

Main walk	Harrietsham extension last checked		
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## Yalding to Sutton Valence via the Greensand Way

**An easy ridge walk in the Kent apple orchards, with fine views throughout**

<b>Length</b>	<b>Main walk</b>	15.3km (9.5 miles)
	<b>Yalding to Harrietsham</b>	24.3km (15.1 miles)

**Toughness** 3 out of 10: gentle climbing, all in the morning: 240m (775ft) of ascent

**Maps** Landranger 188 has the whole route. On the Explorer maps the route meanders irritatingly across three sheets: the very start is on Explorer 136, much of the middle is on Explorer 148, though crossing at one point into Explorer 137, and then Explorer 137 covers the very end of the walk.

### Features

This walk is entirely on the Greensand Way, whose waymarks are reasonably good for the most part, but have a habit of disappearing when you need them most: hence these directions. On a few sections where the route is obvious for some distance, this has been indicated in the walk directions.

After starting on the flat in the Medway Valley and passing through the pretty village of **Yalding**, the route climbs in very gentle stages up onto the Greensand Ridge and follows it for the rest of the walk, with fine views to the south almost the whole day.

This is classic 'Garden of England' Kent, with many commercial apple orchards (particularly pretty when the blossom is out in late April or early May). In the afternoon it passes no fewer than four ancient churches, the most striking perhaps being **Boughton Monchelsea**, perched on the very edge of escarpment, with a graveyard which in late spring and early summer is a riot of oxeye daisies and other wildflowers.

The lunch pub in **Linton** is also dramatically perched on the edge of the escarpment, and has a garden and terrace with fine views. At the end of the walk **Sutton Valence** is an ancient village which is worth exploring, not least because of its three pubs.

## Walk options

A **9km (5.6 mile)** extension to this walk takes you to **Harrietsham** railway station, making a total walk of **24.3km (15.1 miles)**. This takes in a further very scenic 5.3km (3.3 mile) section of the Greensand Way, ending at the attractive **Pepper Box** pub. But thereafter the descent to Harrietsham is more prosaic, albeit improved in late March and early April by displays of wood anemone in a coppiced (managed) woodland.

## Transport

**Yalding** is reached by train from **Charing Cross** and **London Bridge**, changing at Tonbridge or Paddock Wood. Journey time is about one hour.

Take the **10.10 train** from **Charing Cross** to get to the pub in good time for lunch, though on **Sunday** a train an hour earlier might be a better option due to the bus schedule at the end of the walk (see below). *Note that the online rail timetable suggests the 10.15 train from Charing Cross, but this requires a very tight change at Tonbridge where you have to cross from one side of the station to the other; the 10.10 allows you to change at Paddock Wood, where the Yalding train leaves from the same platform.*

Best train ticket is probably a **day return to Headcorn** (if you intend to get the bus to there rather than Maidstone: see below), though an over-zealous ticket inspector might then charge you for the short journey from Paddock Wood to Yalding. If you want to be absolutely sure, get a day return to Yalding, and then buy a single from Headcorn to Paddock Wood on the return leg. *(A day return to Yalding is also the right ticket if you plan to return from Maidstone: see below).*

**At the end of the walk**, you need to get the **Arriva Kent & Sussex bus number 12** from Sutton Valence to Headcorn railway station, journey time 10 minutes. From Headcorn you can get trains every half hour back to London. These buses (whose ultimate destination is usually Tenterden) run roughly hourly until 6pm Monday to Saturday, and then at 8.16pm and 9.46pm, but on Sunday the last bus is at 5.30pm. These details are correct at time of writing, but check the latest on [www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk) or call 0871 200 2233.

The **bus fare** is £3.40 per person, so for four or five walkers a **taxi** would not necessarily be that much more expensive. The taxi firm at Headcorn station is **MTC Cars** on 01622 890 003.

It is also possible to get the number 12 bus in the opposite direction to **Maidstone** and catch a train home from there: but this is a longer and more tedious bus journey (22 minutes), and once in Maidstone you have to head north up the town's pedestrianised high street to find Maidstone East station. If you are planning to take this option, buy a day return to Yalding, which is valid for return from Maidstone.

