

Main walk last checked	Robertsbridge start last checked	Longer Bewl Water route to Wadhurst last checked	Shorter Bewl Water route to Wadhurst checked	
16 September 2023	16 September 2023	16 September 2023	16 September 2023	
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Etchingham to Wadhurst via Ticehurst

Hilly Wealden landscapes, ancient villages and Bewl Water reservoir

Length: Main walk	17.3km (10.7 miles)
With Robertsbridge start	21.3km (13.2 miles)
Longer Bewl Water loop	+ 3.5km (2.2 miles)
Shorter Bewl Water loop	+ 1.4km (0.9 miles)

Toughness: 5 out of 10: quite hilly, but with mainly gentle gradients

Maps: OS Explorer 136, Landranger 188 (199 for the Robertsbridge start)

Features

After a fairly flat start across the valley of the River Rother, this is a classic Wealden walk - a hilly mix of pasture and woodland, fine panoramic views across valleys, a succession of converted oast houses, a cobnut orchard, and the typical Wealden villages of Ticehurst and Wadhurst. The route also passes very close to the shore of the beautiful Bewl Water reservoir and there is an optional extra loop (see page 2) which takes you down to hidden places on its shoreline.

While the walk is very rural throughout, there are three sections of road walking. One is a necessary 2km (1.2 mile) walk along the main road through the village of Ticehurst, which can be broken up by a visit to the pretty village centre (or even lunch at The Bell, though the Bull Inn in Three Leg Cross 1.1km (0.6 miles) further on is also highly recommended). The other two are idyllic saunters down back lanes whose verges are alive with wild flowers in spring. The first of these is just after lunch, a 2.3km (1.4 miles) back lane which was cut off by the construction of the reservoir and is now something of a hidden rural idyll. The other is the 3.3km (2 mile) ending from Wadhurst village to Wadhurst station.

These road sections, and others on gravel tracks and lanes, make this walk fairly well suited to winter. At this time of year there could be flooding at the start of the walk, where it crosses the Rother valley, though there is a road alternative to this if necessary.

Easily the best time to do the walk is in spring, however, when the lanes verges are covered in flowers and this ancient landscape looks at its best. From mid May to early June there are also

good displays of buttercups at the start of this walk, on the Robertsbridge start, and on the longer loop to Bewl Water. This is also an idyllic walk for a summer day, when there is ample daylight for a leisurely exploration of the margins of the reservoir, or in October, when the wooded landscape provides plenty of autumn colour.

Walk options - a longer start

The main walk starts at Etchingham, which gives you 7.4km (4.6 miles) to walk to the recommended lunch stop. For those who prefer a longer morning, the **Robertsbridge start** makes a very pleasant **4km (2.5 mile)** addition to the walk. Robertsbridge is the next station after Etchingham and this option takes an hour at a reasonable pace, enabling you to link up with less vigorous friends taking the train an hour later. *To do this option, start with paragraph 106 on page 9.*

Walk options - a diversion to the edge of Bewl Water

The main walk route takes you close to the edge of the picturesque Bewl Water Reservoir, but never actually visits it. These two options (one simply a longer version of the other) give you a chance to do just that.

The **Longer Bewl Water loop** spends the most time on the reservoir's edge. It explores a remote promontory that sticks right out into the reservoir, with fine panoramic views of the lake as well as intimate close-ups of the water's edge. It **adds 3.5km (2.2 miles)** to the walk length, and diverges from the main walk directions in paragraph 51 on page 6.

The **Shorter Bewl Water route into Wadhurst** is the ideal way to visit the reservoir with the minimum of effort. It is the last section of the longer loop and adds just **1.4km (0.9 miles)** to the walk length. It diverges from the main walk directions in paragraph 51 on page 6.

Train information

Etchingham and **Wadhurst** are both on the railway line from **Charing Cross** and **London Bridge** to Hastings. Trains currently stop hourly at Etchingham and half hourly at Wadhurst, taking just over an hour from London.

The train that currently leaves London around **10.15am** would be enough to get you to lunch in time, but if you want more time to explore Bewl Water in the afternoon, or if you want to get to the tearooms in Wadhurst before they close, the **9.15am** train might be more advisable. Buy a **day return to Etchingham**.

For option the **Robertsbridge start** get the **9.15am** train and buy a **day return to Robertsbridge**.

