



Self-Guided Walks

Pett Level circular by way of Pett village

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. This delightful walk combines the flat drained marshland of Pett Level with some typical hilly countryside of the High Weald. There is one short, fairly steep climb followed by a moderate climb up to Pett village.

Distance and duration	A 5½ miles taking around 3 hours to complete
Level of ability expected	Leisurely to moderate
Start point & post code	Toot Rock on the Pett Level coast road. Nearest post code TN35 4EL
OS grid refrence What3Words location	TQ895138 https://what3words.com/laces.tools.sports
Additional information	Click here to download a GPX file of the route

I-Spy Something to look out for on your walk



Two

This walk was kindly provided by [Battle Ramblers](#).

Park your locked car, off road, along the side of Pett Level Road near the access path to Toot Rock. There is a white marking stone with Toot Rock on it at the start of the walk, and an information board.

The Toot Rock is an isolated small ridge of sandstone in the otherwise flat Pett Level. It was quarried for building stone, supported an old water tank and provided a lookout during World War Two.

You start by following the path to your right alongside the Royal Military Canal which goes north-east towards the ancient sea cliff (Wickham Cliff).



The Royal Military Canal was hand dug between 1804-1809 as a defence against a possible invasion by Napoléon. It is 28 miles long and ends near Folkstone. It utilises the River Brede between Winchelsea and Rye.

Pett Level was also an area frequented at this time by smugglers who took wool to France, and brought brandy in.

The smugglers were known as 'Owlers' due to their use of hoots as a means of signalling.

The path is straight and you continue along the side of the canal until you reach the wooden bridge crossing the canal on your left.

You now walk west following the Pannel Sewer, a more recent drainage ditch.

The path takes you past a man-made pond, known as a scrape, part of Pannel Valley Nature Reserve.

There is an excellent hide on the left of the path, which is open to the public, where you can view the marshes significant bird-life. You can often see deer on the slopes beyond the pond.

Eventually you will go over a stile and come out onto a lane.

On reaching the road turn left and just past the track to Pannel Farm there is a stile on the left where the road bends.

Follow the footpath up a gentle hill to the entrance to another field and then up a steep slope to the stile at the visible gap in the hedge.

From the stile walk down the hill to the wooded south-west corner of the field and go over the stile and then across the bridge and through some woodland.

The path then starts a gentle climb, within the woodland, up to a gate and out onto Elms Lane.



The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape

Three

Follow the lane up hill until you reach the Royal Oak pub.

At this point, cross the main road through Pett village and enter the village recreation ground and cricket pitch.

There are seats near the cricket pavilion which afford an excellent place for a refreshment stop with views out towards Fairlight.

Continue to the south-west corner of the ground, where the children's play area is, and pass over the stile into a field.

After another stile go diagonally across the next field to the stile in the fence.



Cross the field and go down the hill to the wooded south-west corner, passing a small pond in a hollow to your right.

Pass over the stiles and follow the path down the hill to the ridge which forms the end of the field.

You need to then turn left and follow the bottom of the ridge down to the stile, and then go over the bridge across the stream to another stile and into a marshy field.

Cross the field diagonally to another stile.

On the other side climb the hill to the left of a barn you can see to the corner of the field where the path joins some woods.

Passing through a gate you enter a coppiced wood called Market Wood. This is owned by the National Trust and is a 14th century ancient wood. There are information boards along the path. It is a lovely wood.

At the end of the wood, you pass through a gate into a large field.

Follow the path down the hill to the gate at the north-east corner.

Make your way along the farm track towards Old Marsham Farmhouse. There is a gate to pass through and the path passes close to the farmhouse garden and into a field.

Cross the field diagonally to the stile in the south-east corner and out onto the main road. **Treat the road with care, it's always busy.**



Follow the main road for 250 yards until you reach the start of the military canal and then follow the path on the south bank of the canal all the way until you reach your original path and start point at near Toot Rock.

There is a very good open-air café for coffee and snacks at Pett Level, Eaters@Pett, which is just behind St Nicholas' Church on the coast side of the road, there is some parking available.

Also, if the tide is out, there is an interesting ancient, submerged forest on the beach at Cliff End, dating from when the sea level was much lower and a freshwater marsh existed.

Four



At all times please follow the Countryside Code



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