If you are planning to do the extension to **Harrietsham**, get a **day return to Yalding** and pay the excess on your return journey for the three stops between Harrietsham and Maidstone East. Or you could try a **day return to Ashford International**, which is where the Paddock Wood and Harrietsham lines meet. Trains from Harrietsham go into Victoria hourly, taking 70 minutes.

## Lunch

**The Bull Inn**, Linton Hill, Linton (01622 743 612 [www.thebullatlinton.co.uk](http://www.thebullatlinton.co.uk)), 9km (5.6 miles) into the walk, is a pleasant Shepherd Neame pub, with a good number of tables inside, and a garden with a large terrace and fine views out over the Medway valley. It serves food from 12-9pm daily, with an extensive meal menu from Monday to Saturday, but on Sunday the only choice is a carvery or baguettes.

**Yalding** village also has two pubs whose locations are marked in the walk directions. But this is really too early in the walk to stop for lunch.

For **picnics**, the field with a view in paragraph 47 of the walk directions might be possible, but a better option is probably one of the churchyards (so long as their wardens don't object). The churchyard at Boughton Monchelsea (paragraph 59), 10.8km (6.7 miles) into the walk, is particularly nice, with panoramic view and a well-situated bench.

## Tea

If you are lucky in summer one of the churches in the afternoon might be serving teas.

**Buttercups Goat Sanctuary** ([www.buttercups.org.uk](http://www.buttercups.org.uk)) in paragraph 70 of the directions, also has a cafe, open 11am to 4pm daily from April to October, but to access this you have to go into the goat sanctuary, to which entrance is "by donation".

Otherwise, **Sutton Valence** has two pubs. The most obvious one is the **King's Head**, next to the bus stop. It serves hot deserts and has a small garden. However it is also worth taking the first left off the main road downhill from it to get into the attractive heart of the village. In a few dozen metres this brings you to the **Queen's Head**, which serves tea, has a pleasantly old-fashioned interior, and has a garden (to the right of the smokers' patio out the back) which has a view over the rooftops to the valley below.

If a convenient bus is waiting to take you to **Headcorn**, it also has good tea options. Get off at the main stop in the village (the one before the railway station) and you will find yourself outside the **George & Dragon** (01622 890 293), which not only does a proper tea with cakes, but is a good place for an evening meal. It is about ten minutes walk down the main road from there to the railway station. Next door to it is **Bill's Village Tea Rooms**, but these close at 4.45pm Monday to Saturday and 4.30pm on Sunday. **Costa Coffee** nearby is open until 7pm Monday to Saturday and 6pm Sundays, however.

Headcorn also has a **fish and chip** shop and a **Chinese takeaway**, as well as a **Sainsbury** supermarket open till late.

On the **extension to Harrietsham**, the only tea stop is now the **Pepper Box**, a rural pub 3.7km (2.3 miles) from the end of the walk. It is rather inconveniently closed from 3pm to 6pm Monday to Saturday, however, and after 5pm on Sundays. Allow an hour to walk from here to Harrietsham station. There are no refreshment options near the station itself.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

### Yalding station to Buston Manor (4.1 km/2.6 miles)

1. Exit Yalding station (crossing the footbridge to the other platform if coming from Tonbridge or Paddock Wood), cross its car park and turn left on the main road.
2. In 150 metres the road crosses a canal on a bridge and then runs alongside it.
3. In 400 metres you pass a lock and (staying on the road) cross an old stone bridge (**no footway, so take great care**) over the River Medway.
4. Immediately beyond the bridge turn left onto a grassy footpath that runs up the middle of the riverside meadow
5. In 170 metres pass to the right of a large oak tree in 170 metres, and carry on across a concrete footbridge.
6. In 200 metres, at the top right hand corner of the meadow, rejoin the road and keep straight on along it into the village of Yalding.
7. The road curves to the right. In 200 metres, 40 metres before the **George**
8. **Inn**, turn left up a side road and across a long stone bridge over the River Beult and its watermeadow.
9. Carry on up the road beyond, past the church, and through a pretty old part of the village.
10. In 250 metres, just before the cross of the war memorial, and with the **Walnut Tree** pub ahead to the left, turn right up a side road.
11. In 30 metres veer left up Windmill Path, a tarmac path between houses.
12. In 150 metres you come to a residential road, where you go left.
13. In 25 metres ignore a road to the left, but in another 30 metres turn right up Mount Avenue.
14. In 170 metres, just before the road turns right into a new housing development, turn left through a kissing gate and carry on up a path that turns left, initially along a wooden garden fence.
15. In 500 metres the path turns sharp left following a high wooden fence and in

