

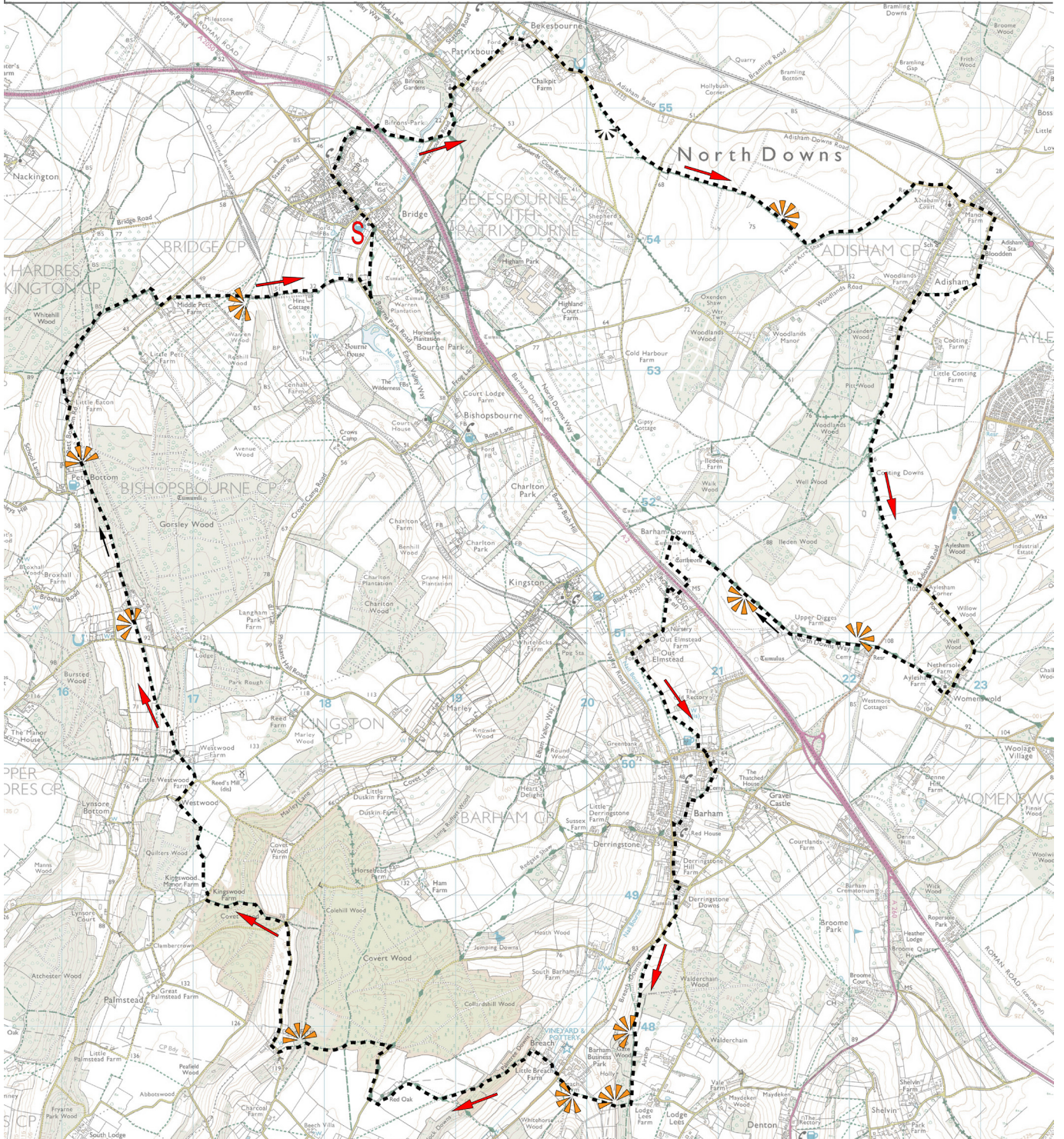
WALK ELHAM VALLEY NORTH

7

BARHAM-BRIDGE RING

20.4m 10 hrs demanding

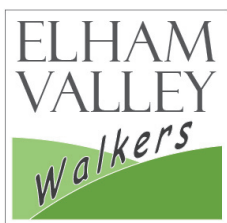
Start point: Bridge



© Crown copyright and database rights (2021)
OS Licence 100035409

please follow the countryside code





BARHAM-BRIDGE RING 7

DIRECTIONS (ROUTE RUNS CLOCKWISE)

FP - Footpath TR - Turn right
KG - Kissing gate TL - Turn left

Walk along the High Street in a northern direction passing the Bridge Arms on your right. TR into Coningham Lane. Walk to the end of this No Through Road and TR in front of the fence, passing through two gates and under the bridge. TR to keep on the Bridleway to the road. Cross road onto Bridleway track bearing left at corner of wood onto the FP to rejoin the road.

With Patricbourne Church on your left TR into Old Palace Road and proceed to the next church, Bekesbourne. TR into the church grounds and go to the left behind the church to follow the FP on the left hand edge of the wood. TR onto Adisham Road and walk past Chalk Pit Farm. TR opposite Bekesbourne Stables to take next FP on the left.