Shortening the walk with buses

The Stagecoach South East **1066 bus** runs hourly Monday to Saturday and every two hours on Sunday between Ticehurst, Wadhurst village, Wadhurst station and Tunbridge Wells station, enabling you to start or finish at Ticehurst or save yourself the 3.2km (2 mile) walk from Wadhurst village to its station. **Buses from Ticehurst** go from the shelter roughly opposite The Bell Inn hourly at 54 past till 16.54, the 1816 and 20.03 Monday to Saturday, and at 15.01 and 17.01 on Sundays. **Buses from Wadhurst** go from the Greyhound Inn eight to ten minutes after the Ticehurst times. If you are heading for London, check if it is better to stay on the bus all the way to Tunbridge Wells station (about 20 minutes after Wadhurst) which sometimes has a much more frequent train service, and is a more pleasant place to wait if you just miss a train.

To **start the walk at Ticehurst** (6.4km/4 miles into the walk) it is better to get the bus from Tunbridge Wells: it leaves from the far side of the main road on the east side of the station at 39 past the hour Monday to Saturday, and at 9.50, 11.50, 13.50 etc on Sundays. If you get off at the Bell Inn in Ticehurst and turn around to go back the way you have come, you are at paragraph 32 in the main walk directions on page 5.

Lunch

There are two possible pub lunch stops for this walk. The first you come to, 6.4km (4 miles) into the walk, is **The Bell** in Ticehurst (01580 200234). It has a spacious interior and a nice patio area with outside seatings. The menu is rather on the trendy side, with prices to match, but service is efficient and friendly. It also has a room that can be reserved by groups.

The **recommended lunch stop**, however, only 1.1km (0.6 miles) further on, is the **Bull Inn** in Three Leg Cross (01580 200 586), 7.5km (4.6 miles) into the walk. This is a large walker (and dog) friendly pub in a pleasant rural location, with plenty of outside tables in summer. It majors on table service but you can also eat in the bar area, and even when fully booked they are good at squeezing people in. It serves food 12-9pm Tuesday to Saturday and 12-4pm Sunday: closed Monday.

Ticehurst also a cafe - the **Greedy Goat** (01580 200 955) - which does some hot food and is open to 3.30pm Wednesday to Friday, 3pm Saturday and 2pm Sunday. **By the Weigh** just beyond the Bell Inn is a "zero-waste shop" which does coffee and cakes. It is open to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 3.30pm Saturday.

Ticehurst churchyard, just beyond the Greedy Goat Cafe, makes a very nice **picnic spot**, with pleasantly situated benches - this is also a pretty part of the village which is otherwise not visited on the walk. There is a **convenience store** on the corner at the start of Church Street.

Tea

On the main walk, it is 6.6km (4.1 miles) from the Bull Inn to Wadhurst Village - more if you do of the Bewl Water options: see **Walk Options** on page 2 for details.

The best place currently seems to be the **Artful Grocers**, a food store with a cafe attached, which is open till 5pm Monday to Saturday. The **Piccolo** cafe nearby keeps the same hours. Otherwise the **Jempsons** supermarket has a tea and coffee machine and good selection of cakes (you could take them to the churchyard - see paragraph 95 on page 8 - where there is a bench), while the **One Shop** convenience store has a Costa Coffee machine. Both shops are open till 10pm Monday to Saturday.

Of Wadhurst's two pubs, the **Greyhound**, the first you come to, is currently (September 2023) **closed** and to let, but 100 metres up the road the **White Hart** has been revamped and is now quite smart, serving tea in pots.

Note that it is a **3.2km (2 mile)** walk from Wadhurst village to Wadhurst station, for which it is best to leave **one hour**, though it can be walked briskly in 50 minutes. Since there are no refreshment options or other places to while away time in the vicinity of Wadhurst station, it is as well to time your departure from Wadhurst village carefully. In extremis, you can take the main road to the station, which is **2.2km/1.4 miles** by the main road), which takes about **40 minutes** to walk. See also **Shortening the walk with buses** on page 2.

WALK DIRECTIONS

*If starting from **Robertsbridge** go to paragraph 106 on page 9.*

Etchingam station to Sheepstreet Lane (2.7km/1.7 mi)

1. From platform 2, the southbound platform at Etchingam station, cross the footbridge and exit the station. Walk straight ahead down the station approach road, which in 60 metres curves left to the main road. Turn right on this.
2. In 20 metres turn right into the churchyard. Pass to the right of the church and in 100 metres exit the churchyard into a more wooded area.
3. In 80 metres pass through a gate and carry on along a road.
4. In 230 metres, just before the road turns right to cross a railway line on a brick bridge (preceded by a 'Weak Bridge' sign), leave the road by going straight ahead over a stile and carry on down the right-hand side of a field,

with a line of trees and the railway line to your right.

