

Weald Landscape Trail. Pass derelict buildings, further High Weald Landscape Trail markers and over bridge. Bear right as path emerges between hedges to continue on track through apple orchard. Leave the main track where it bears right towards farm buildings and continue straight ahead towards gate and cottages. Pass through kissing gate and after 20 metres join a public road. **5**

Turn right on joining the lane and continue for approximately 100 metres to left hand bend in road and track and High Weald Landscape Trail marker on right. A short diversion can be made here to seek refreshment at the Hop Bine pub, which is the white weather boarded building ahead. To continue our route, take the indicated path and join farm track. After a few metres and immediately after passing an electricity transformer, leave track and walk straight ahead and down between apple trees, following a line of electricity poles. Leave the orchard by descending brick steps which are to the right of an electricity pole in the hedge line. On joining road turn right and continue for approximately 100 metres to join a track on the left as indicated

by public bridleway sign. After some 500 metres, the bridleway joins a road. **6**

Turn left and after 10 metres leave road onto track on the left, which runs between cottages. Cross stile at end of track and immediately after passing Swinglemead. Keep to left-hand boundary of orchard. Look out for gap in hedge and High Weald Landscape Trail marker. Pass through gap in hedge to follow right hand boundary of field/orchard. Cross stile on right and continue along right hand boundary of field. When hedge ends, continue straight ahead towards cottages and path between them to emerge opposite Matfield pond and green.

BED & BREAKFAST

Matfield

Mr & Mrs Jolly

Maycotts, Matfield, Tonbridge TN12 7JU

Tel: 01892 852592 Fax: 01892 853268

Brenchley

C. J. O'Malley

Woodlands Cottage, Fairmans Road, Brenchley TN12 7BB

Tel: 01892 722707 Fax: 01892 724946

WALK 6

Duration:

2 to 2.30 hours, 9 km/5.5 miles approx.

Highlights:

Views of the Medway Valley, Greensand Ridge and North Downs. The charming village green and beautiful houses of Matfield.

Terrain:

Easy going. Two short climbs which are not especially steep.

Refreshment facilities:

Wheelwrights pub and Star Inn at Matfield, Standing Cross pub/restaurant, The Bull Inn at Brenchley (*diversion of approx. 300 metres*), Hop Bine pub at Pettebridge (*diversion of approx. 50 metres*).

Starting point:

Matfield village pond on the green. O.S. Ref. 658419.

Transport facilities:

No public parking in Matfield. At rear of village green roadside parking.

Bus Routes:

6 AK(NS), 297 AK/NV.

NS: Not Sundays

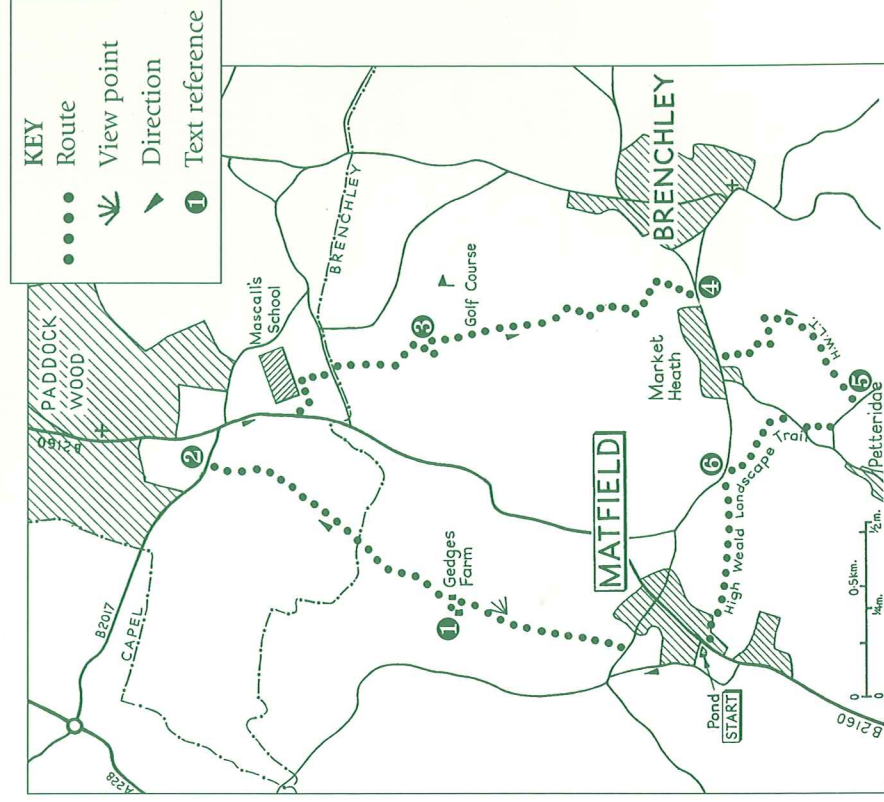
AK: Arriva Kent & Sussex

Telephone: 01634 281100

NV: Nu Venture

Telephone: 01622 882288

Matfield





Route: Walk up the side road keeping village pond on left, cottages Matfield House on the right.