- 60 metres comes to a kissing gate. Beyond it, turn right on a tarmac lane
15. In 150 metres, just after passing a double fieldgate to the right, turn left up a signposted byway.
  16. In 500 metres, just before a field ends to your right, turn right through a kissing gate. Follow the ridge line, with a field boundary to your left and a fine view to the right.
  17. In 250 metres or so the line of scrub to your left ends and the path climbs a small rise to merge with a grassy track between two fields, still following the line of the ridge.
  18. In another 200 metres you are passing in front of a large and ancient manor farm (**Buston Manor**).
  19. In another 200 metres, at the top of a rise, pass through a car-blocking barrier and keep straight on through the farm, passing to the left of former oast houses (buildings with conical roofs once used to dry hops).
- Buston Manor to Linton**  
**(4.9km/3 miles)**
20. Beyond the oast houses pass some houses to your right. 50 metres beyond these, where the tarmac lane curves left uphill, keep straight on along a grassy track between fields, following a yellow Greensand Way arrow on a mini pylon pole.
  21. In 80 metres there is a wood to your right. Where the wood ends in another 200 metres, after a coppiced section where the trees are lower, veer slightly left to keep on a track on a low bank between fields, ignoring a grassy track downhill along the field edge to the right.
  22. In 100 metres, just as the track starts to curve right downhill past a footpath post, **turn left, directly uphill** towards the wooded top of the ridge.
  23. In 150 metres follow a line of scrub on your left-hand side, still going directly uphill.
  24. In another 100 metres, as the field edge curves left, **turn left through a kissing gate** and up steps.
  25. At the top of the steps turn right onto a path that follows the edge of a wooded area.
  26. In 170 metres go through a metal gate to the right of a rusted metal fieldgate and after it resume your former direction along the line of the ridge.
  27. In 40 metres turn right on a road, downhill.
  28. In 70 metres pass the entrance to Hillside left and in another 60 metres the entrance to Oast House Cottage and Weaver House.
  29. In another 30 metres turn left down the driveway to Barn Hill Oast and Jennings Oast, following the Greensand Way sign.
  30. Follow this earth and gravel track as it curves past a pretty old house and oast houses.
  31. In 150 metres keep to the right of the gateway to Barn Hill Oast to pass alongside its garden fence, following a footpath sign.
  32. In 60 metres turn left uphill with the path, still with a garden fence to your left.
  33. In 40 metres turn right between an orchard and an open field, picking up a line of trees along a bank to your left.
  34. Keep to this field boundary as it slants uphill. In 400 metres you come to a small wooden gate on the left. Pass through this and turn right along a wire fence.
  35. In 100 metres curve left with the field boundary for 30 metres and then descend through a gap to a main road.
  36. Turn right down this road, **taking EXTREME care** as this is a **busy** (during the week at least) **narrow road**, with **high banks**, and **poor sightlines**. *It is frankly a scandal that the Greensand Way disgorges onto such a dangerous road, but there is no alternative, and the section on the road is not long.*
  37. In 50 metres you pass a turning to a house on the left, which is unfortunately **not** the path. Instead continue along the road for another 60 metres to find **a not very visible set of steps** up to the left, which is signposted as a footpath, but not at all clearly.
  38. At the top of the steps you emerge into an orchard, and keep on along its top left-hand edge, with a wood to your left (*with **bluebells** in it in late April and early May*).