5. In 120 metres cross a stile to the right of a fieldgate and carry on down a car-wide strip with a hedge to your left, which in 40 metres broadens out into a wider field.
If the fields ahead look flooded, this way may be impassable. The alternative then is to return to the road and follow it over the railway line and uphill for about a kilometre to a T-junction, turning left there for another kilometre to find the turning described in paragraph 15, which will be on your right coming in this direction.
6. The right of way goes down the right-hand side of the field but this is rather boggy. The route that seems to be in common use keeps to the left edge of the field, skirting the boggy area and passing through a gap into the next field in 100 metres.
7. Cross this second field, skirting the boggy areas. In 280 metres, at its end, return to the railway line to cross into the next field over a stile to the left of a fieldgate and carry on down the right-hand edge of the field beyond.
8. In a further 350 metres, at the end of this field, go through a fieldgate and then in 10 metres turn right over a stile to cross the railway line.
9. Beyond the railway line cross another stile and keep straight on for 50 metres to cross a footbridge hidden by shrubs.
10. In 20 metres cross another footbridge (hidden by vegetation in spring and summer) and keep straight on, with no clear path, through an area of scattered shrubs, covering gradually with its left-hand edge, a line of low trees.
11. In 300 metres, in the very top left-hand corner of this area, cross a stile (hidden until you are 10 metres from it) and keep on straight ahead up a path into a mainly young growth wood.
12. The path soon starts climbing steadily and in 150 metres there is a house to your left (less visible in summer).
13. In another 170 metres the path veers left onto the gravel driveway of the house, where you turn right uphill.

14. In 350 metres you come to a road and go right on it. (Traffic is infrequent, but take care as some of it comes faster than it should.)

Sheepstreet Lane to Ticehurst (3.7km/2.3 miles)

15. In 150 metres, just opposite a house called Robinwood, turn left up a concrete driveway (signposted to Burgam and with a stone footpath marker, but both are behind you so you may not see them)
16. Follow this driveway downhill, ignoring ways off including a fork left to Brockhurst in about 100 metres.
17. In another 100 metres the drive becomes a tarmac lane and curves left.
18. In 250 metres the lane turns right and passes between a house and a converted barn. Turn left just after the house, still on the track, which is now concrete again.
19. In another 100 metres, just after passing a non-converted barn left and a wood-sided house right, curve right with the track to cross the river on a stone bridge, ignoring another concrete track to the left.
20. Beyond the bridge ignore a concrete track ahead and instead go left on another, as indicated by a yellow footpath arrow.
21. In 40 metres veer right with a concrete track, which is now running between fields
22. In 170 metres, at the top of the hill, turn left along a gravel track, following a yellow footpath arrow.
23. In 230 metres you pass a small wood on your left. In another 70 metres, just beyond the end of the wood, you enter a large field. The right of way is to turn right up the edge of this, then left around its top edge, but a path seems to be in use that goes diagonally up across the field. In either case, your destination is a clump of trees on the hilltop in the far top corner of the field.
24. In 300 metres, when you come to this far corner of the field, turn right across a stile just before a fieldgate (and just after one of the trees) and keep along the left-hand edge of the field beyond.

25. In 100 metres pass through a fieldgate and keep on down the edge of the next field.
26. In 200 metres go straight on through a metal gate, ignoring a stile to the left.
27. In another 40 metres pass through a wooden gate and keep on up the left-hand edge of a large field.
28. In 350 metres, at the very end of this field, do **not** go ahead through the green gate, but instead **turn left** over a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate, and then turn right along the top edge of a field, with a slope and view to your left.
29. In 200 metres cross a hidden stile 10 metres to the right of a rusting metal fieldgate and pass into the next field. The right of way crosses this diagonally towards the right-hand end of a wood you can see in front of the houses on the hill, but the path in common use goes up the right-hand edge of the field. In 250 metres (about 100 metres before the road ahead) turn left along a broad grassy track between fields for 150 metres to come to the wood corner. Then veer right for 130 metres to the road.
30. Turn left on the road verge, initially grassy. In 60 metres you can cross the road to the other side and follow the pavement.
31. Stay on this road all the way to the centre of Ticehurst. In 600 metres the (permanently closed?) Chequers Inn is on your right, and in 100 metres more **The Bell**, the first of two possible pub lunch stops, is on your right.
 - Turn left down Church Street opposite The Bell if you want to see the pretty centre of Ticehurst. The **Greedy Goat Cafe** is also down here in 80 metres on the left.

