

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. This walk explores an area that is very much on the extremities of the High Weald. At one time the coastline was far closer than it is these days and there was a ship building industry at nearby Smallhythe. Today orchards and the rearing of sheep are the principle sources of income.

Distance and duration	A 5 mile walk, taking about 3 hours to complete
Level of ability expected	Moderate
Start point & post code	Wittersham parish church, TN30 7EA
OS grid reference What3Words location	TQ896269 https://what3words.com/scoping.inhabited.gashes
Additional information	Roadside parking, do not obstruct residents Click here to download a GPX file of the route

I-Spy Something to look out for on your walk



Two

Start the walk from outside the parish church in the centre of Wittersham. Do not start at the beginning or end of the school day during term times, as you will find parking almost impossible.

Take the paved path on the opposite side of the road to the church and after a short while go through a kissing gate on the left.

The footpath meanders diagonally through the orchard, the route is well worn and not difficult to follow.

The path emerges into the open, turn left and continue along the bottom of the field. There is a very steep ghyll here that will have an abundance of Bluebells during the spring.

Pass over a stile into the field beyond and walk diagonally to the far corner at the bottom of the field.

Bear right across a stream and immediately take an enclosed path on the left.

Continue along here for 0.36 miles.

Exit into a field and at the telegraph pole turn right and cross the field. This area can be very wet in winter.

Climb over a stile and continue straight on climbing until you reach a fence, follow the fence to the next stile.

Take note of a couple of buildings to your right, these are all that remains of the first Wittersham water supply, apparently installed by an American who owned the land here at one time. It was eventually superseded by the mains water supply.

Go over the stile and turn right and walk along the edge of the field.

Pass over the next stile and continue around the perimeter of the field keeping the hedge to your right.

You will come to a very impressive stile, go over this and down some steps onto a farm track.

Turn right along the track and make your way out onto the road.

Turn left on the road and continue along it for 0.34 miles to a bridleway on the right at Stafford Farm.

The path has a hard surface for a while but eventually becomes earth, which can be very muddy in winter when churned up by horses.

The final section of the path emerges onto a concreted drive.

At the road turn right and continue along the road for another 0.25 miles.

Look for a stile on the right opposite a lane on the left.

After crossing the stile, you need to take the left of two footpaths. The official line of the path should go diagonally across the field, but current habit is to walk around the edge of the field with the hedge and road to your left.

At the top of the field, turn right and continue around the field edge.

Three

At the corner turn left again and continue round the field and then go up a small incline and carry on around the right edge of this field.

Pass into the next field and skirting a fenced pond go through a broken stile onto an enclosed path to the road beyond.

Turn right on the road and almost immediately take an enclosed path on the left. At the end of this path go through a kissing gate and go diagonally right across the field.

Go through another gate into a wooded depression.

Come out into an orchard and continue diagonally through the trees.

At the far end go through the next gate out onto a path opposite a cemetery, turn to the left and follow the path back out to the road and the church.

The church is an ideal spot to stop for refreshments if you so wish.

The second leg of the walk continues along a footpath on the far side of the school, on the left going south.

Go along this enclosed footpath and in the field beyond turn right along the edge of the field.

The field makes a dogleg to the left and then turns right to continue in the same direction as previously.

Continue through fields of vines until you reach a crossroad of paths, about 0.32 miles, and turn left.

Go through a gate and on into a small, wooded area.

Ascend out of the wood and turn left, continuing around the perimeter of the field. The official line of the path is across the field, but habit seems have deferred to the field edge.

Part way along the top edge of the field go through a gate and proceed along a track.