39. The way is not in doubt until in 400 metres, just past a second line of windbreak trees, the path forks either side of a hedge. The official route keeps to the left-hand side of the hedge (ignoring a track that soon veers uphill to the left), but the right-hand side is easier, with nicer views, and seems in common use.
40. In another 200 metres, at the end of the next field, turn left through a gap in the hedge to a three-way path junction. Turn right here (ie, still following the line of the ridge) with a tall windbreak hedge to your left and the orchard and view to your right.
41. In 150 metres, at the end of the next field, turn left uphill on a car-wide track, away from a metal fieldgate.
42. In 50 metres turn right with the track towards an oast house.
43. In 70 metres ignore a track to the left and keep straight on past the oast house and other houses.
44. In 80 metres, where the track ends, keep on up a path between a hedge left and orchard right. Follow this path as it bends right and then left.
45. In 200 metres turn left uphill on a road, and then in five metres turn right again, following the Greensand Way sign, with an orchard to your right and a hedge to your left.
46. The next 800 metres is a very straightforward walk along a clearly defined path along the edge of orchards and fruit fields, crossing a track about half way.
47. At the end of this section you pass through a (missing) kissing gate and cross a wood and metal footbridge over a sunken road. Beyond, keep straight on across an expanse of rough grass, with a nice view of **Linton**, your lunch time stop, ahead to the right.
48. In 150 metres pass through a gap in the hedge into a wooded area, emerging in another 200 metres into a field (a former plum orchard).
49. In another 150 metres you come to a road, where you turn right, downhill. In 100 metres **The Bull Inn**, the lunch pub, is on your right.

### **Linton to Boughton Monchelsea (1.8km/1.1 mi)**

50. After lunch come out of The Bull and **cross the main road with care** to enter the churchyard of **St Nicholas Church** by the path just to the right of the war memorial.
51. Skirt round to the right of the church and keep on through the churchyard on a tarmac path.
52. In 150 metres leave the churchyard by a metal kissing gate and keep on along the right-hand edge of a field, following a wooden fence.
53. From here the path carries straight on to the church of Boughton Monchelsea (paragraph 59 below), but in more detail:
54. In 200 metres cross a drive leading to a grand house (Linton Park, once home of the Earls of Cornwallis), and beyond it veer slightly left to a kissing gate 30 metres away. Carry on beyond the kissing gate on a path fenced off from a field.
55. In 250 metres pass through a kissing gate and in another 250 metres you come to a road. Cross this and keep on down a tarmac drive to Loddington Oast.
56. In 80 metres, at the end of the drive, keep on down a footpath.
57. In 50 metres emerge into an orchard and keep straight on down its left-hand edge. In 100 metres the Greensand Way seems to keep to the left of a windbreak hedge.
58. In another 180 metres, at the end of the next field, pass through a gap in a hedge onto a path fenced off from an orchard to the right.
59. In 300 metres ignore a path to the left and instead pass through a kissing gate slightly to the right, to come to a road in 20 metres.

The onward route is to **turn left, uphill** on the road, but first it is worth turning right for 40 metres to visit **Boughton Monchelsea church**. The graveyard to the rear of the church has a fine view over the Medway Valley, and a bench which makes a particularly fine **picnic** stop (if the church wardens don't object). A section of the cemetery further down the hill is an absolute riot of wildflowers in late spring.