Ticehurst to Three Leg Cross (1.1km/0.6 miles)

32. Carry on past The Bell if not stopping, or turn right out of it after lunch, and carry on down the main road through the village. Just past the Bell, on the same side of the road, is the **By the Weigh** shop that does coffee and cakes.
33. 300 metres after The Bell turn right up a side road - Cross Lane (but the sign saying this is behind you).

34. In 150 metres the road turns left and there are fields to the right and a pleasant view.
35. In another 300 metres there is a signposted path to the left by a black water tank.
 - **If not stopping for lunch at the Bull Inn**, take this path to the left and continue with paragraph 37 below.

Otherwise, **stay on the road** to come to the Bull Inn in 150 metres.

Three Leg Cross to Birchett's Green (3km/1.9 miles)

36. After lunch turn right out of the pub and go back up the road the way you came. In 150 metres turn right up a signposted footpath next to a black tank.
37. Carry on up a grassy track between orchards, with a line of trees to your right.
38. In 200 metres, at the top of the field, pass through a gap into the next one and immediately turn left through another gap onto a wide grassy path with young cobnut bushes to your right and trees to your left.
39. In 30 metres, at the very top of the hill, turn half right, slightly downhill, on a car-wide grassy strip between two plantations, aiming for a two-armed footpath sign at the end of a windbreak hedge 80 metres away.
40. Keep to the left of the windbreak hedge when you get to it, heading downhill, with the plantation still to your left.
41. In 170 metres, at the bottom of the field, go straight on into a wood. The path curves left initially and then in 40 metres goes more steeply downhill.
42. In 130 metres more cross a stream on a wooden footbridge and beyond veer left following a footpath arrow.
43. In 120 metres the path narrows between fences and in another 100 metres it climbs steps to a path T-junction. Go right here, passing through a gate in 20 metres.
44. In 60 metres you emerge onto a tarmac drive with a house with an unusual pyramidal oast house tower ahead. Keep to the right of this, up a fenced in path that starts in 40 metres.

45. In another 60 metres cross a stile and carry on down the right-hand edge of a field. In another 80 metres cross a stile and turn left on a road.
46. In 130 metres turn right downhill on a side road.
47. You now stay on this quiet road for 2.3km (1.4 miles). It descends in stages, turning decisively right in 450 metres (ignore a private driveway straight ahead to Upper Tolhurst Oast), and going downhill for 200 metres more, before turning left in front of three wood-sided houses.
48. You are now climbing between high hedges. In 200 metres the road tops out and passes through more wooded territory, starting to descend gently again in 170 metres, and bottoming out and starting to climb once more in 270 metres.
49. You now face a steady climb for 450 metres, initially in a deep gully and then in the open between high hedges.
50. Eventually the road starts to descend again. In an other 100 metres, at a three-way road junction, turn right uphill, signposted Wards Lane.
51. In another 400 metres, near the top of the hill and at the point where the trees end on both sides of the road, **you have a choice**
- **To continue on the main walk**, (3.1km/1.9 miles) to Wadhurst village from this point), *turn left off the road* through a fieldgate with yellow arrows on it and keep on down the right-hand side of a field. Continue with paragraph 77 on page 7.
 - For the **Longer Bewl Water loop** (7.1km/4.4 miles from this point into Wadhurst village) *stay on the road* and refer to paragraph 52 opposite.
 - For **the Shorter Bewl Water loop** (4.5km/2.8 miles from this point to Wadhurst village) *stay on the road*. In 150 metres ignore a tarmac driveway to the right to Chesson's Farm and in another 150 metres one to the left to Southfields. In another 200 metres **turn left** down a side lane signposted Bewl Water Route and also New Barn and Bryant's House. In 200 metres ignore a concrete drive to the right but in 50 metres more, as the lane

curves right to a house, turn left up a broad earth and gravel path, signposted Bewl Water Route. Continue with paragraph 66 overleaf.

