








































Symbols Key

	Parking		Picnic Site		Fishing		Bus stop
	Information Centre		Walks/Trails		Theme/ Pleasure Park		Train station
	Visitor Centre		Cycle Trail		Cathedral/ Abbey		Stile
	Public Convenience		Horse Riding		Museum		Viewpoint
	Forestry Commission		Public House		Castle/ Fort		Gate
	Public Telephone		Viewpoint		Building of Historic Interest		Hazards/ Take care
	Camp Site		Country Park		English Heritage		
	Caravan Site		Garden		National Trust		
	Camp/Caravan Site		Nature Reserve		Other Tourist Feature		
	Leisure Centre		Water Activities		High Weald Landscape Trail		
	Golf Course		Slipway		Interesting feature		

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08458 247 600

(Mon - Fri: 8am - 8pm)



Chapter 3: East Grinstead to Groombridge, 3.1



Man's Mark on the Landscape

The old railway line to Tunbridge Wells, closed in 1967 and now the Forest Way Country Park, leads you out of busy East Grinstead into a quiet and pastoral landscape. Beyond Forest Row, the farms and woodlands of this gently undulating area are probably as empty of people as they have been since the days of early settlement.

50. Standen

51. Saint Hill Manor

The two historic houses come into view at almost the same time. The grandiose facade of the 18th century Manor contrasts with the more domestic gables and chimneys of the 1890s Standen. The Maharajah of Jaipur and L Ron Hubbard's Church of Scientology are associated with the grandeur, Philip Webb and William Morris of the Arts and Crafts Movement with the more comfortable approach. The National Trust now owns Standen.

52. Wildlife at play

The edges of recreation grounds and playing fields are often full of wildlife - the rabbits certainly come out from the bushes to feed on the grass of

this one. The close-mown sward can be a "green desert", but watch for green woodpeckers probing for ants, and blackbirds searching for worms and insects.

53. A rural idyll?

The Spinney, Fieldways, Hazeldene ... the names of the suburban houses tell of their owners' hopes.

54. East Grinstead

Originally just a "green place in the woodland", by medieval times this was a bustling market town.

Stand under the plane trees in front of Sackville College, a set of almshouses where the inhabitants lived a collegiate or community life, and look back at the roofs and facades of the High Street and you might be about to enter a 16th century marketplace. Town trail guides are available from the TIC in the Library.

55. Local families

How often do you see the names Sackville and Dorset? You will find evidence of the patronage of the Sackville family, Earls of Dorset, throughout this section. Cantelupe Road reflects another family title.

56. Longitude

As you leave East Grinstead you cross from the western to the eastern hemisphere. The Town Council's Meridian Hall, north of the High Street, is named for its position near the Greenwich Meridian.

57. Forest Way Country Park

The ex-railway makes pleasant walking, especially on a summer's day. Sunlight filters through the trees grown up on either side now that there is no danger of fire from the spark of a passing locomotive. Wild roses, stinging nettles and comfrey of many hues flourish in the sunny spots; feathery grasses and purple spires of foxgloves in the dappled shade.

