

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. A pleasant walk through a Kentish section of the High Weald AONB with gently rolling hills and lovely views. Cranbrook, the smallest town in Kent, achieved prosperity in medieval times through the cloth trade. The town is dominated by a fine smock windmill built in 1814.

Distance and duration	A 9 mile walk, taking about 5 hours.
Level	Moderate
Start point / Post code	Cranbrook. Start outside the tourist information office at the corner of the High Street and Stone Street. TN17 3EX
OS map reference What-3-Words	OS Explorer 136 & 137, TQ776361 https://what3words.com/texted.cuff.cork
Other information	There is a large, free public car park by the Coop supermarket and a smaller one at the bottom of The Hill. Click here to download a GPX file of the route

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



Two

We are grateful to [Kent Ramblers](#) for permission to use this walk.

Begin at the junction of High Street and Stone Street, facing towards St Dunstan's Church.

Go up the steps, passing the church on your right.

Follow the path through the churchyard.

Continue straight ahead, then veer right to follow hedge along the right edge of the sports field.

Continue to a road; cross and join the footpath opposite.

Follow path; ignore High Weald Landscape Trail turning on right.

Continue ahead on concrete path until you reach a kissing gate to enter a wood. Follow the path downhill.

Exit wood via a kissing gate to enter a sloping field. Bear slightly right uphill to a kissing gate on tree line. Descend steps to sunken lane.

Turn right. Follow lane to bottom of slope to enter Buckhurst Farm.

Just before first building on left, join path on left. Go uphill; through a gate and cross field to kissing gate.

Bear slightly left; go downhill along left edge of field.

At bottom corner, cross footbridge into woodland; go uphill. Cross broader track and continue to edge of wood.

Cross stile into field. Bear slightly left downhill to stile by gate.

Go along right edge of field to stile.

Take path between fences to road. Turn left and take first track (restricted byway) on right.

Follow, passing a house and ignoring side turns until path goes through a gap in hedge on left.

Turn right along edge of field.

Turn left onto broad track to reach opposite edge of field.

Turn right and follow left edge of field to bottom, through narrow strip of woodland.

Continue through field, slightly uphill, turning left around a hedged property.

Turn left through gap in hedge to reach drive.

Turn right and follow to road.

Turn right; follow road several hundred yards to entrance to Hemsted Forest on left.

Go past barrier and take first path on right.

Three

Follow narrow windy path to T-junction. Turn right and follow to road.

Cross road, entering grounds of Benenden School.

Turn left along broad track. Where track joins main drive to school, continue ahead.

Where drive forks, bear left then join a path on left.

After open scrubland pass through wood. Emerge into open parkland and head left down to a hedge beside a road. Follow hedge (right) to a gate and join the road.

Turn right and follow to crossroads.

Turn left and follow to extensive village green, where there are benches and a pub (should you be interested!).

Go to the church at the top of the green. Head right along a track.

Where track divides, go ahead over a stile, then cross a field to the next stile.

Cross another field to the far right corner to cross a stile beside a gate.

Head diagonally down field to cross a stile and a narrow road.

Join a narrow sunken path immediately opposite.

Descend to bottom of slope, reaching drive to a farm.

Go through small gate on right and cross bridge.

Go up steps and enter a large field and follow left edge up slope. At top of slope join fenced path and follow to road.

Turn right and take first left along the grand approach drive of Benenden School. At a footpath sign, head left uphill, with fine views of the school to your right.

At top go straight ahead through kissing gate and continue along edge of sports field through a kissing gate.

At the end of the rough path from the school head right through a large gap.

Head to bottom left corner of large field and enter woodland.

Cross footbridge and climb to a stile. Head across field to a gate behind a pole. Follow track past a tile-hung house on right with very large pond.

Turn right onto main track.

Follow to a large barn at the bottom of the slope.

Turn left and then right to go round the barn. Descend to a footbridge.

Cross field to jutting hedge and follow hedge to corner of field.

Descend into ghyll, cross footbridge and climb steep steps to kissing gate.

Four

Follow hedge on left to kissing gate, then follow hedge on right to corner of field.

Cross next field to kissing gate and follow left edge of fields to kissing gate.

Follow path past orchard on your left, then past a fenced drive to road.

Turn right; follow couple of hundred yards and join footpath on left.

Cross field and look for gap in hedge on left.

Cross stream; follow right edge of field; cross another stream.

At field, head right along edge; then turn left at finger post.

Follow path along a line of trees.

At T-junction, turn left to rejoin the outward route and re-trace back to start.

At all times please follow the Countryside Code

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have barbeques where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