## **Boughton Monchelsea to Chart Hill (2.8km/1.7 miles)**

60. Having turned left up the road in paragraph 59, in 60 metres turn right off the road up a tarmac path, which in 5 metres turns left along a wall, following a Greensand Way arrow. In 25 metres carry on across a small wood (*full of celandines, bluebells and wild garlic in spring, but coppiced down to its stumps in 2021*).
61. On the far side of the wood cross a parking area to pass through a kissing gate.
62. Beyond keep straight ahead to pass to the left of two rounded evergreens in 30 metres.
63. After the evergreens keep straight on on a faint grass path, crossing a tarmac path in 40 metres and carrying on along a slight shelf down the centre of a big grassy field.
64. You are now on another straight section of the Greensand Way, with no turn until the second road you cross (paragraph 71). But in more detail:
65. In 300 metres pass into a wooded strip (*again heavily coppiced in 2021: some bluebells here*) and in 20 metres more go through a metal gate and straight on down a path with a hedgerow right and wire fence left.
66. In 200 metres keep straight on at a path junction on a path that in 5 metres veers left and then in 10 metres right past a redundant wooden fieldgate to resume its former direction, with a wooded strip right and a fenced-off field to the left.
67. In 200 metres pass through another wooded strip and out along another path along the right-hand edge of a fenced-off field.
68. In another 200 metres pass through a wooden gate and keep on down a car-wide path.
69. In 50 metres pass through a rusty metal kissing gate to cross a tarmac lane and go on through a metal kissing gate on its far side (**not** the double wooden fieldgates).
70. Keep on through a gravel car park.  
*(To the right is **Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats**, "the only registered goat charity in the whole of the UK that takes into care goats that have suffered from cruelty, neglect and abandonment". Open 11am-4pm daily from April to October, entrance is "by donation": it also has a **cafe**.)*
71. In the top right-hand corner of the car park go through two kissing gates 30 metres apart and turn right on a road.
72. In 40 metres turn left up a side road.
73. In 60 metres curve right with the road. In another 60 metres, opposite a house called Cavaliers on the right-hand side, turn left into a field through a rusted metal fieldgate, and immediately turn right downhill.
74. In 70 metres, at the bottom of the field, go down steps with a wooden rail and curve left onto a track between arable fields
75. Keep straight on until in 500 metres you pass into a wooded field boundary, descending steep stone steps.
76. At the bottom of the steps, turn right and then in 5 metres take the left fork, uphill. In 30 metres more you find yourself on a track with an orchard to the right and a tree boundary to the left.
77. In 150 metres, 30 metres after the end of a field to the right, ignore a track downhill to the right, and instead slant left uphill on another track.
78. Where the track goes into an orchard in 40 metres more, keep to the **right** of a hedgerow on a path right on the edge of the escarpment, following a Greensand Way arrow (currently fallen over).
79. The path immediately starts to descend the escarpment following a rather decrepit metal tube fence, and then goes straight down the slope on stone steps.
80. At the bottom of the steps turn left on a path, following the edge of an orchard.
81. In 150 metres after a boggy area you cross a plank footbridge and go up steps into a commercial orchard. Go straight on, diagonally uphill, across this.
82. In 100 metres turn right along the bottom of a wooded escarpment on a track.
83. In 250 metres this brings you to the houses of **Chart Hill** and a three-way

road junction. Here go straight head, up Chart Road.

### **Chart Hill to Sutton Valence** **(1.8km/1.1 miles)**

84. You can, if you wish, follow this relatively quiet road for 1.6km into Sutton Valence. But to escape the tarmac and visit another interesting church, turn left up a side road (Church Road) in 750 metres (about 100 metres after you pass two houses on the left).
85. In 100 metres turn right up the lane to **St Michael's Church**, Chart Sutton.
86. When you get to the church (is that a horse-mounting block to the left of its gate?), enter the churchyard, and pass to the right of the church.
87. In 80 metres, just past the end of the church, turn left up a grassy path to a gate in 30 metres.
88. Pass through the gate and turn right on a track. Almost immediately you can see the church tower of Sutton Valence ahead.
89. You now keep straight on to **Sutton Valence** village. The track in fact passes some way to the left of the church: in 500 metres, when you are nearly level with it, ignore two tracks to the right and instead keep straight ahead down a less well defined track.
90. In 80 metres pass through a metal kissing gate to the left of a fieldgate and carry on another 70 metres to the main road.
91. 200 metres to your left here, on the same side of the road, is the bus stop for Maidstone, but **for the bus to Headcorn** and for Sutton Valence's pubs **cross the road with care** and turn right downhill.
92. In 100 metres you pass the **Kings Head** on your left. The **bus stop** for Headcorn is just in front of the pub (strictly speaking on its near left-hand corner).
  - For the **extension to Harrietsham** continue with the directions in paragraph 93 opposite.
  - For the **Queen's Head** and the **picturesque centre of Sutton Valence**, turn left up the side road just beyond the Kings Head. Fork left for the Queen's Head, visible to your left. Carry on past the pub for

200 metres to come to the centre of the village.

Once on the bus, **Headcorn** is the next stop of any significance, in 10 minutes. The bus turns left into the main street of the village and the bus stop here is just outside of the **George & Dragon**, a possible tea or dinner stop. This part of the village also has **Bill's Village Tea Rooms**, a **Costa Coffee, fish and chip shop**, a **Chinese takeaway** and a **Sainsbury** supermarket that is open till late.

