

Winchelsea to Icklesham circular walk

This walk explores the centre of the High Weald National Landscape an unspoilt medieval landscape. It is a delightful walk starting in the glorious Cinque Port town of Winchelsea located at the southeast edge of the High Weald area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The walk climbs gently to Icklesham and then descends into the Brede Valley finally climbing back up to Winchelsea. It is a favourite walk in the area allowing you to explore the town as well as the surrounding countryside.

Distance and duration	A 5 mile walk, taking about 2½ hours
Level	Leisurely to Moderate
Start point / Post code	Monks Walk, Winchelsea, TN36 4EP
OS map reference What-3-Words	Explorer 125, TQ904172 https://w3w.co/choice.shuttled.shelf
Other information	Click here to download a GPX file of the route

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



Two

This walk was kindly provided by [Battle Ramblers](#)

Leaving your locked car, cross the road and use the path walking south till you come to the right bend in the road.

Cross the road and go over the low stile into the field ([Location 1 on the map](#)). Follow the 1066 Country Walk path down to the gate in the valley.

Go through the gate and up the hill towards the left of Wickham Manor. The 16th century Wickham Manor is owned by the National Trust and the farm has a vineyard (Charles Palmer Vineyards). The manor was used in the film Mr Holmes starring Sir Ian McKellen and is currently available for Bed and Breakfast. ([Location 3 on the map](#))



It is worth turning round at the brow of the hill to enjoy the view of Winchelsea and out to Dungeness Power Station. In the valley, to the South East, you can see New Gate.

([Location 2 on the map](#)) Winchelsea today is known as the new town; the old town was a seaside town destroyed by a severe storm in 1287. The new town was commissioned by King Edward and the layout thought to be based on the French town Monsegur. To fund the building of the town gates and walls the king levied a rent of £14.11s .5d which has been paid annually to this day. <https://www.winchelsea.com/the-town-story/history/two-towns/>

Follow the path to the gate. At the gate is a fine wooden sculpture by Keith Pettit named The Watcher depicting a Saxon looking across the channel to spot the Norman fleet. This is one of 10 along the 1066 Country Walk. ([Location 4 on the map](#)) <https://www.explorewealden.co.uk/explore-our-nature/1066-country-walk-p1489781>

Follow the path through gates till you reach the gate at the road. Cross the road pass through the gate and proceed up the hill. At the brow of the hill are a couple of benches to enjoy a great view from Dungeness to Fairlight Church on the hill to the south west. As you can see from the pill box another watcher looked for the German fleet in the second world war which luckily never materialised. ([Location 5 on the map](#)).

Follow the path west down the hill over the stile and then through 2 gates to the road.

Follow the road just past the white cottage on the left to the gate on the right and follow the path up the hill to the right of Paul Mc Cartney's Windmill (Hogg Hill Windmill). He recorded his latest album here during the pandemic lockdown. ([Location 6 on the map](#)). This is the high point of the walk with great views.

The path continues down the hill through 1 gates to the road. Walk along the road for 50

The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape

Three

yards till you find a hole in the hedge on the right where the gate to path is. Follow this path to the outskirts of Ickelsham initially with an orchard to the right. Proceed through the gate onto the track with Oast houses on the right. Follow the track and then path to the right to the entrance to Icklesham All Saints Church graveyard. The church dates back to the 11th century and is of typical East Sussex design. (Location 7 on the map).

Take the path to the left which you follow to the road. Turn right and follow the road to the main A259 road and cross then follow the small road to the north and on to the Queens Head path. **The road is busy so be careful.** You can now stop for a welcome drink at the pub and enjoy the views of the Brede valley from the pub garden. (Location 8 on the map).

Pick up the path at the Northeast of the pub car park. The Brede river along with the Tillingham and Rother for the 3 main rivers in East Sussex which link at Rye and flow into the sea. The rivers follow the axis of the Wealden Anticline in East Sussex and the strike of the underlying rocks. Ickelsham is on Ashdown sandstone part of the Lower Cretaceous sequence of sandstones and shales once part of a large delta fed from a river sequence originating in the London Brabant Massif to the north. At the start of the descent from the pub the sandstone is exposed.

The path goes north down into the valley through 2 gates and then a stile and footbridge till you reach the railway line. (Location 9 on the map). **Make sure there are no trains before you cross.** Cross the line the over a stile and footbridge and follow the path sharp right over a stile and then over the railway again. You are now walking east back towards Winchelsea and you are now on the south bank of the river Brede.

You go over a stile and then follow the path for over half a mile through two gates then over a footbridge the path then reaches the hill back up to Winchelsea. A steep but short climb.

