

Trails by Rail: Robertsbridge

Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; a beautiful and historic protected landscape. Discover the pretty, historic village of Robertsbridge, walking across farmland and through ancient woodland with fantastic views across the landscape. An oast house, ancient trees, streams and historic buildings are features to look out for.

Distance and duration	5 miles / 8 kilometres - approximately 3 hours
Level	Moderate – hilly with 17 stiles
Start point	Robertsbridge Station, Station Road, Robertsbridge, TN32 5DJ
Map reference	TQ 737236 OS Explorer 124 Hastings and Bexhill
Other information	Parking: pay and display parking at Robertsbridge Station or a few long stay places free at the public car park, Station Road. Refreshments: Judges Bakery on the High Street and the George Inn. Village shop and Indian takeaway.

I-Spy - things to look out for in the landscape



The heavily wooded High Weald landscape provided the materials for the **timber-framed buildings** C14th -15th which line Robertsbridge High Street.



One of the **ancient sweet chestnut trees** along Mountfield Court

Walk directions

1. Start at Robertsbridge Station and turn left to walk up Station Road. Turn left at the High Street and then right onto Fair Lane. Walk up the road and near the top of the hill, opposite No. 23, are gates to the school playing field, set back from the road and on your right. Take the footpath to the left of the gates around the edge of the playing field to cross a stile. Turn immediately left and cross the field and another stile to reach the A21.
2. Cross the road (be careful – fast, busy road) to the waymarked footpath opposite and follow to climb a stile into a field. Walk straight across the field and descend steps into woodland. After the footbridge bear right and follow the well waymarked path through the wood. When the path ends at a junction turn right. Leave the woodland turning left to walk a short way between the wood and a field. Cross a stile and follow the right-hand field edge to climb another stile. Continue uphill, crossing another stile, to a T-junction of paths. Turn left and follow the path downhill through trees then with fields on your right. Keep on this path all the way to woodland. Pass a pond and Stone Cottage on your right to meet a track.
3. Turn right onto the track. At Keepers Cottage continue straight ahead on the footpath to keep the cottage on your right. Cross three stiles to climb the hill. Stay on the path and cross two more stiles to reach Poppinghole Lane.
4. Turn right then almost immediately left. Climb a stile and follow the footpath as it bears left across the field to another stile. Turn right after the stile and walk along the field edge. Turn the corner of the field to head downhill and climb a stile on your right just after a pond. Continue straight ahead and cross another stile. Follow the direction of the waymarker to bear left and pass between a line of small trees. Continue in the same direction to the top corner of the field and reach the A21.
5. Turn left and cross the main road at the former John's Cross Inn. Walk up the lane opposite. Stay on the lane and pass through an avenue of sweet chestnut trees. When the lane forks, keep to the left past a field gate to pass Mountfield Court on your right. At the junction turn right to pass around Mountfield Court and continue, on a track, along the left field edge and down towards a field gate. The footpath takes you to a stile next to the field gate, on the right, but hidden from view. To follow the footpath look out for the waymarker as fencing starts on the right of the track, just before the field gate. Walk in the direction of the waymarker for a couple of metres then look carefully for a narrow path through the bramble which runs parallel and close to the track and leads to the stile.
6. Bear slightly right to head downhill passing the copse of trees ahead on your left. Continue straight downhill towards a line of oak trees (an old field boundary). Pass between the oaks and carry on downhill bearing left to reach the bottom corner of the field. Pass under the railway bridge and a gate to turn right and soon cross a footbridge. Continue along the overgrown path as it leads uphill into woodland. Leave the wood via another footbridge.

Cross a field and another footbridge and take the right-hand path following the stream on your right. Stay on the right edge of the next field to cross a stile and footbridge on the right. Turn left to follow the path between the stream and railway embankment. Cross a stile and then a footbridge. Continue along the path beside the railway embankment as it moves away from the stream. When the path crosses a footbridge over a stream turn right to meet the lane. Turn right and follow the lane under the railway bridge.

7. Turn right at the junction and follow the road uphill. Turn left at the top to follow George Hill back to Robertsbridge High Street then left down Station Road and the end of the walk.

Please follow the Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



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