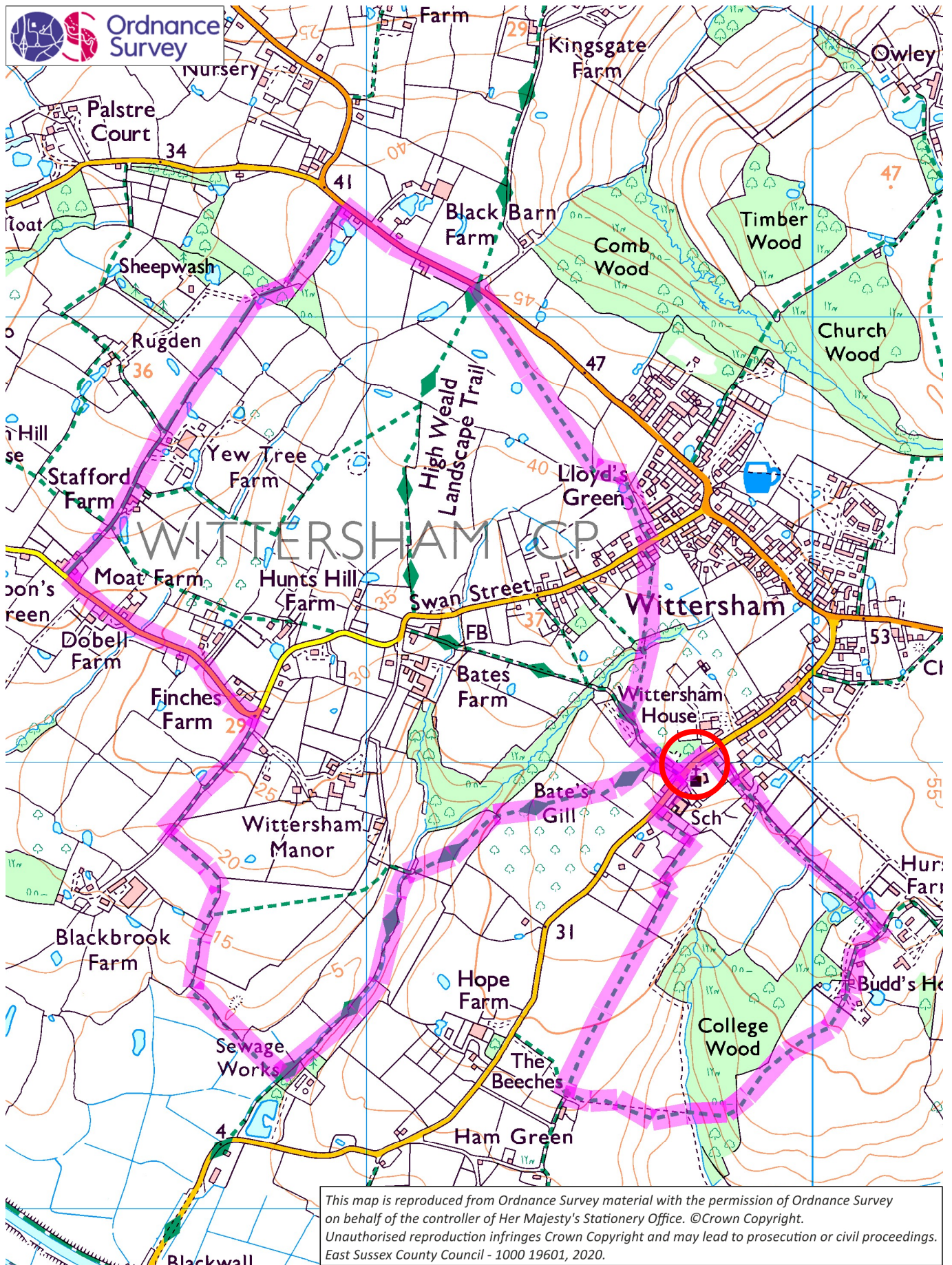
Look for a track further on going to the left and continue along here, passing more vines and various houses on either side.

As you approach the church look for a small gate to your left alongside the churchyard wall. Go through the gate and along the enclosed path beyond.

At the road turn left and make your way back to the church and the conclusion of the walk.

At all times please follow the Countryside Code





The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape