

Lamberhurst and The Scotney Estate

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. This walk passes through areas where the growing of hops was a principle agricultural undertaking. To a much lesser extent these days hops are still being grown on the Scotney Castle Estate. Also keep an eye out for traditional red Sussex cattle which are a feature of the estate.

Distance and duration	A leisurely 5 mile walk, taking about 2½ hours.
Level	Moderate
Start point / Post code	At the foot of the hill approaching the village from the A21. TN3 8ES
OS map reference What-3-Words	Explorer 136, TQ673356 https://what3words.com/vessel.shirts.reply
Other information	Roadside parking, please do not obstruct residents. 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 Lionel Pringle for his permission to use this walk.

Park at the bottom of the hill that comes into the village from the roundabout on the A21. The car park at the rear of the village hall has been acquired by the pub and is not available for general use.

Towards the bottom of the hill, on the right, take the path that leads through to the recreation ground.

Turn right and go across the recreation ground, making for the white painted concrete block on the far side. I have no idea what its purpose is.

In the corner of the field go through a gate and onto the golf course.

Beware of golfers striking golf balls and bear left making for a gap in the treeline.

Continue straight ahead.

At a track on the far side turn left and continue over the bridge across the A21.

Ignore the footpath on the left, (this is not marked as a RoW on the OS maps), and go to the top of the incline.

Turn left and go diagonally down the field towards the road and walk around the edge of the field.

At the point where you can see a bridge, a footpath goes off to the right, south of the River Teise, there is a fence and hedge on the right of you. Take this path and continue over a stile into the next field.

Continue straight ahead to a gate into the field beyond.

Continue straight ahead to the far corner of the field, with a fence to the right for the last section.

Turn right and immediately left into a hop field.

Continue around the edge of the field with the hops on your left.

At a five bar gate the right of way continues through the gate, but it is suggested that you turn left and follow the Scotney Hop Trail from this point.

Go through a gap at the bottom of the field and turn right to follow round the edge of the hop field.

On reaching the road to the north of Little Scotney Farm and south of Finchcocks, go over the bridge and then through a gate into the field to the right.

There is an enclosed permissive path at this point also, do not take this path.

Go straight up through the field and over a stile into the wooded area beyond.

At the edge of the wood go over the stile and bear left around the side of the field.

Three

Look for a five bar gate on your left.

Go through the gate and continue straight on heading for the point on your left where the wood juts out into the field.

At this point bear a little to the right making for the far right hand corner of the field.

Go over the stile and down a flight of concrete steps.

Turn right and follow the path past a building on the left and out onto the road.

Go to the right and continue straight on up the hill to the village of Kilndown.

At the crossroads look for a cream-coloured wooden building behind the bus shelter, the Quarry Centre.

Go to the left of this building, past the telephone box, and come to a pond with a table and benches where refreshments can be taken.

Just beyond the table and an additional bench, go up a slight incline and some steps to regain the footpath.

Turn left and continue along the, going in the same direction for 0.68 miles.

You will initially pass some cottages on your right.

Go through a gate and then past a line of ancient Beech trees.

Eventually you will come to a T junction, at this point turn right and continue on this path for just under 0.5 miles, going through a couple of gates as you progress.

You will go over two bridges, the first crosses the River Bewl and the second goes over Sweet Bourne.

Just beyond the second bridge bear to the left of the tree ahead of you and continue to the top of the hill. Do not take the very well defined track on the right.

At the top of the hill the right of way is actually over a stile at this point and then continues left along the approach road to Scotney Castle.