Longer Bewl Water loop **(7.1km/4.4 miles)**

52. In 150 metres turn right up tarmac driveway to Chesson's Farm.
53. In 350 metres, in the farmyard, ignore a track to the left and keep straight on for 70 metres to pass through double fieldgates and down the left-hand edge of a field.
54. In 250 metres turn left through double wooden gates in the hedge **, and beyond them go right and then left along a windbreak hedge between two fields. (It is not clear which side of the windbreak the path goes: either is fine, but the views are nicer on the right-hand side.)
- ** The section between these double wooden gates and the road in paragraph 56 is a permissive path. If permission to use this route is withdrawn, the right of way keeps straight on down the field edge (ie not turning left through the gates) and comes down to the road: turn left on this for 200 metres to find a path on the right, mentioned in paragraph 56.*
55. In 150 metres, after the end of the windbreak hedge, turn right downhill along the far edge of the field, with a new windbreak hedge to your left.
56. In 170 metres pass through a wooden kissing gate, cross a road (veering slightly to the left), and go straight on down a path which crosses a footbridge and goes downhill in a tunnel of over-arching shrubs between fields.
57. In 150 metres you emerge into an open space. Veer left here, following a fence to the left, along the edge of the reservoir (which is as little 10 metres away when the reservoir is full, but normally much further off).
58. In 500 metres there is a bench downhill to the right (just out of the water when the reservoir is high) and a house uphill to the left, and the path goes straight on into a wooded area, soon emerging on the edge of the field, with the field fence to your left.

59. In 150 metres at the end of the field turn left with the fence and in 30 metres enter a wood. The path goes down into a dip and up again and in 100 metres again emerges into the open.
60. In another 100 metres you go back into woodland. After another 200 metres you cross a footbridge.
61. 100 metres after the bridge, the path forks. At low water you can keep straight on, but this path is flooded at high water: at such times take the left fork up steps and along the fence. The two paths rejoin in 170 metres.
62. 100 metres after the paths rejoin you cross a tarmac lane and are briefly in the open, with a hut and bench to the right, before plunging back into the woods.
63. The path now runs dead straight and level through the wood for 400 metres, before turning right with a fence either side, and in 70 metres more climbing some steps to emerge onto a concrete drive.
64. Turn left uphill on the concrete drive, following a sign for Wards Lane and Hook Straight.
65. In 300 metres you come to a T-junction with a tarmac road. Go right on this, and in 50 metres more, as the lane curves right to a house, turn left up a broad earth and gravel path, signposted Bewl Water Route.
66. The path is level and then gently descends. In 250 metres it turns directly downhill to the right.
67. In 100 metres pass through a kissing gate. Go left, passing through a clearing in 40 metres and in 100 metres more emerging into the open.
68. In 100 metres there are trees to your right and in 100 metres more you re-enter the woods, curve right (almost doubling back on yourself) and cross a stream, to gradually emerge into the open once more.
69. Carry on along the edge of the reservoir (or where the edge of the reservoir should be) with a fence to your left, curving around a promontory.
70. In 600 metres you are back in woods again. In another 200 metres the path descends and curves sharp right, once again almost doubling back on itself.
71. Open fields can soon be seen over a wooden fence to your left. In another 500 metres, as the path starts to descend after going over a long rise, **turn left over a stile** in the wooden fence marked 'Footpath to Wadhurst 1 mile'.
72. After the stile keep to the right-hand edge of a field, with a wood to the right.
73. In 200 metres, 60 metres beyond the end of the wood, cross a stile on the right-hand edge of the field, to emerge onto a path under trees.
74. Follow this path (soon a farm track) uphill for 700 metres all the way to a farm. Carry on through the farm buildings, still on the track, until in 250 metres you come to a road.
75. Keep straight uphill on this road. In 400 metres this brings you to the centre of **Wadhurst village**, opposite the (currently closed and to let) **Greyhound** pub, with the stop for the **1066 bus** just before it. On the corner to the right of the Greyhound is the **Artful Grocers**, a possible tea stop.
76. Turn right on the main road through the village. In 100 metres more on the left-hand side of the road is the **White Hart** pub, with the **One Shop** convenience store just beyond it. In another 50 metres on the same side is **Jempsons** supermarket, with the **Piccolo** cafe just beyond it.
- After tea, you can if you wish **carry on along the main road** to Wadhurst station, which is a 2.2km (1.4 mile) walk (*allow 40 minutes*) with pavement all the way. However for **a more tranquil route**, 1km (0.6 miles) longer (*allow an hour*), continue with paragraph 95 on page 8.
- Main walk route into Wadhurst (3.6km/2.2 miles)**
77. In 200 metres, at the bottom of the field, pass through a line of trees and turn left along its far side, with the valley to your right. Descend in a gully along the edge of the field.
78. In 200 metres this brings you to double fieldgates: pass through them and cross a stream on a track bridge. Beyond carry on up a grassy track, with a fence and wood to your right.