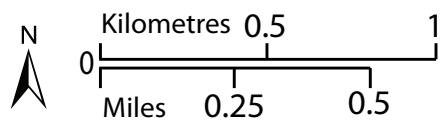
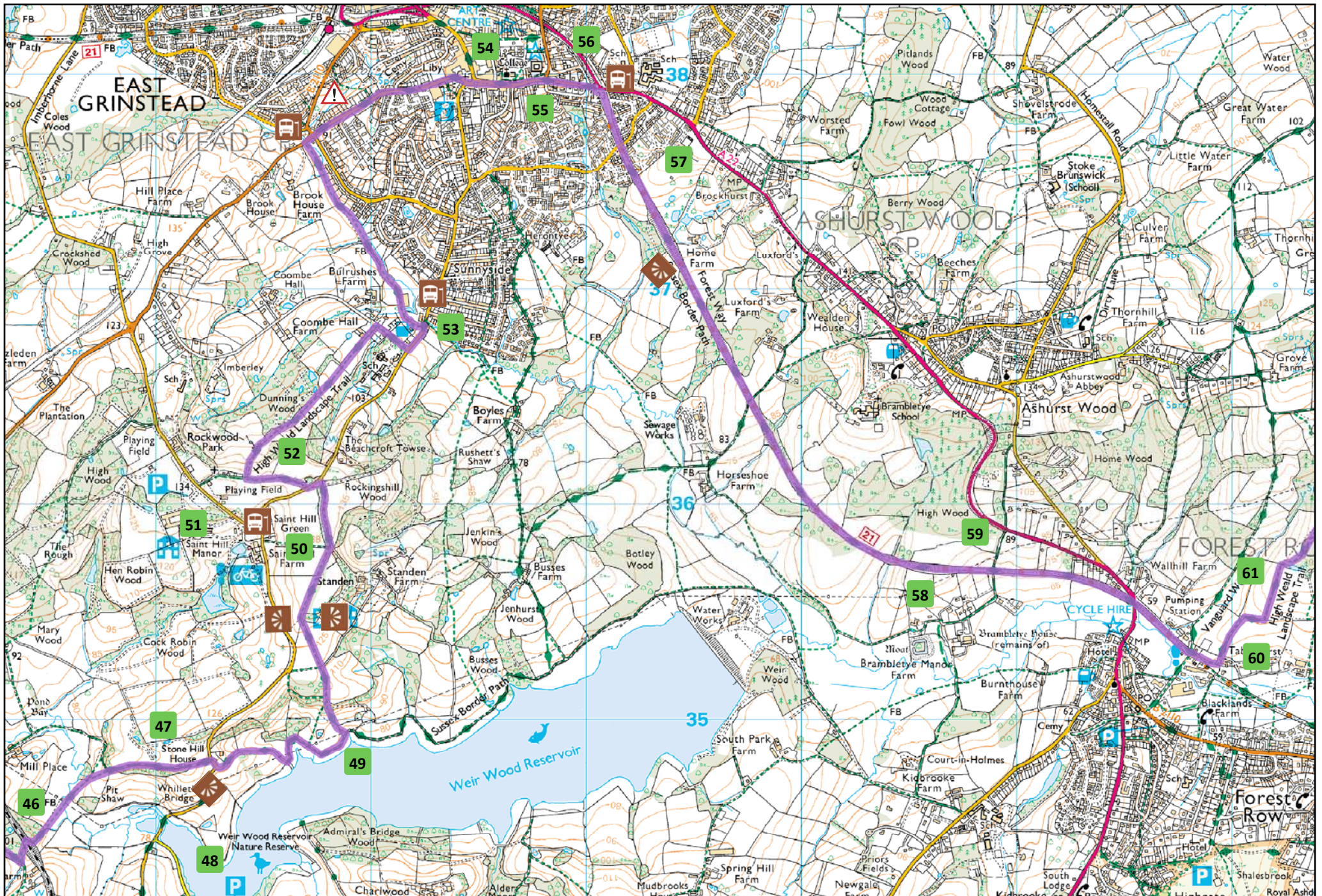
58. Exile and ruin



Steps up on to the embankment lead to a view of the ruins of moated Brambletye Manor. It fell into decay after 1683 when owner Sir James Richard, out hunting in Ashdown Forest, was warned he was about to be apprehended for treason. He spurred his horse for the coast and fled to the court of Spain.

59. Electricity in transit

Are the steel pylons marching with a certain grace across your path carrying the huge voltages of the National Grid or merely the local supply? Local power flows through single cables slung from the porcelain insulators, while sets of two or four wires mean that power at 275,000 or 400,000 volts is passing overhead.