Immediately after passing the cottages, look upwards between gates to the large clock-tower. Note the caption below its face especially if your walking time is limited. The impressive Matfield House was built in 1728 in the Queen Anne style.

At road junction and facing Canterbury Cottage, turn right and walk along road, passing 'Maycotts', a fine Wealden house on the left. On reaching a junction of five roads, turn right into Chestnut Lane. After approximately 100 metres turn left onto footpath. This is marked by a low concrete footpath sign. Take left fork after approximately 30 - 40 metres. After emerging from scrub follow left hand boundary of field. At path junction (delineated by a waymark) continue on same line, ignoring path to right.

Pause here to admire superb views - North to the Greensand Ridge and North Downs beyond. In the middle distance - Medway Valley and less appealing the sprawl of Paddock Wood.

Eventually the path is confined by hedge and trees on left and fence on right, before bearing left and passing on the left hand side of a cottage. The path then joins a drive way to houses. Bear right here keeping Orchard Cottage on right and pass through the gateway to Gedges Farm (there is a stile to the side of gate if it is closed). Continue with Gedges Farmhouse on your right and on between gate posts with white balls on top. If the gates are closed, there is a stile built in to the left-hand framework of the gate.

1 Ignore track through orchard on left. Instead walk straight down the track until it bears right. Leave the track to cross a stile on the left side of the bending track then on down the right hand boundary of an orchard. Where hedge ends and orchard opens out, ignore track to the right and instead continue straight ahead between line of apple trees to far boundary of orchard facing a copse. Turn right keeping fence on left for approximately 100 metres to stile on left.

Pass through narrow strip of trees and emerge to what is initially rough scrub land which after a short distance becomes orchards. Paddock Wood can be seen in the valley below. As a guide aim for large oak tree, then pass to the right of it, and on downhill towards a converted oast house. You are now on a track which passes the house. Leave farm track immediately after the house to continue straight ahead between apple trees. At the far side of orchard on meeting boundary

hedge turn sharp left where path heads towards scrub and large electricity pylon. Pass under the pylon and on through a belt of trees, pass a very overgrown pond, to B2017 road.

2 Turn right and proceed along road to junction with a major road. Bear right uphill on grass verge of the busy B2160, to pass Mascalls School on your left. 50 metres beyond the school gates leave road at footpath waymark, by climbing steps. Cross stile and head for cottages on the far side of field. Cross stile to join lane running alongside cottages. Turn left and after 10 metres leave lane and join footpath on right which runs between fences and on to small copse of trees. Emerge from copse into open ground with orchard to your right. Continue keeping orchard fence on your right and towards footpath waymark. Do not cross stile into orchard but proceed straight on to pass to the left of a copse.

3 From this point, the public footpath crosses a golf course. Please be aware of the hazards of golfers, trolleys and balls!

Continue by passing to the left of golf tees and head towards waymark on edge of wood. Bear right at way mark round edge of wood to further waymark where you should bear left and 20 metres further turn right.

The line of route continues virtually straight for six hundred metres uphill, passing between copses, golf greens on left and small pond on right. Note the small corrugated hut at the pond edge. Bear left at waymark to cross line of poplars and head for stile in line of hedge directly ahead. Cross stile and on between rows of apple trees and towards line of Alder trees on the sky line. At waymark, pass through Alder trees, turn left and on through orchard. At far side of orchard turn right and after 10 metres turn left through gap in hedge to pass a timber clad house and on to surfaced drive. At junction of drives, cross stile on right, through trees and aim for stile in line of fence. After crossing stile, pass between rows of apple trees to boundary hedge at the bottom of orchard. Turn right to follow line of hedge. Before arriving at corner of orchard hedge look for gap in hedge and emerge at road.

4 Turn right along road and pass school, cottages and garage. Note the milestone with Roman figures and bench mark, outside of 'Milestone Cottage'. Proceeding, look out for Market Heath House on the left side of road. Some 20 metres after house, leave road to join footpath which runs down left hand boundary of field and orchard. At waymark turn left to join track. At junction of tracks turn right to join the High