
Route Directions

This is a linear walk which involves a 4 minute train journey from Hollingbourne to Bearsted from where the walk begins. It then returns to Hollingbourne, primarily along the North Downs Way. At this time trains run at 16 minutes past every hour. There is free parking at Hollingbourne Station

1. This walk starts at Bearsted station. Cross the car park to the road and turn LEFT. After a few steps turn sharp LEFT onto Thurnham Lane. Along this lane, going slightly uphill & under the railway bridge. At the top of the rise turn RIGHT onto a bridleway, opposite School Lodge. Go into a field at a five bar gate and aiming slightly left go toward the M20 motorway. After a short distance go through the hedge on the LEFT & turn RIGHT toward a stand of trees and another gate. Follow the path across the field and then alongside the motorway to a lane & turn LEFT.
2. Go under the motorway bridges and 75 yards (70m) further on turn LEFT onto a bridleway. As the path enters a field, keep to the righthand edge and continue toward and past the vineyards, walking directly toward the North Downs escarpment. On reaching a row of cottages and a metalled lane continue straight up to meet the Pilgrims Way.
3. Go straight across, through a gap in the hedge and continue uphill then down, under the power lines toward a stile in the hedge line. Go over the stile and turn ½ RIGHT going slightly round the rising ground where a kissing gate in the corner of the field will come into view. Go through this gate to meet the North Downs Way (& the Augustine Camino Way) crossing left to right. Turn RIGHT to meet a sunken lane.
4. Go straight across this lane and continue on the NDW going quite steeply uphill for a time. Follow the NDW as it undulates through woods with wonderful views toward The Weald. After approximately ½ mile (800m) the path descends down a flight of steep steps and a kissing gate leading into a wide open field.

5. Turn LEFT as the NDW initially rises then turns abruptly RIGHT where shortly after, the path divides. Take the RIGHT hand fork & continue along the NDW for another ½ mile (800m) ignoring the first 2 paths on the RIGHT and reaching the 3rd.
6. Turn RIGHT going obliquely and quite steeply downhill to reach a lane. Go straight across and continue in the same direction until the path turns RIGHT under the power lines toward Broad Street farm. On reaching the lane (Pilgrims Way) turn RIGHT & then after a few steps turn LEFT on a footpath across a field. Go toward the gate in the hedge and turn RIGHT following the hedge.
7. At the end of the hedge go across the field toward the lefthand end of the trees ahead where the path then bears slightly LEFT toward another bank of trees. On reaching these follow the path as it skirts round to the right and soon reaches a wide open field.
8. The footpath is indistinct across the field but aim to pass to the RIGHT of a stand of 3 trees and then toward a single large Oak further ahead. On reaching the oak turn ½ LEFT toward the corner of the field and the railway line.
9. The path goes through a narrow gap in the trees, over a ditch into a field. Follow the fence line alongside the railway to meet a gap on the RIGHT. Follow this path back to Hollingbourne railway station. Cross over the bridge back to the entrance & car park.

Bearsted to Hollingbourne

**A glorious but occasionally strenuous
5mile (8km) walk along the North
Downs between Bearsted &
Hollingbourne train stations**