On the top of the hill is the Millenium Beacon and the site oof an old windmill there are great views of the Brede valley and you are able to trace your walk from Hog Hill Windmill. (Location 10 on the map).

Follow the path to the east from the beacon till you hit the A259 again. Cross over and follow the road east and take the next right which is the high street. Follow the road to the Church grounds and New Inn on the left.

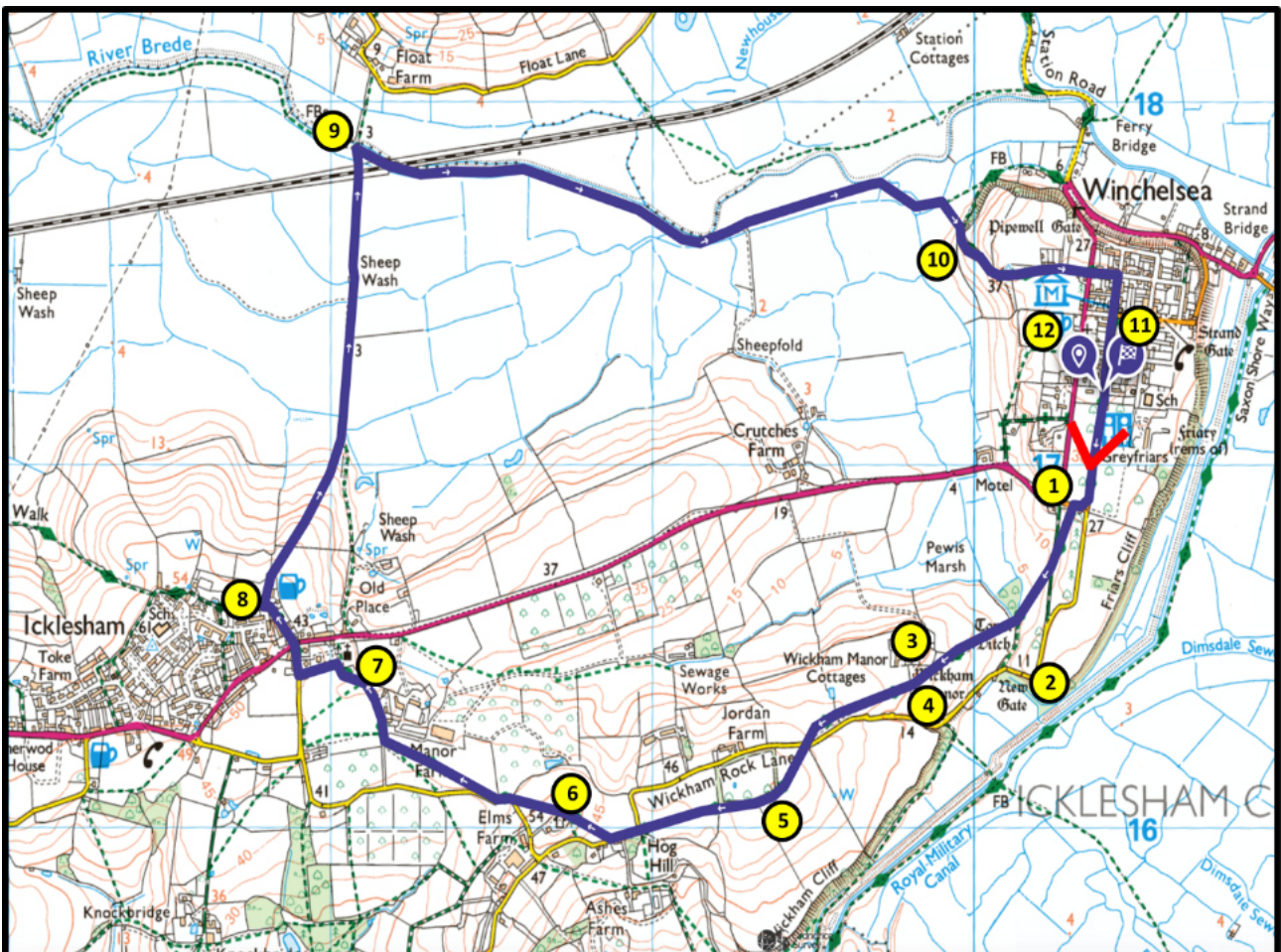
The church of St Thomas is well worth a visit. (Location 11 on the map).

There are the fabulous Dr Douglas Strachan stain glass windows

and ancient tombs. In the churchyard to the west of the church you can find Spike Milligan's grave. By the side of the road is the Wesley tree where he preached his last sermon in 1790. <https://winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk/winchelsea/st-thomas-history/the-early-years/>

After the walk the New Inn is recommended for a drink and meal. It has a garden at the rear.





At all times please follow the Countryside Code



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