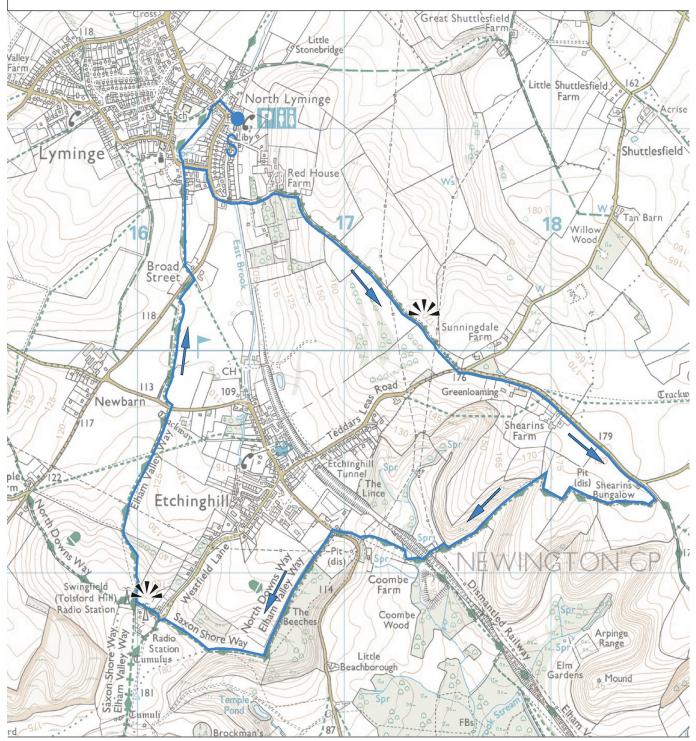
LYMMGE

HEAD OF THE VALLEY

5.2m 2.5 hrs easy



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HEAD OF THE VALLEY

DIRECTIONS (ROUTE RUNS CLOCKWISE)

Cross main road from Lyminge Library car park. TR to walk along the pavement. TL into Kimbereley Terrace at the Elham Valley Way (EVW) sign. At the way mark post by trees bear left diagonally across Tayne recreation field in the direction of the church. Cross the stream via the wooden bridge and passing St Eadburg's Well on right, continue up to the wooden gate. TL at road and at T junction TR, TL to cross main road using the zebra crossing, TR, take first left (Green Banks) and follow the long Byway uphill over the old railway bridge (Etchinghill Golf Course on right and far reaching views back to Elham on left).

At end of the Byway TL onto road and keep right, signposted Arpinge and Paddlesworth. Pass Rivendell house on right and continue along the road past Shearins Farm. At Shearins Bungalow (the road bears left) bear right onto the North Downs Way (NDW). At first waymark post TR (the NDW splits here) through KG into field. Follow the path with the hedge on your right. Viewpoint, Tolsford Hill BT Tower becomes visible in the distance and there are far reaching views to the Channel, with Folkestone and Summerhouse Hill in the foreground. Cross two stiles. Walk around the head of the valley and head straight downhill. Take the FP to the right of a wooden gate, to walk on a narrow path through trees, following NDW signs.

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

Go straight on under pylons to enter woodland and pass underneath the disused railway bridge. Cross stile and TR to cross small footbridge, you are now on the EVW. Cross stile and walk diagonally right uphill (also the Saxon Shore Way and NDW). Over the stile, TR (Coombe Farm on your left). At road (on a blind corner) cross straight over and in 20m TL onto the NDW path. Pass through 3 KGs (Viewpoint and welcoming bench after the third KG - 'This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England').

Continue over stile next to large gate and head straight on between Hawthorn trees. At Tolsford Hill BT Tower go through KG, cross road to KG alongside chain link fence and through next KG. Viewpoint. Leave the NDW and follow the EVW sign diagonally right downhill. The next KG is hidden by the uneven land surface, head to the left end of a small group of trees. Straight on across large field to two small metal gates, take the lefthand one. Walk down enclosed path to the road.

Cross the road and over the stile on to Etchinghill Golf Course. Please show every consideration to those playing golf and be aware of the dangers. Now following the way mark posts TL with hedge and road on left, through a line of trees and TR with tee 5 on your left.

HEAD OF THE VALLEY

DIRECTIONS (ROUTE RUNS CLOCKWISE)

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

Follow cinder track for a short distance. Where the track ends continue straight on with line of trees on your right passing a pond. Keeping to the edge of the fairway walk uphill and to the left of tees 4 and 3 to the corner exit from the golf course.

Go straight over road and through KG (please respect this private land with free range alpacas, chickens, dogs and pony). Cross stile and walk through field with fence on your left. Go through small metal gate to join Rectory Lane to the road. TL (You may like to visit St Mary's & St Ethelburga's Church by walking up the narrow lane on the left. The Coach & Horses pub is also nearby) and just after the bend TR at wooden gate with EVW sign to re-trace your steps back to your 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.