

Trails by Rail: Winchelsea

Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - a medieval landscape. A walk through the pretty town of Winchelsea and farmland; with fantastic views of the Brede river valley and across Pett Levels to the sea. A windmill, grazing animals, reed beds and a bird hide are features to look out for.

Distance and duration	6.5 miles /10.5 kilometres - approximately 3.5 hours
Level	Leisurely with 11 stiles
Start point	Winchelsea Station, Winchelsea Lane, Winchelsea TN36 4JX
Map reference	TQ 900184 OS Explorer 125 - Rye & Winchelsea
Other information	Parking: parking bays on the A259 near the junction of Station Road. Start the walk at that junction. Refreshments: The New Inn at Winchelsea and village store.

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



The **Royal Military Canal** runs for 28 miles (45km) and was built as a defence against possible invasion during the Napoleonic Wars



Hogg Hill Mill was built in 1781. It stopped working in 1920 and now houses the recording studios of Sir Paul McCartney

Walk directions

1. Start from Winchelsea Station. Turn right and follow the road all the way to the top to the junction with the A259. Turn right, then almost immediately right again onto a surfaced footpath. Walk along the surfaced track, passing the Southern Water entrance, and continue to reach a gate and then a footbridge. Turn left to follow the field edge, ignoring a footpath off to the right. Climb the hill passing through a gate.
2. Just before the top of the hill bear left and follow the path to a gate and onto a lane. Cross over the road at the end of the lane to continue along the road straight ahead. At the next junction turn right and continue straight ahead to pass New Inn on your right.
3. Continue along this road and, as it turns sharply right, look for a footpath and gap in the low wall on the opposite side of the road. Take this path and bear right to cross Chapel Field diagonally and head for a stile in the fence. Cross the bridleway to climb a stile. Bear left downhill, keeping a small patch of woodland to your right to reach a kissing gate. Turn right and head uphill. Climb the stile to the left of the barn ahead and cross a driveway to follow the path opposite. Cross the field and then the stile ahead. Follow the left field edge to climb another stile and meet the lane.
4. Turn right onto the lane and immediately left to pass through a hand gate. Bear right towards the end of a line of trees then follow the fence to a stile. Follow the right-hand field edge to the next stile. Pass through a gate and head across the field with the windmill ahead. Turn left onto the lane to pass Windmill Cottage then take the footpath on the right up the hill to pass the windmill and reach Windmill Lane.
5. Turn left onto the lane and at the road junction cross over to find the footpath in the hedgerow opposite. Follow the path around the left field edge to the bottom corner of the meadow and cross a stile. Turn right and cross two more stiles. Bear left across a field behind houses to a kissing gate. Cross over the driveway to the gate opposite and bear right around the field edge for a short distance to a stile. Walk down steps at the side of a building. Turn left on a disused driveway then bear right and follow the path through woodland.
6. Pass through a gate and turn right to follow the well-defined path downhill, with views of the sea ahead, and enter the Pannel Valley Nature Reserve. Follow the path between tall reeds. Shortly after a bird hide is visible on your left, on the other side of the stream, look out for a footbridge on your left. Cross the bridge and turn left to pass the bird hide on your right and continue to cross two wooden footbridges. After the second footbridge turn left to follow the path along the banks of the Royal Military Canal for over a mile to reach the road.
7. Turn left at the road and then left again at the A259. Continue until the junction on the right into Station Road and back to Winchelsea Station.

Please follow the Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures





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