-  High Weald Landscape Trail
-  4 Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 135
Section 3, Map 1, East Grinstead to Groombridge
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



3.2



60. Biodynamic farming

The small red Sussex cattle are one of the keys to the fertility of Tablehurst Organic Farm. Their manure, along with that of the herd of milking sheep and of the pigs and chickens, is returned to the land to grow biodynamically-certified crops. Clusters of old lorry bodies are shelters for the five different breeds of pig reared on the Farm.

61. A sunken lane

How many centuries has it taken cartwheels and plodding feet to wear the earth away? Concrete tracks slow the erosion now. Badgers, foxes and rabbits take advantage of the well drained soil in such cuttings. Droppings, footprints, or hairs caught on roots will give you a clue as to who lives where. Sometimes you may catch the musky smell of a fox or see a heap of dried grass bedding discarded by a house-proud badger.

62. Got your mobile?

Wireless communication means transmission towers on high ground. You will see one bristling with aerials on the right as you pass Blackberry Cottage.

63. Game farming

The wide ride through Paupersdale Wood is a good place for butterflies on a sunny day. The butterflies take nectar from flowers or moisture from damp ground. The woods here are used for rearing pheasants; you may see the grainhoppers and maggot dispensers the birds feed from after they are released from the breeding pens.

64. Sticky boots

Names on the map tell of clay and marl pits. Marl, a limy clay, was spread on fields to improve soil texture.

65. Diversification

A tea garden for walkers (fine days only!) and a camping site, beside what is probably a flooded clay pit, are typical developments in today's countryside.

66. Two storeyed stiles

These unusual stiles suggest the field beyond the St Ives Lane has been used for deer farming.

67. Roman road

You will need to map read carefully to work out just when you are crossing the line of the Roman road

from Lewes to London. You can see Gallypot Street where the line runs die-straight to the south. Why did the English wander from point to point where the Romans marched so precisely?

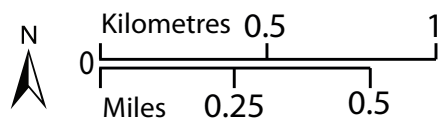
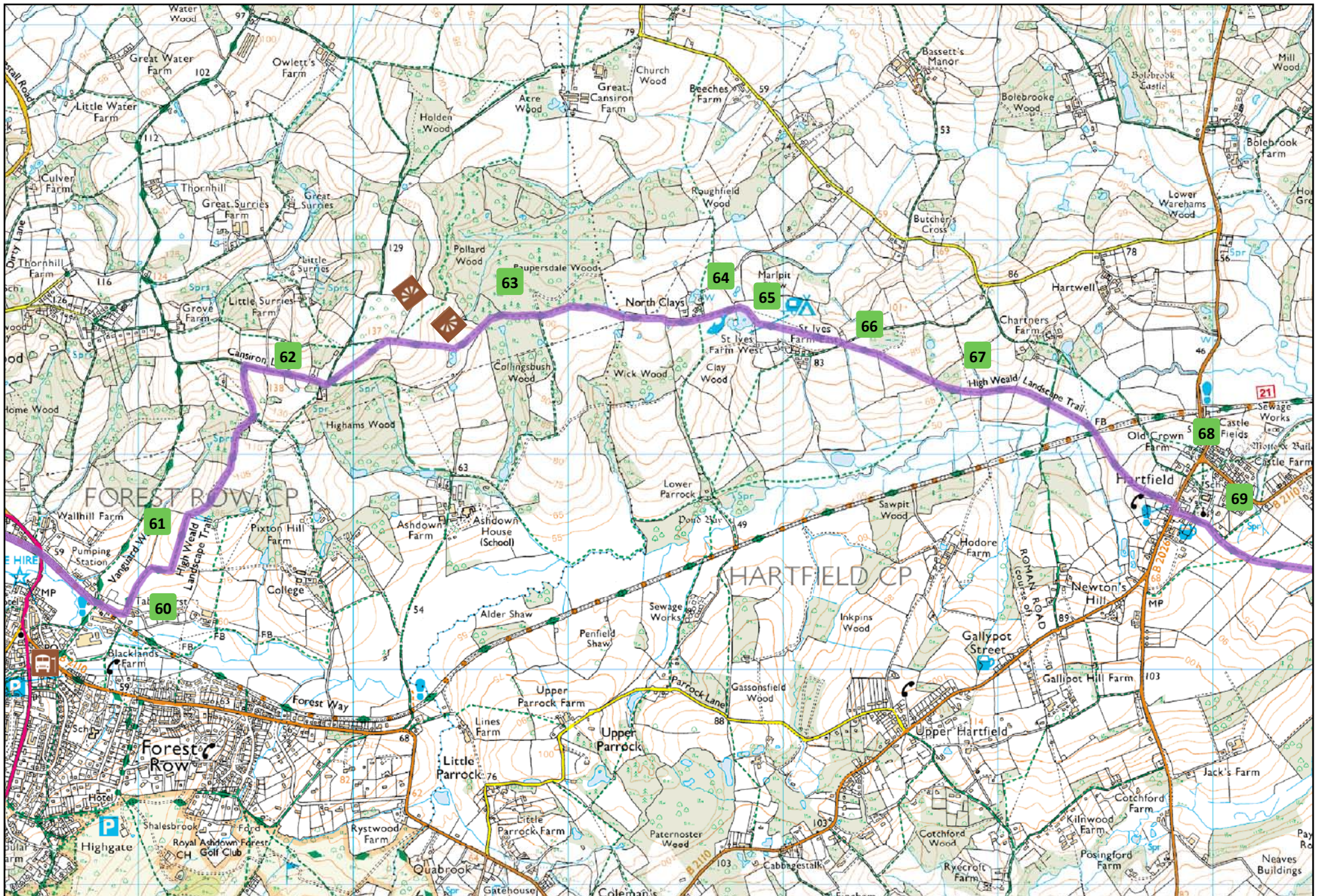
68. Hartfield