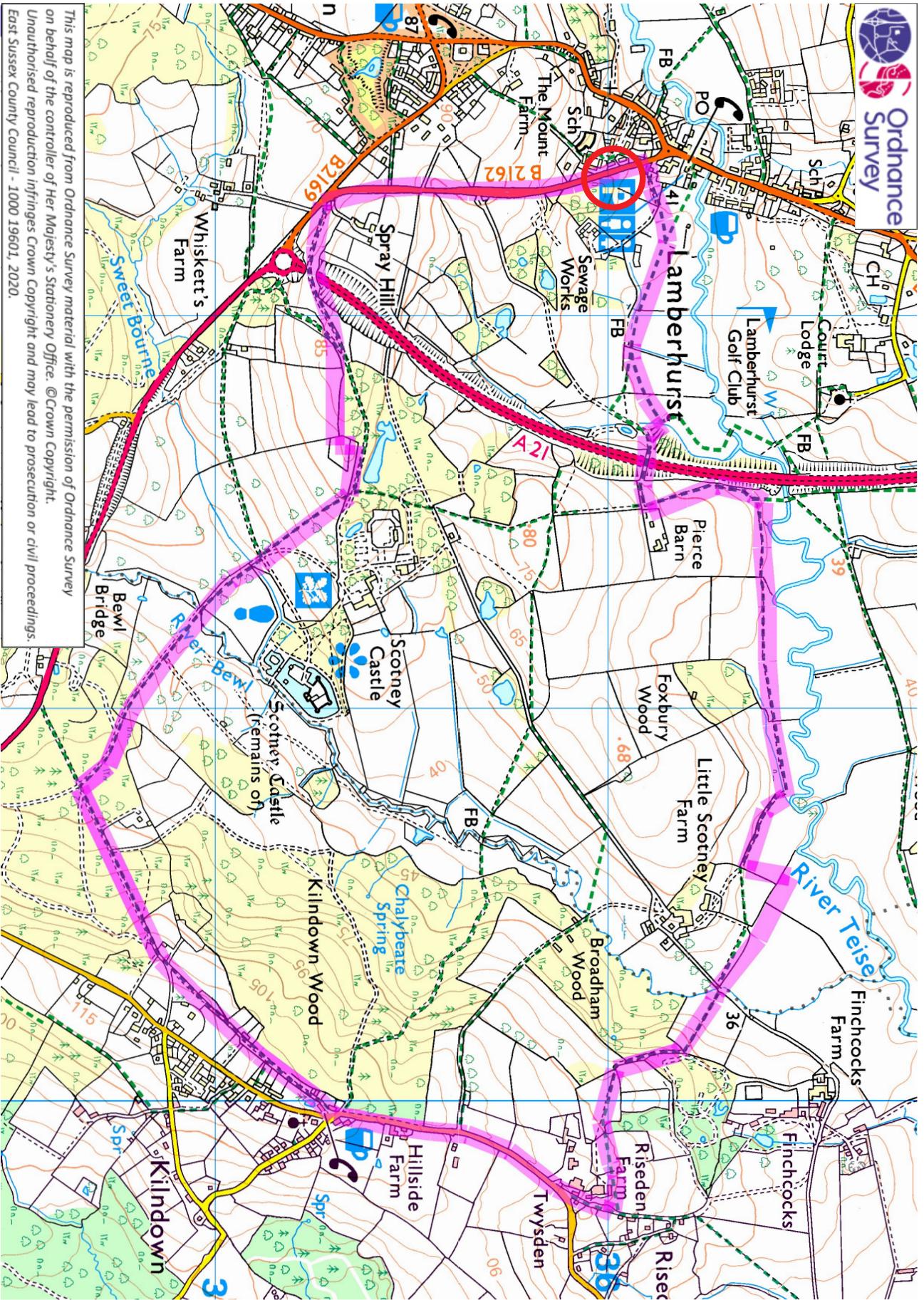
To eliminate the need to be dodging two way traffic at this point the National Trust has installed a permissive path which is accessed by a gate on the left, in the corner.

This path takes you across the top of the valley affording some good views to the south.

Eventually you come to a five bar gate which gives access to the approach road, at this point it becomes one way.

At the fork take the right hand road, go across the well disguised bridge over the A21 and exit the estate at the white gates and the lodge.

Turn right and continue along this road, going downhill back to the village.



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