If you want to go direct to **Headcorn railway station**, stay on the bus to the next stop after the George & Dragon. If you have stopped at the George & Dragon, the station is about 10 minutes walk further along the main road.

### **Sutton Valence to the** **Pepper Box (5.3km/3.3 miles)**

*This is the **extension to Harrietsham**.*

93. Coming out of the King's Head pub turn right and just after (uphill) from it turn right up a side lane, signposted Greensand Way. (*If coming from the main walk route **without stopping at the pub, turn left just before it up this side lane.***) Continue with the directions in paragraph 94 below.
  - **Alternatively** if you want to see the **pretty village centre** of Sutton Valence or **visit its other pubs**, turn *left* out of the King's Head, or carry on **past** it if coming from the main walk route, and then turn left up the side road just beyond (*downhill* from) it. Keep to the left fork to pass the **Queen's Head** on the left. In 300 metres keep to the left of a chapel on a road climbing uphill. In 70 metres the raised footway to the left of the road becomes much higher. In another 150 metres, at the top of the hill, the footway ends by a house on the left. In another 100 metres the Greensand Way joins down steps from the left. Resume the directions in paragraph 99 overleaf.
94. In 150 metres, where the tarmac ends, keep on up a track with the grand buildings of Sutton Valence School to your left.

95. In 100 metres more emerge into an open space and keep on along its right-hand edge. In 40 metres ignore a signposted path down steps to the right.
96. In 100 metres more pass through a field boundary and keep to the right-hand edge of the next open space.
97. In 100 metres more pass a hedge. In another 50 metres ignore a track forking right through a fieldgate (and a path down wooden steps to the right just before it), to keep straight on between trees left and a hedge right.
98. In 60 metres more, in the far corner of the field, keep straight on down some wooden steps to the road.
99. Stay on this road, ignoring ways off. In 350 metres you come to a crossroads with Boyton Court Road right and Pleasure House Lane left. **Here there is a choice.**
- **The official route of the Greensand Way** is to veer left through a gap marked by a concrete footpath sign into a commercial orchard. If you do this, carry on with the directions in paragraph 100.
  - An **alternative**, less muddy in winter, is to **stay on the road** by going straight ahead at the crossroads. In 450 metres the road turns left around a brick house. In 80 metres turn right at a road junction signposted Greensand Way and resume the directions in paragraph 105.
100. Having veered left through the gap into an orchard, the path should carry on diagonally across the orchard but this way has been blocked by new planting. Instead, if no other way is indicated, keep along the right-hand edge of the field, parallel to your former direction, with the road over the hedge to your right.
101. In 250 metres turn left, following a Greensand Way sign, up a slightly wider gap in the rows of fruit trees.
102. In another 70 metres turn half right to pass to the left of three large trees and go on up a narrow path diagonally across the rows.
103. In 150 metres, at the end of this section of fruit trees, go across an open space and a track and on into another area of fruit trees in 40 metres, following a green footpath sign.
104. In 100 metres, at the end of the plantation, turn left for 20 metres and then right to pass a fieldgate and come to a road junction. Keep straight on across this down a road, ignoring roads left and right, following a Greensand Way sign.
105. In 250 metres there is a church on your right. The mansion just visible beyond it is in fact a Young Offenders Institution and women's open prison, **East Sutton Park**. *(If you are of a nosey disposition, you can get a better view of it by entering the churchyard: the church is usually locked, but is open 10am to 4pm on the first Saturday of the month from May to September, when it does teas).*
106. 450 metres after the church, where the road ends at a T-junction, keep straight ahead through a metal gate and carry on downhill on a broad fenced strip between fields.
107. In 200 metres pass through a gate into another field and keep to its left-hand edge.
108. In 80 metres, at the bottom of the dip, you cross a tiny stream on a concrete culvert. The right of way veers right, away from the fence here, but the path (signposted from the other direction) keeps straight on along the fence to pass through a fieldgate in 100 metres.
109. Beyond this carry on up a grass strip with a hedge right to pass through another fieldgate in 100 metres or so. Turn left uphill beyond on a tarmac lane.
110. In 120 metres turn right up a broad gravel driveway between houses, signposted Greensand Way.
111. In 80 metres emerge on the left-hand edge of a field on a track.
112. Keep straight on and in 200 metres pass into the next field and keep on up the left-hand edge of this.
113. In 600 metres, level with a farm with a church in its midst, veer slightly left with the track to join a tarmac drive in 30 metres.
114. In 40 metres there is a way up to the church on the left, if you want to visit it. *The churchyard has an enormous yew tree (and another that is merely*

big), along with an **impressive carpet of primroses** in late March and early April. Inside there are a couple of small medieval wall paintings.