No castle now in Castlefields, but an attractive village, largely of white weatherboard buildings, and a flower-filled memorial garden. The "hart" from its Forest beginnings features on various signs, and there is the inevitable "Pooh Corner" amongst the shops (AA Milne wrote his famous bear stories in Hartfield).

69. An elegant spire

The churchyard is as attractive as the elegant spire that has beckoned you on from afar. If you rest on the seat under the spreading tulip tree, ponder on the unhappy fate of so many of the Maryan family. Was it poverty, genetic defect or just the usual statistics of a harsh era?





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3.3



70. Withyham

Story has it that the Monk's House and the Rectory were once joined by a covered passage. This explains the strange chamfered corner of the former. Recent extensions to the house have been done with locally produced hand-made bricks.

The four-square tower of St Michael and All Angels Church contrasts with Hartfield's slender spire. Within are decorated ceilings and a wealth of monuments to the Sackville family. The summer scent of the lime tree enlivens the churchyard.

sticky and water-resistant clay you have just walked through.

Silvery-grey soils underfoot prepare you for the sandstone outcrops half-hidden in the trees.

73. An unusual use of bricks

Old Groombridge lies to the north, near the Jacobean Groombridge Place. The timbered and tiled houses around the triangular green tone well with the 1625 "Gothic" brick church. It is uncommon to find brick used for such an important building.



