



## Self-Guided Walks

### Rolvenden to Iden Green circular walk

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. This is a walk between, and around, two delightful High Weald villages with some excellent views, particularly during blossom time. There are several stiles along this route, a few of them quite tricky and not very dog friendly. You are likely to encounter sheep or cattle in a number of the fields, so maybe not ideal for dogs.

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Distance and duration</b>                          | An 8 mile walk, taking 4-5 hours to complete                                                                                    |
| <b>Level of ability expected</b>                      | Moderate, fairly level terrain                                                                                                  |
| <b>Start point &amp; post code</b>                    | Rolvenden Church. TN17 4LS                                                                                                      |
| <b>OS grid refrence</b><br><b>What3Words location</b> | TQ845312<br><a href="https://what3words.com/argue.search.highlight">https://what3words.com/argue.search.highlight</a>           |
| <b>Additional information</b>                         | Parking is on the roadside, please do not obstruct residents.<br><a href="#">Click here to download a GPX file of the route</a> |

### I-Spy    Something to look out for on your walk



## Two

We are grateful to Lionel Pringle for his permission to use this walk, and to Heather Rae for checking and re-writing the description in 2026.

Most of the parking in and around Rolvenden is roadside stuff, so please take care where you park and do not obstruct residents' entrances.

Make your way to the main entrance of Rolvenden Church, which is just off the A28, to the south of the village.

Opposite this entrance is Rolvenden Primary School. To the right of the school as you face it you will see a track signposted High Weald Landscape Trail, which forms the basis of the walk for the first few miles.

Go along this track to a gate.

Climb over the stile ahead of you into the school playing field. The exit from this field is through the hedge opposite in a diagonal line to the left of your point of entry. Walk around the field if it is in use by the school.

Walk through a small copse and out into a field; turn to your left around the edge of the field. Shortly the sharp-eyed will become aware of a signpost just inside the edge of the woodland, on the left.

From here walk diagonally across the field heading for a point halfway down the hedge on the far side of the field, the gate is quite well hidden in the hedgerow and may take a little finding.

Go straight across this field, you should be able to see the next stile in the opposite hedge. This next stile has a single plank bridge on both sides.

If you look to your right, just above the top of the farm buildings, you should be able to see Rolvenden Windmill.

Go left across this next field in a diagonal line, heading for the far left corner, where you will find a rusty metal gate.

Go through this gate, ignore the footpath signed to your left and go over the next stile, and proceed straight ahead with the hedgerow on your left. You will still be following the High Weald Landscape Trail at this point.

Take the left turning at the second road junction, signed to the Woodcock Inn. Soon the lane goes downhill to cross a stream, and you will find a footpath on your right; you continue to follow the High Weald Landscape Trail at this point.

The next stile will take you into a wood; follow the path through the wood and at the edge pass over a plank bridge and a stile into a field.

Keeping the wood to your left, go to the corner of the hedge just ahead of you. Walk diagonally across the field, to the left of the oak tree in front of you. You are heading for a point in the hedgerow about 250 yards to the left of the large house on the far side of the hedge.

You will find a clearly marked kissing gate in this hedge. Go through the gate, across the lane and through the gate on the opposite side.

Keep to the left-hand side of this field, following the line of the hedge until you reach a third kissing gate. Pass through into the field and again follow round the edge with the hedge on your left.



The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape

### Three

At the time of writing this field had been planted as an orchard. Ignore the first two gaps in the hedge on your left, one of which is immediately after the gate.

Pass through the third gap that you come to and proceed through the next orchard, keeping the hedge on your right this time.

Follow the edge of the orchard for some way, still with the hedge to your right – ignore any gates and gaps.

Eventually, when you have reached the lowest point of the field, you will find a stile on your right. Cross over into the woods.

Follow the path through the woods until you reach a plank bridge and a gate, which takes you out into the next field. Carry straight on, keeping the woodland to your left.

Here the path takes an official diversion, to avoid going through Dingleden Farm. The online version of Ordnance Survey shows the diversion, older paper maps may not, but it is also well-signed.

With the woodland on your left go through a gate and turn right across the field, with a large pond on your right. Continue to a small metal gate on your right, across a bridge and into the lane.

Turn right, passing the entrance to Dingleden Farm.

Carry on along this lane for about half a mile.

At the T-junction turn right, then take the left turning at the second junction - signposted to the Woodcock Inn.

At the foot of the slope, as the lane crosses a stream, you will find a footpath on your right; you are still following the High Weald Landscape Trail at this point.

Follow the footpath to the gate, and continue to the right, following a well-worn fenced path to a gate at the end, and into the woods.

Follow the well-worn path until finally a second metal gate takes you into Strawberry Wood, and over an ancient culvert - probably built to carry heavy traffic from the iron industry.

Carry on through the woodland (a great place to see bluebells in the spring) to exit through a gate.

In this next field the footpath goes diagonally to the right, heading for the top corner.

Go through the gate in the corner onto a farm track, and turn left. You have now left the High Weald Landscape Trail.

The track goes through a farmyard and then passes a large private house on your left.

Keep to your right where the path has been fenced to the right of the drive, ignoring a path leading off to the right.