115. Otherwise, stay on the drive for 40 metres more to cross a road (a bit busier than it looks) and keep straight on down a path to the left of a mossy-roofed cottage. Beyond it keep downhill through an area of brambles and small trees.
116. In 200 metres, at the bottom of the hill, pass through a metal kissing gate and carry on along a wooded path.
117. In another 100 metres pass through another kissing gate and keep straight on uphill across a rough grassy area (which can be a bit boggy due to a spring halfway up the hill on the left).
118. In 150 metres go through a kissing gate and keep on uphill across an orchard.
119. In 180 metres pass to the left of a line of very tall poplars, with polytunnels to your left.
120. In 130 metres, in the field corner, **ignore a tempting car-wide gap** ahead and instead **take the hidden stile 10 metres to the left** with a yellow Greensand Way arrow.
121. Follow a path that veers slightly left across the grassy slope, **slightly uphill**, ignoring a stile visible straight ahead (and slightly downhill).
122. In 150 metres cross a stile in the far left-hand corner of the field (at the far end of a grass bank: with a Greensand Way arrow on it) and turn left uphill along the field edge.
123. In 100 metres cross a stile in the field corner and turn left on a road.
124. Follow the road around to the right in 40 metres. In another 450 metres you come to the **Pepper Box** pub.

### **The Pepper Box to Harrietsham (3.7km/2.3 mi)**

125. Carry on past the Pepper Box (or turn right out of it if you have stopped there) and continue down the road.
126. In 250 metres, just past Cowslip Cottage on the left and 70 metres before a crossroads, turn left up a side road.
127. In 120 metres cross a sometimes busy road with care and carry on up a

footpath on the far side into a wooded/coppiced area. (Some **wood anemones** here at the end of March or in early April.)

- **Coppicing** - cutting down a tree and letting it grow in shoots from its stump - looks rather drastic, but is in fact a very traditional way of managing woodland, which allows for a regular harvest of wood and encourages woodland flowers and other biodiversity. In medieval times most woods would have looked like this, apart from the occasional large trees that were left to supply structural timber. Surprisingly, coppicing also makes the tree live much longer: there is speculation that native British trees evolved this ability to regrow to counter being eaten by elephants, which lived in these islands till 40,000 years ago.
128. In 250 metres, at a staggered crosspaths, **turn right** onto a car-wide path.
  129. Follow this path, ignoring ways off, including a fork to the left in 600 metres. (There are **wood anemones** on this section in late March and April and bluebells in late April and early May). In another 180 metres a path merges from the left.
  130. In another 100 metres you emerge on the edge of a large arable field. Go straight on here, following a strip between fields.
  131. In 200 metres keep straight on at a signposted crosspaths, still on a strip between fields. (There is some ambiguity here about on which side of the field boundary the right of way runs: follow whichever side seems in general use.)
  132. In 200 metres there is a hedgerow marking the boundary and in another 300 metres the path definitely does cross to the right-hand side (if it is not there already), coming to a metal gate in another 100 metres. Turn right beyond this on a road.
  133. In 150 metres, at a road junction, turn left downhill.
  134. Follow this road, taking care for occasional fast traffic. In 450 metres you cross the M20 motorway and the high speed railway line to the Channel Tunnel.

- 135.** 80 metres beyond the railway line you come to a T-junction with a main road (the A20). Cross the road with care here and turn right.
- 136.** In 60 metres turn left up a tarmac path between garden fences.
- 137.** In 50 metres cross a road and keep on up the tarmac path beyond.
- 138.** In 60 metres emerge onto a residential road and keep straight on down it.
- 139.** In 100 metres, at a T-junction, turn right. In 30 metres Station Road is on your left: this curves around to the left to come to **Harrietsham station** in 250 metres.