








































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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Chapter 7: Flackley Ash to Rye; 7.1



A Landscape of Rivers and Marsh

As you descend from the ridge of higher ground around Peasmarch, the wide flat valley of the River Tillingham stretches ahead. The peaceful atmosphere envelops you as you pass through old orchards with sheep placidly grazing beneath and along the wide curving river. Rye - the final goal on your walk - can be seen perched on the hilltop ahead, its windmill standing out as a clear landmark.

138. Church of St Peter and Paul

This simple church stands isolated on the hillside. It is possible that an early settlement around the church was wiped out by the Black Death and the present village developed away from the church, alongside the main road below.

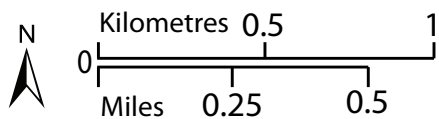
139. Peasmarch Place

This fine Georgian house with its own path to the church was originally built as the rectory. It was once owned by the Liddell family whose daughter Alice was the inspiration for "Alice in Wonderland".

140. Riverside walking

A very tranquil scene, particularly on a still winter's evening at the end of a long walk - the sky tinged with pink as the sun begins to set, silent save the occasional honking of geese and the slow movements of the grazing sheep and cattle. Overhead, the herons fly slowly but purposefully towards the heronry in trees on the nearby hillside, and the whistling sound from the heavy wingbeats of a swan, bound for the water's edge, can be heard.





- High Weald Landscape Trail
- 4 Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 125
Section 7, Map 1, Flackley Ash to Rye
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141. Rye

Rye itself is a fascinating old town - a wonderful jumble of close-built houses on narrow cobbled streets, clustered around the old church on top of the hill. Wander around its cobbled streets, soaking up the atmosphere and perhaps linger in the numerous ancient inns and tearooms.

142. Ypres Tower

Ypres Tower was built in 1250 by order of Henry III, to protect the town from French invaders. You can see how well positioned it was, with its commanding view of the estuary, from the Gun Garden below.

143. Walls

Following the burning of the town by the French in 1377, the townspeople petitioned Richard II to have the walls repaired as they were being washed away and the town was "open to enemies". Sturdy stone walls were built to protect the exposed northern approach to the town; the south, east and west were naturally protected by the steep cliffs. Most of the walls were destroyed by sea erosion but you

can still walk through Land Gate, which still remains as the northern entrance to the town.

144. Church of St Mary

This large and beautiful church reflects the town's earlier importance. Dating from 1150, it was seriously damaged in 1377 when Rye was burnt down by the French. The bells and many other items were looted to France - Winchelsea and Rye men later sailed to France and recovered them. Its tall tower has been used as a beacon for shipping for centuries. From the top of Lion Street you can watch the two fat cherubs, known as quarter boys, ringing the quarter hours on the old turret clock.

145. Lamb House

This elegant brick town house was built for James Lamb, the Mayor, in 1723. You can see many features, such as its chequered brickwork and elaborate parapet surmounted with stone vases, that made it highly fashionable when it was built, reflecting the wealth and standing of its owner. It became famous later as the home of writers Henry James, at the turn of the 20th century, and more recently, E F Benson.

146. Old Flushing Inn

The cellars of the 16th century inn are reputed to have been used for storing smuggled goods. Breads, the butcher who killed Allen Grebell in mistake for his brother in law, Lamb, the Mayor, lived here and ran his business from the yard at the back. Legend has it that he was taken in for a last drink on his way to execution in 1743.

147. Mermaid Inn

This stunning black and white building was built in 1420 to replace the original medieval inn which had been destroyed by the French. It still looks much the same as it did when it was the principal inn in Tudor Rye.

148. Strand Quay

Alongside here was the harbour, over 61 metres (200 feet) deep with anchorage for over 200 ships in the 14th century. The tall weather-boarded warehouses were built along the quayside in the 19th century at the peak of Rye's trading success. They now house antique shops and cafes but imagine it in its maritime heyday. The informative sound and light show on the town's history in the Tourist Information Centre may help to set the scene.





Section 7, Map 2, Flackley Ash to Rye

Make the most of your journey

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