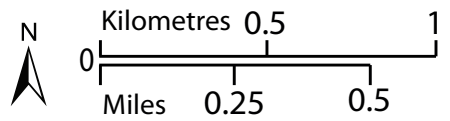
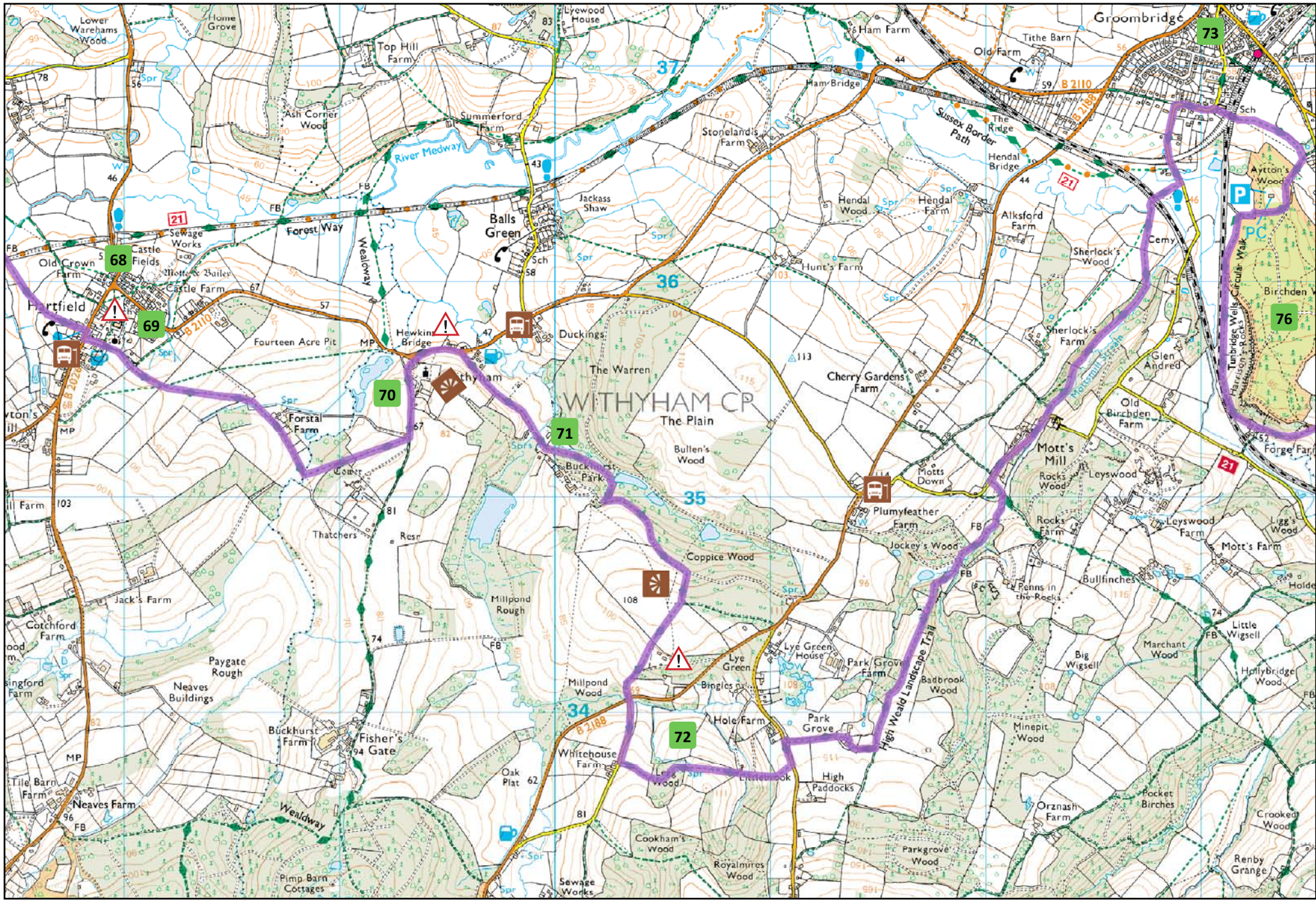
71. Buckhurst Park



You will get no more than a glimpse of the house on the site of the original Sackville home. Revel instead in the parkland scenery. What beautiful shapes trees grown in open ground achieve! The covered "well" as you enter the Park is actually a chalybeate (iron-containing) spring; the iron leaving an orange deposit as it flows.

72. The springline

Iron-rich water seeps from the ground in Legg Wood too, quickly cutting a gill for itself. The springs here rise where sandy soils meet the





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