

Groombridge & Withyham Walk



Welcome to the High Weald - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - an unspoilt medieval landscape. An outstanding cross section of Wealden landscape, from river valley to gently rolling hills and spectacular views.

Our thanks go to Kent Ramblers for permission to use this walk.

Distance and duration	9.8 Miles - 4 hrs 40 mins
Start point	Free public car park off Station Road in Groombridge or on-road parking
Map reference	OS Map: Explorer 135. Map Ref TQ531373
Other information	Car park - if approaching from Groombridge Hill it is quickly reached on the left after turning into Station Road from the mini roundabout.

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

Chalybeate Spring

The spring is on the left about half way along the drive from Buckhurst Park to Withyham in a tile-roofed structure. Chalybeate springs are common on the sandstones around here, water containing supposedly health-giving iron salts emerging where the porous sandstone meets the clays below. The best known is in the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells but the brown sludge oozing from this spring looks most unappetising



Church Path

This path was opened in 2010 following a campaign by Sussex Ramblers leading to a public inquiry, as the landowner refused to recognise the long-used right of way

Route Directions

Cross Station Road and head up Corseley Road and follow past church, right at top and left downhill past start of Forest Way. Just after water works, take path over stile on right. Cross footbridge, go under railway and head uphill straight across field towards copse. Continue in same direction to farm and join a farm track. Opposite a row of pink cottages, turn left down right hand edge of field to lane.

Bear right and take path over stile on opposite side of lane, now joining the High Weald Landscape Trail and Sussex Border Path. Bear right downhill and cross footbridge. Follow right hand edge of field to bridge and cross stream again (but on OS map the path never crosses the stream at all). Follow track through the wood and immediately after crossing metalled drive turn sharp left down to cross stream and enter field. *Note Doric Columned folly in garden on to right.* Bear right uphill to gate and pass through section of woodland. Pass some sandstone outcrops and follow line of trees to gate. Follow right hand edge of fields and after hedge on left go through metal kissing gate on right -take care not to miss it. Go between buildings (Home Place and Park House) and down lane to road. *Note. The high mesh fences in this area are to keep deer bred for meat in enclosures.*

Cross road and turn left along verge. Take path on right downhill across fields. Cross valley bottom to left of timbered house and climb the other side across a field, through a wood, over stile, right over bridge and across another field to a lane.

Turn right to junction with road. Go straight across to track opposite through wood. Climb along right hand edge of fields past house to stile in corner then cross a field to corner of wood. Don't take path into wood but head downhill along right hand side of field to enter wood in hedge ahead and bear left. When Buckhurst Park comes into sight bear left downhill to drive and turn right. Turn left at lake and follow drive, passing a chalybeate spring on left, to Withyham.

Turn left (Dorset Arms is on the right if you want refreshment), crossing the road carefully. When the pavement on the right ends, cross the road again and take a path through a gate, across a field and into the churchyard (see Church Path). Bear right round the church and go down steps to drive where there are seats. Head downhill, now leaving the High Weald Landscape Trail, bear left at a fork way marked WealdWay and turn left along the main road. Take path on right just after a bridge. Head straight across fields and cross the Forest Way. Bear right across a footbridge over the Medway and follow the Wealdway, in due course joining a drive and emerging onto a lane at Summerford Farm.

Cross lane and follow Wealdway along left hand edge of fields, over two bridges in a copse and along the left hand edge of another field. Cross another bridge and on reaching a bridge on left over which a footpath heads west, don't cross but bear right across field to bridge over Medway. Continue

to next bridge and on far side turn left. Cross another bridge (River Grom). Follow f/p and go under railway, through gate and continue to junction of paths. Here Wealdway goes forward; turn right on farm track and at end of field go through gate on left and cross another field into woodland. Climb through woodland and on meeting a broad stony track turn right uphill. On meeting a concrete track, turn left and then keep right on tarmac lane through the buildings of Burrswood. Continue gradually downhill passing buildings, No Exit signs and lake on right. Follow drive to Groombridge, cross triangular green and take path to left of church. Cross drive and skirt to left of lake. Pass Groombridge Place with moat, bear left along river and bear right across second bridge (RoW). Bear right across grass and take enclosed path between fences that bears first left then right along edge of recreation ground to village car park.

