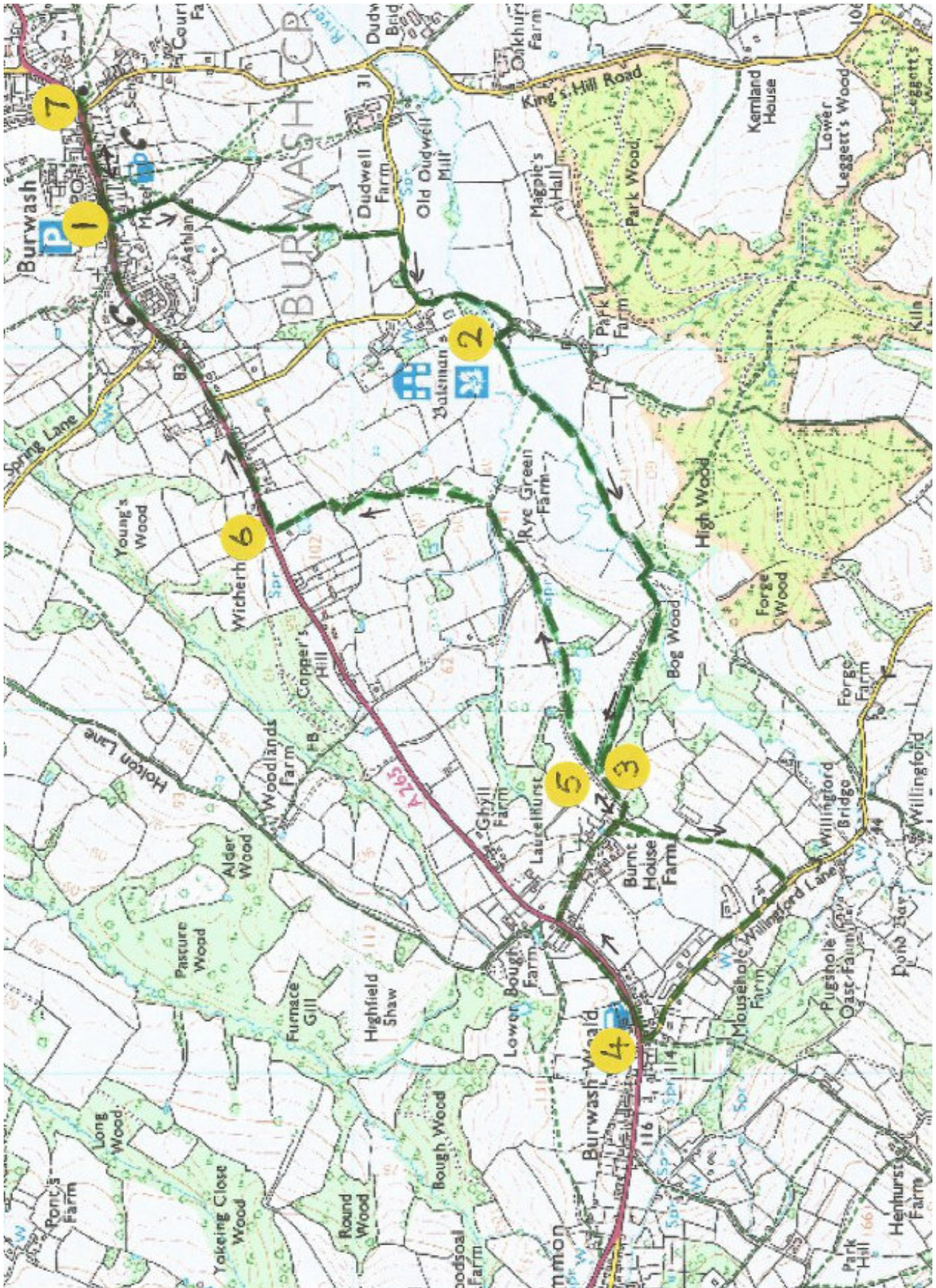
This walk was kindly provided by John Harmer a member of Rother Ramblers

Distance and duration	5 or 3.5 miles / 8 or 5.5 kilometres - 3 or 2 hours
Level	Moderate
Start point / Post code	Main car park in Burwash / TN19 7EU
OS map reference / what3words	TQ673246 https://w3w.co/samples.inches.plantings
Other information	Park in the 9 hour bays at the western end of the car park. Is on bus routes, Timetable information from Traveline: 0871 200 2233 or https://www.traveline.info

I-Spy - Things to look out for in the landscape



The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape



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Burwash

The origins of this charming village date back to Norman times, when the Manor was given to the Count of Eu, by William the Conqueror, in 1096, in recognition of his services in battle.

Latterly it gained fame as the home of the late author, Rudyard Kipling. He lived at Batemans, which lies to the south, and was built in 1634 by the Iron Master, John Brittan. Kipling lived at Batemans from 1902 to 1936, when he died. His wife, Carrie, died in 1939, and left Batemans to the National Trust, as a memorial to her husband.

Batemans is open to the public from Easter to October, and is well worth a visit, with its small mill, and unique water powered turbine.

There are many interesting buildings in the beautiful tree-lined high street of Burwash in East Sussex, some date from before the 16th century. The Manor House of Burghurst stands opposite the church.

In the 18th and 19th centuries Burwash was a haven for smuggling, and one may note that several of the tombstones in the churchyard bear the skull and crossbones.