As you near the white house (Mill Cottage) the FP becomes a Bridleway. Cross the road and continue on this long Bridleway. At Twelve Acre Shaw stay on the bridleway as it turns left. TR at the road and walk through Adisham, passing Adisham Court (late 17th C). Keep straight on, perhaps pausing to rest on the good bench on the village green with a view of the church. Unfortunately the Bull's Head pub is permanently closed.

Continue on Station Road and TR into the No Through Road signposted Bloodden and Cooting. Walk past houses and take the third FP on the right, across the field where the road bends

slightly right. Cross the slightly hidden stile to follow the path towards houses and the road. TL and continue southwards remaining on this long Byway over Cooting Downs to the Adisham Road. Cross over with care, this is a busy road. Walk down the narrow Pond Lane (which is on the right of Spinney Lane).

At Womenswold just after the Church TR onto the North Downs Way (NDW). Continue across the busy Adisham Road, and after passing to the left of Upper Digges Farm take the second FP to the left, leading towards the green bridge over the A2. TL and then TR to cross the bridge. TR and in 80 yards TL to join the FP which leads diagonally left through a field, down steps to meet the road. TR, walk along the road and TL onto the first FP (just after the last house) then follow this over stiles and fields to the next road, the Barham church spire should be visible ahead.

TL passing the Duke of Cumberland, merging into Church Lane. Pass the church on your left and TR onto FP. At low stile TR walking downhill to the road (The Grove). TL and at the T junction TR. Walk along Derringstone Hill in a southerly direction. TL into Mill Lane and take first FP on the right. Keep right where the FP splits and continue along a grass bank, over a slip road (Walderchain).



BARHAM-BRIDGE RING 7

DIRECTIONS (ROUTE RUNS CLOCKWISE)

FP - Footpath TR - Turn right
KG - Kissing gate TL - Turn left

Take the FP on the left diagonally uphill towards woodland, under the telephone wires. Pass through the gate into the woods and follow what is now a Bridleway. Do not deviate from this broad Bridleway until you reach a way mark post, and 20 yards after the post take a sharp right onto a FP, going steeply downhill to a small metal gate into a field, then down across the field towards Breach to a small flight of steps and a metal gate.

Take the opposite KG and walk uphill under telephone wires to KG. Cross a track, through the KG and walk downhill through gate on your right (private property with loose barking dogs!). Go diagonally down via two gates to cross the Elham Valley road (please take care).

Walk straight over the road and continue along the no through road, joining the FP to pass through an old metal gate and three more gates, uphill into the woods. At the field boundary TL diagonally to follow the FP. At the intersection of FPs (approx 200 yards) TR towards Red Oak. TL through small metal gate and follow the track to the road (Elham Valley Way), TR to walk downhill, taking the first left at the Public Footpath sign, and continue straight on past six tall pine trees and over the intersection of the Bridleway.

Keep heading in a westerly direction (there is a multi-directional way mark post) steeply downhill to cross a stile into a field. Follow the fence line

down to another stile onto the road at Dane Farm. TR and walk along this gated road. At the crossroads TL and immediately right onto the Bridleway uphill through Covet Wood. TR onto road (Kingswood Farm) and in 50 yards TL onto FP and stile. Cross the field diagonally right to a stile and then towards a small gap in the hedge ahead, then slightly left to a large metal gate. Head towards a barn, through a gate to reach the road. TR.

Where the road bears right TL on to the Bridleway signposted to Westward Farm. After passing Pheasant Cottage TL off the Bridleway, over a stile and follow the FP across the field. Go through large metal gate (or stile in the hedge) into the next field. TR through small metal gate and head diagonally right, downhill to a stile. TL through a gap in the hedge (DO NOT go on the path through the wood). Head for the stile opposite a small red brick building. TR, over a stile on to the road and take the FP opposite (another stile).

Follow the path keeping the fence line on your right, crossing stiles and past a few houses on the right. The path enters the wood. *Alternative route:* Take the FP at the way mark post to go left and downhill to the Duck Inn, where you may like to stop for a refreshment. Continue walking through the wood to the field, follow the FP across a track and diagonally left downhill to the road to a small gate. TR and then TL onto the Bridleway at Little Eaton Farm.



BARHAM-BRIDGE RING 7

DIRECTIONS (ROUTE RUNS CLOCKWISE)

FP - Footpath TR - Turn right
KG - Kissing gate TL - Turn left

When reaching a field go through large metal gate and soon into the wood. Where Bridleway splits bear right (waymarked The Canterbury Rings). At the next way mark post bear right to join a Byway. TR onto farm road and walk down to Middle Pett Farm. At junction with road TL then TR onto the FP between two tall hedges. Follow this path diagonally keeping to the Canterbury Rings directional arrows to the top of the hill.

Cross the stile (now leaving the Canterbury Rings route) and walk downhill following the hedge line on your left, over the disused railway bridge, bearing right. Join the lane at Hint Cottage then TR into Bourne Park Road. After about 200 yards, just before the entrance to Bourne Park, TL onto the FP through the woods and into a field to another KG at the road. Walk along the road back to the start point.

- We hope you have enjoyed your walk. We endeavour to maintain our rights of way – if you have encountered any problems or errors in the route we would be pleased to hear from you.