The track is now a metalled drive. Just as it turns sharply right, take a stile on your left as you approach the corner. (Do not follow the footpath which goes through the gates and over a cattle grid.)

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Ahead of you, in the near distance, you will see a road. Head directly for this, where the next stile will be found in the corner of the field. Go over the stile and turn left along the road.

At the brow of the hill, on your left, there are some white weatherboarded cottages, the first of which is called Beech Cottage. There was once a pub on this site. The next footpath is on your left, just before the cottages.

Pass through two gates on a well-walked path and into an orchard. Turn left and pass about half a dozen rows of apple trees before striking right, down through the rows of trees to the bottom of the field. Continue straight ahead, through the gap, on a path which follows the perimeter of a sewage works.

At the end of the fence the path continues on a concrete road, which allows access for the Water Company's vehicles. Carry on until you reach the lane at the top.

The path continues directly opposite, alongside the Woodcock Pub, and through a gate into an old orchard.

Keeping the hedge on your right, continue through the orchard and exit over a stile and into the lane.

Turn left for approximately half a mile, passing the Chapel House on your right. You will pass Standen Farmhouse on the left, and just around the bend you should be able to see a post box, which marks the entrance to the footpath.

Follow the gravel drive, keeping to the right of Standen Barn, and follow the gravel and grass path, through a gate, keeping the oast houses on your left, carry on between two high hedges.

Go through a gate at the end of this track and carry straight on ahead.

Continue through this field, keeping to the right hand edge, with the hedge to your right.

Look out for a farm gate on your right, the footpath goes right at this point, not through the gate, but to the right of it. Go over the stile into the next field and carry straight on, keeping the hedge, once again, to your right.

Climb over the stile into the next field, and with the hedge on your right, carry on around the edge. Eventually, bear north, ignore the farm gate into a wood and pond, and take the stile into another field, keeping the fence to your right. Follow the line until you reach the hedgerow ahead of you.

The footpath goes through a gap on your right and immediately turns left down the field.

Keep the woodland to your left. The footpath now goes over a footbridge into a scrubby area which can be a bit overgrown. Persevere and find the rough steps cut into the bank ahead, leading up to a stile, across a small section of field and out into the road.

Turn to your right along the road, and at the next junction take the turning to the left.

Carry on along this road. Near the top of the hill, on the right, there is a grass triangle at the beginning of a farm track leading to Kensham Farm. The footpath follows this track.

Take the time to look over the hedge on your right; on the horizon you will see the unmistakable silhouette of Sandhurst Windmill. It has been completely rebuilt as a domestic dwelling and wind energy generator. The windmill generates all electricity used in the building. What you see is a modern copy, using modern material, of the original windmill which stood on this site and which

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fell into disuse and disrepair and was finally demolished in the 1950s. Yes, you are right: it does have five sails, the only one of its type known to exist in the south of England.

Continue along the farm track, going to the left of Kensham Farm. The track temporarily acquires a concrete surface – carry on along this and when the concrete ceases, continue along the track ahead of you.

The track eventually enters Little Kensham Farm to your left, but you should carry straight on, following what has now become a grass path. Look for a stile in amongst the trees on your left; it can be easily missed if you are not paying attention. If you find yourself in open ground, you have gone too far.

Go through the gate and head for the corner post of the fence surrounding the garden of Little Kensham Farm. At the corner bear slightly to the left and head for a copse of holly, hazel and hawthorn and then through a gate on the far side. Ahead of you there is a well in the field, surrounded by a brick wall. Head for this and then make for the fence on your left.

Go right, along the fence and where the pond ends there is a plank bridge. Go over this bridge and over the stile on the other side.

Turn to the right and carry on down the field, keeping the hedge and fence on your right.

Walk to the bottom corner of the field, turn left and a gate will be found about halfway along the bottom edge of the field.

Go through the gate, bear slightly to the left and proceed up across the field and the stile will be found at the top close to a very geriatric oak tree.

Go over the stile. The path carries on straight ahead to emerge in a farmyard and the premises of Rolvenden Cat Rescue. Exit through the gate onto a track, which is lined on both sides with an abundance of shrubs.

This track leads to the busy A28, turn to your left and walk up the road. Be sure to walk in single file, as this is a fast and busy road. Initially stay on the left on the verge, past The World of Water, crossing over just before the lane on the right – Wassail Lane.

At the beginning of Wassail Lane you will find the entrance to Great Jobs Cross Oast House. The footpath goes over the drive and along the bottom of the garden, with a pond on your right. Then bear left, away from the pond, on a well-marked path to a metal gate.

Continue slightly to the right heading towards a hedgerow on the bank ahead.

Depending on the levels of vegetation it may be easier to spot at some seasons than others. At the time of writing, the path towards Rolvenden now is easy to follow and in the care of a walker-friendly farmer.

Once through the gap, take a line to the right about 45 degrees to the hedge you have just crossed. Go through the gap at the bottom of the field, between the oak trees, turn left and then the footpath goes diagonally across the next large field, making for a gap in the distant hedgerow, to the right of a large oak tree, passing the woodland on your right.

