



Bateman's Lane, Burwash,  
East Sussex TN19 7DS

TRAIL

**Walking**

GRADE

**Easy**

DISTANCE

**2.5 miles (4km)**

TIME

**1 hour**

OS MAP

**Landranger 199;  
Explorer 136**

**Contact**

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[batemans@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:batemans@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Facilities**

**National  
Trust**

[nationaltrust.org.uk/walks](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/walks)

# Bateman's Kipling Countryside walk

Bateman's was the home of author and poet Rudyard Kipling. The 300 acres of countryside around the house influenced works such as Puck of Pook's Hill, Rewards and Fairies and many of his poems.



## Terrain

Public footpaths through Bateman's estate. One steady, moderate climb halfway through the walk. Several stiles along the route. Estate walk guide available from the ticket office. Dogs welcome. Please keep on lead as livestock in surroundings fields. No dog bins so please take dog litter home.

## Things to see



### Pook's Hill

Pook's Hill (directions 1 and 2) is situated behind the Jacobean house. In Kipling's Puck of Pook's Hill, this hill is clearly identified as Puck's home. Kipling wrote of Bateman's in 1902, 'It is a good and peaceable place.'

### Mill pond

The earliest recorded mention of the mill (direction 3) at Bateman's is from the 18th century, but Kipling believed that the mill dated from 1196. The current mill pond is a haven for wildlife including many species of dragonfly and damselfly. Planted in 1898, interwoven lime trees line the footpath running alongside the pond.

### Old trackway

A deserted trackway that used to run down towards the old Burwash Forge (direction 10).



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## Start/end

Start: Public car park, grid ref:  
TQ671238

End: Public car park, grid ref:  
TQ671238

## How to get there

By foot: Down Bateman's Lane  
from the A265 Heathfield Road

By bike: Down Bateman's Lane  
from the A265 Heathfield Road

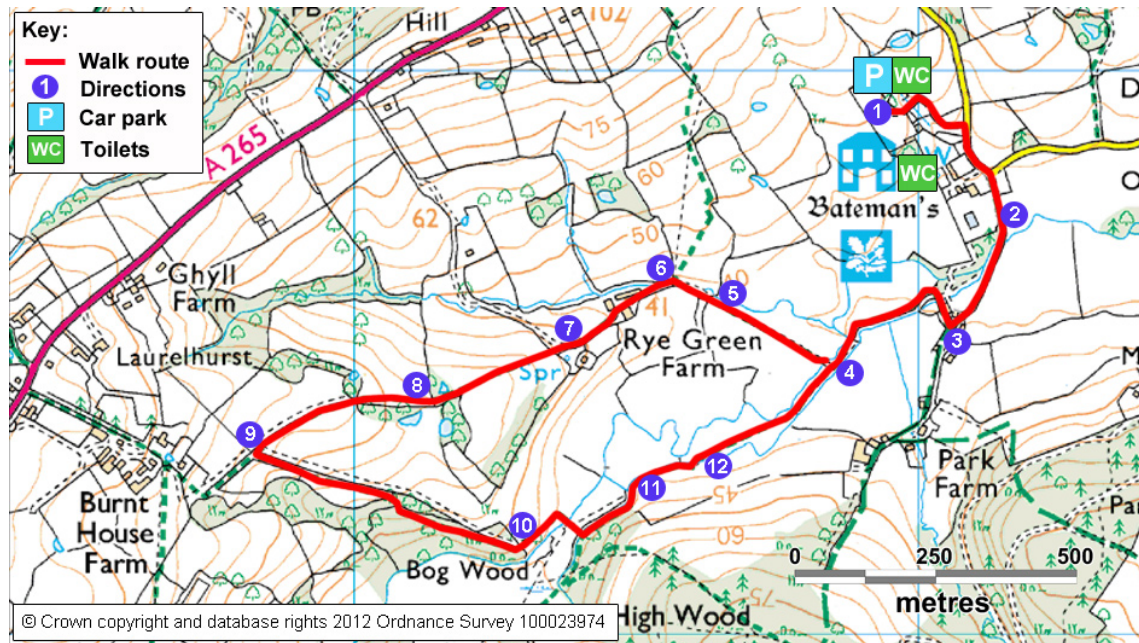
By bus: Renown service  
318/319, Uckfield to  
Etchingham

By train: Etchingham station 3  
miles (4.8km)

By car: 0.5 mile (0.8km) west  
of Burwash, A265 west from  
Burwash, first turning on left

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1. Walk back down the drive out of the car park and turn right when you reach the road.
2. Walk across the front of the house and follow the road round to the right, crossing the bridge over the river.
3. Turn right at Corner Cottage and keep the mill pond on your left. Follow the path along the edge of the mill-stream.
4. Go through the gate and after 55yd (50m) turn right over the footbridge.
5. Follow the path through the field, passing the old oak and ditch. A sinuous and curving ditch that marks the line of a former water course; and a large veteran oak - probably around 250 years old - growing by its side. The ditch also marks the manorial boundary between the customary lands of Brightling Prebend and the manor of Burwash. Climb the stile and turn immediately left.
6. Climb another stile and follow the path past two barns, one modern, one old.
7. You will arrive at a tarmaced road with a house on your left. Cross the road and go over the stile into the field immediately in front of you. Follow the path into the woods opposite and climb the stile. You are now outside the Bateman's estate.
8. Cross the field and go through the gate.
9. Follow the path through the field; go through the gate and turn immediately left down the hill with the hedge on your left. Go through the kissing gate and follow the path around to the left through the woods. This is an area of ancient woodland. During spring these woods are home to bluebells, wood anemones, primroses, early purple orchids, dog's mercury, wild garlic and celandines.
10. Go through the kissing gate and carry on straight ahead. The River Dudwell is to your right. Up the hill to your left as you come through the gate is a deserted trackway that used to run down towards the old Burwash Forge. Around 110yd (100m) on the right, cross the river and turn left.
11. Pass through the gate and go straight ahead. After around 164yd (150m) turn left across a bridge and turn immediately right.
12. Go through a kissing gate. After approx 110yd (100m) you will find yourself at the footbridge you crossed at direction 4. From here, retrace your steps to the car park.