79. After about 100 metres veer left away from the wood, following the faint track as it curves right and up around the bowl of the hill, eventually heading for a point between two houses at the top of the hill.
80. In another 200 metres, as you approach these houses (you can now see that actually there are three of them), aim to the right of the first house and a large tree to its right, to pass through a fieldgate 20 metres beyond it and turn left on a tarmac drive.
81. Follow the drive as it curves right uphill. In 170 metres, as the gradient eases, a fine view opens out to the right, again with the spire of Wadhurst church on the horizon.
82. In another 150 metres, where a field ends to your right, turn right down stone steps and through a rusty metal kissing gate to carry on downhill with a wire fence to your right (and a hedge which at time of writing had just been cut down).
83. After 100 metres veer slightly left away from the fence, heading for a point about 100 metres to the left of the bottom right-hand corner of the field.
84. In 150 metres or so, as you approach the tree boundary, you can see that the actual exit from the field is even further left, across a stile about 70 metres to the left of two large oak trees.
85. Cross this stile and 5 metres beyond it veer left onto a clear path through the wood.
86. In 100 metres this path veers right to cross a ditch on a car-wide bridge with metal rails. Beyond this veer slightly right to follow a track that emerges in 20 metres into a large field (ignoring a fieldgate to the left halfway up the track).
87. Veer left up the edge of this field, steadily climbing with a fence to your left.
88. In 400 metres, at the end of the field, you come to a dark wood. Turn right directly uphill along its edge.
89. Halfway up this climb turn around for a fine view back. Otherwise, in 200 metres, at the top of the hill, exit the field by a concealed gap in its top left-hand corner (**not** the more obvious car wide gap 30 metres to the right of the corner).
90. Cross the lane and pass to the right of a metal fieldgate (which should be directly opposite if you came out of the right gap).
91. Veer diagonally left across the field beyond, on a faint grassy path that heads for its far corner.
92. In 250 metres, when you reach this corner, cross a stile and turn right on the main road (there is a pavement).
93. In 600 metres you come to the centre of Wadhurst, passing the **Greyhound** Inn on your left first, with the stop for the 1066 bus just before it. Just beyond the pub, on the left-hand side, is the **Artful Grocer**, a possible tea stop.
94. In 100 metres more on the left-hand side of the road is the **White Hart** pub, with the **One Shop** convenience store just beyond it. In another 50 metres is the **Jempsons** supermarket, with the **Piccolo** cafe just beyond it.
- After tea, you can if you wish **carry on along the main road** to Wadhurst station, which is a 2.2km (1.4 mile) walk (*allow 40 minutes*) with pavement all the way. However for **a more tranquil route**, 1km (0.6 miles) longer (*allow an hour*), see the next section.
- To Wadhurst station via the back lanes (3.2km/2 miles)**
95. Turn sharp right up the little side road (Church Road) *opposite* the White Hart – and in 50 metres turn left along the brick path into the churchyard.
96. Follow the path round the left side of the church, to reach a metal kissing gate in 70 metres. Beyond this, keep on along an earth footpath, with a hedge to your right.
97. In 250 metres go down some steps and turn left down a lane.
98. In 150 metres take the lane forking left uphill.
99. In 400 metres keep straight on across a crossroads, on Turners Green Road.
100. In 150 metres fork left, and in 70 metres keep straight on at another crossroads, still on Turners Green Road.

- 101. In 180 metres, as a lane comes in from the right, turn left across a stile, heading towards the left side of a house on the far side of the field.
- 102. In 100 metres pass through a gate and in another 100 metres cross a stile and continue down the right-hand edge of a field with a fence left.
- 103. In 150 metres exit the bottom of the field and turn left down a lane.
- 104. In 180 metres turn right at a T-junction.
- 105. Stay on this lane for a kilometre, until it turns left and climbs steeply uphill for 130 metres to the main road. Turn left on the main road for 80 metres to reach **Wadhurst station** through its car park on your right.