Once you approach the gap it will be seen that it is actually in the corner of the field, despite the appearance from the other side.

Follow on in the same direction, making for a point amongst the trees to enter the

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woodland, over a footbridge, up through the woods and out the other side onto a lane. Turn right.

Look out for a footpath on the left, which is directly opposite a side road. Go through a gate into a field and carry straight on ahead, keeping the hedge to your right. That large house you can see from here is Great Maytham Hall, once the home of Frances Hodgson Burnett and the setting for 'The Secret Garden'.

The next gate will be seen quite clearly at the far end of the hedge, underneath an oak tree. Ignore the gate to your right.

On the other side the path continues under a long line of rhododendrons, which form a boundary around Great Maytham Hall. Carry straight on through to the gate at the end.

The tower of Rolvenden Church can be seen to the left of a group of trees ahead of you.

Walk in a line just to the right of these three large sycamore trees.

Go through a gap in the hawthorn hedge ahead of you and walk in the direction of the church on the skyline.

Go through another gap and continue up the hill by the oak tree.

One last kissing gate takes you into the churchyard. Take the path to the left of the church and you will find yourself back at the starting point – be wary of this path if it is wet as it can be slippery.

### 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

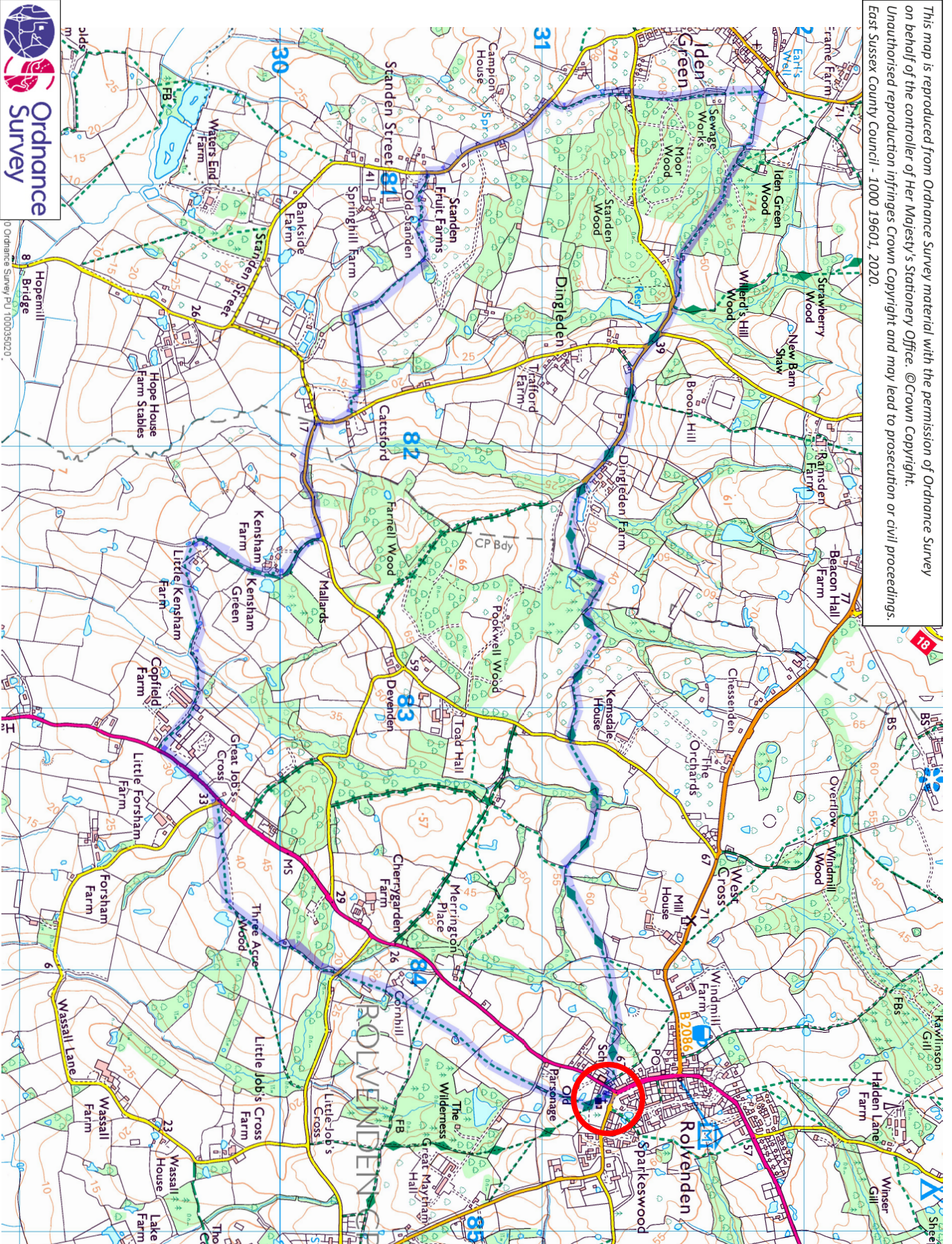
#### **Enjoy the outdoors**

- 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

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# Seven

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