The church of St Bartholomew was built in 1090 but the tower is all that remains of the original Norman structure. The church houses the rare 16th century Geneva Bible, discovered in 1954 among a collection of old books in the vestry of the church.

Also to be found in the church is a cast iron slab on the wall by the Lady Chapel altar. It is 14th Century, and used to be on the floor. It marked the resting place of the local ironmaking family of Collins, and it is believed to be the oldest example of a Sussex grave slab. The churchyard has also some of the Harmer terracotta gravestones from the early 19th century.

1721 brought excitement to the area as the Excise Men caught up with Gabriel Tomkins leader of the Mayfield Gang of owlers in the village, then chased him to Nutley where he was arrested.

Nearby is the market town of Heathfield, which along with the surrounding villages of Waldron and Mayfield was the centre of the Sussex iron industry in the 18th century.

The Walk

[1] Facing the toilet block in the car park, go to the right-hand (south-east) corner where a fingerpost points into a field. Follow the footpath down the field edge, observing the view across the Dudwell vale, to another fingerpost.

Turn right over a footbridge and through a gate. Continue across the field, through gate; following the right-hand edge, and through another gate. Now bear diagonally left across the field to a fingerpost in the bottom right-hand corner. Go into the next field and along the left-hand edge to cross a stile onto Bateman's Lane.

Turn right, and soon a large house comes into view. This is Bateman's, the former home of the famous author and poet, Rudyard Kipling, from 1902 until his death in 1936. A gate on

the right may bear a sign Quarry Garden, and if unlocked, access is permitted. This contains Kipling's summerhouse; look in and up to see an inscription in memory of Elsie, the only one of his three children to survive him.

Continue towards the house, and where the road turns sharply right, turn left on a bridleway, indicated by a fingerpost, following around the left-hand side of Bateman's grounds. Cross a bridge over the River Dudwell; then turn right immediately past The Oast House on a footpath between the mill house and pond.

[2] The mill house with waterwheel attached and the gardens on the right are of interest; however, access is permitted only to National Trust members and those who have purchased a ticket at the main entrance. The retaining wall of the mill pond was completely rebuilt several years ago as the previous one had deteriorated and became dangerous. Seating provides a good spot for a rest or picnic.

Follow the footpath around to the left, close to the mill pond, and continue along a track. Ignore a footpath on the right, leading to a substantial footbridge, but continue for a further 350 yards, passing through a gate on the way.

On coming to a bridge on the left, go over and through a field gate; then turn right to follow the footpath on the other side of the river. Continue along the valley and through another gate. On coming to a fingerpost, turn right across a footbridge and turn left.

Go through a kissing-gate into Bog Wood and follow the path uphill. Leave the wood through another kissing-gate and follow the right-hand field edge uphill. At the top, for the **shorter option**, go over the stile on the right and follow instructions from point 5.

[3] For the **longer option**, turn left along the top field edge to go through a kissing-gate; then bear right to go through another. Ignore a waymark indicating right and head across the field to go through a gate in the farther corner. Bear right to pass a waymark on the left; then go over a stile halfway along the farther field edge.

Follow the enclosed path which may be muddy when wet but there are plenty of wild flowers to admire; also brambles, with blackberries to pick in September. Immediately past a fingerpost, go down a slope to Willingford Lane.

Turn right, climbing uphill on the lane for about 600 yards passing a white-painted cottage (Hedge Nest) on the right. Note the sun motif on the wall if not too overgrown. Shortly after going past Frogheath Nursery, cross the main road to the Wheel Inn.

[4] Turn right along the footway for 350 yards. Where the path ends, cross the road with care, continuing in the same direction on the road for a further 90 yards. Turn right by Weald House; go past concrete bollards and down the drive to Burnt House Farm. Immediately past an Old Dairy sign, go through a gate, down the left-hand field edge and through a kissing-gate, retracing the route taken earlier but in the opposite direction.

[5] Go over the stile ahead and continue in the same direction through fields and a gate. Cross the next field and a stile to go through a small wood. Cross the middle of another field, through a gate (permanently open) to turn right on a tarmac drive. Continue downhill to the left of Rye Green Farm, past an old barn on the left.

A short distance beyond, go over a stile on the left, bearing right uphill by a waymark post and on through a gap into the next field. Now, aim for a gnarled ivy-clad oak tree near the top right-hand corner, to go over a stile through the corner of a wood. Continue uphill to a stile; then along the left-hand field edge, to cross another stile and down stone steps to the road (A265).

[6] Turn right along the roadside footway, observing extensive views across the Rother valley to the left. Continue for half a mile, crossing Bateman's Lane, back to the village. Take time to look at some of the house names giving clues to the occupations of former residents.

On reaching The Bear there is a further option to continue along the footway. Observe the village map made of ceramic tiles and the seated statue of Rudyard Kipling.

[7] Continue to the war memorial on which there is an inscription in memory of Kipling's son, John, who was killed in the First World War. Just beyond is the Parish Church originating from 1090 but extensively restored in 1856. If open, take a look inside to see amongst other things a plaque, near the south door, in memory of Kipling's son.

Retrace the route to The Bear for the bus stops or car park.

At all times please follow the Countryside Code



Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have barbeques where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

Wildlife, including nesting birds, may have moved into new areas. Land managers may have provided extra protection for wildlife. Be vigilant and comply with these protective measures so that you do not disrupt the local wildlife