Robertsbridge to Etchingam (4km/2.5 miles)

*This is the **Robertsbridge start**.*

- 106. Exit platform 2 at Robertsbridge (the southbound platform) and turn right down the station approach road. In 40 metres turn right on the main road to cross a level crossing.
- 107. 20 metres beyond the crossing, just beyond the first house on the right-hand side, turn right up a tarmac path, a signposted footpath.
- 108. Follow this path as it turns right and left between fences. But in 80 metres, where the path turns left towards houses, keep straight ahead up an earth and stone path, with the railway station to your right.
- 109. In 200 metres pass through a kissing gate into a field and keep on downhill on its right-hand edge, ignoring any paths that seem to slant left.
- 110. In 200 metres, in the field corner, pass through a band of trees to emerge into the next field. Keep on down its right-hand edge.
- 111. In another 250 metres, at the far end of this field, keep straight on along a footbridge and broadwalk, ignoring a signposted path to the right going in an arch under the railway line.
- 112. Beyond the broadwalk turn left uphill up a narrow field, following a footpath sign.
- 113. In 200 metres, at the top of this field, pass through a gap into a much larger field and turn right along its near edge, heading uphill following a footpath sign, ignoring paths ahead and half right.
- 114. In 100 metres, where the field is narrowed to a corner by a fence, veer left just beyond the end of the fence to carry on uphill on a path between fences with fields either side.
- 115. In 120 metres veer right through a gate and turn left up the edge of the next field to resume your former direction.
- 116. Ignore a signposted path to the right in 30 metres. Instead keep on for 50 metres more to the field corner. Here pass through a metal gate by a hut and keep on across the track beyond it and on down the right-hand edge of a small plantation of cobnut (hazel) trees.
- 117. In 120 metres, at the bottom of the hill, cross a footbridge and climb wooden steps for 40 metres to pass into a field. Keep straight on diagonally across this.
- 118. In 300 metres cross a brick bridge over a stream. In 20 metres pass to the *left* of the hedgerow in front of you down the right-hand edge of a field.
- 119. In 80 metres pass through a gap and veer left then right to carry on in your former direction up a track along the left-hand side of a field, climbing a hill.
- 120. In 130 metres, at the top of the hill, veer left with the track up a bank and carry on down the left-hand edge of a neighbouring field.
- 121. In 200 metres exit the field in its corner to emerge into a farmyard. Turn right before a barn onto a concrete track. In another 30 metres pass to the **left** of a four-armed footpath sign and a fence onto a concrete track that leads to houses, **ignoring a car-wide grassy path to the right of the signpost and fence** that curves right downhill.
- 122. In 60 metres curve right in front of the houses on the concrete drive to emerge into a field and turn left along its upper edge, with a wood to your left.

- 123.** In 150 metres, at the end of the field, curve right downhill with the wood edge. In 20 metres turn left into the wood, with a wire fence to your left, and follow a car-wide path downhill and around the top of a bowl in the hillside (which has some **bluebells** in late April/early May).
- 124.** In 170 metres the path goes more steeply downhill and in 80 metres it emerges into a plantation of more regularly spaced trees (a former orchard?), where it veers right and then in 60 metres left to emerge in 60 metres more in the corner of a field. Keep on along the right-hand side of this field, with a fence to your left and a tree boundary and river to your right.
- 125.** In 200 metres pass through a kissing gate and carry on up the right-hand edge of the next field.
- 126.** In 300 metres pass through a kissing gate and turn left uphill along the field boundary.
- 127.** In 150 metres, at the top of the hill, pass between two large trees right and a farm complex left and carry straight on towards a hard-to-see kissing gate just to the left of two oaks in the far left-hand corner of the field 100 metres away.
- 128.** Pass through this kissing gate, cross a track and pass through another kissing gate, and keep straight on diagonally downhill, heading for a fieldgate in the corner of the field.
- 129.** In 170 metres pass through the fieldgate and keep on in the same direction diagonally across the next field towards the houses of **Etchingham** on a faint grassy track.
- 130.** In 100 metres you pass what looks like a large shrub (marking the position of a stream) to the right. After this veer right to go across a concrete footbridge in 60 metres and pass through a kissing gate to the right of a white house to the road. Cross the road and turn right on it.

- 131.** In 100 metres, just when you get to the far end of the churchyard, turn left up its furthest edge.

*Continue with the **second** sentence of paragraph 2 on page 3.*