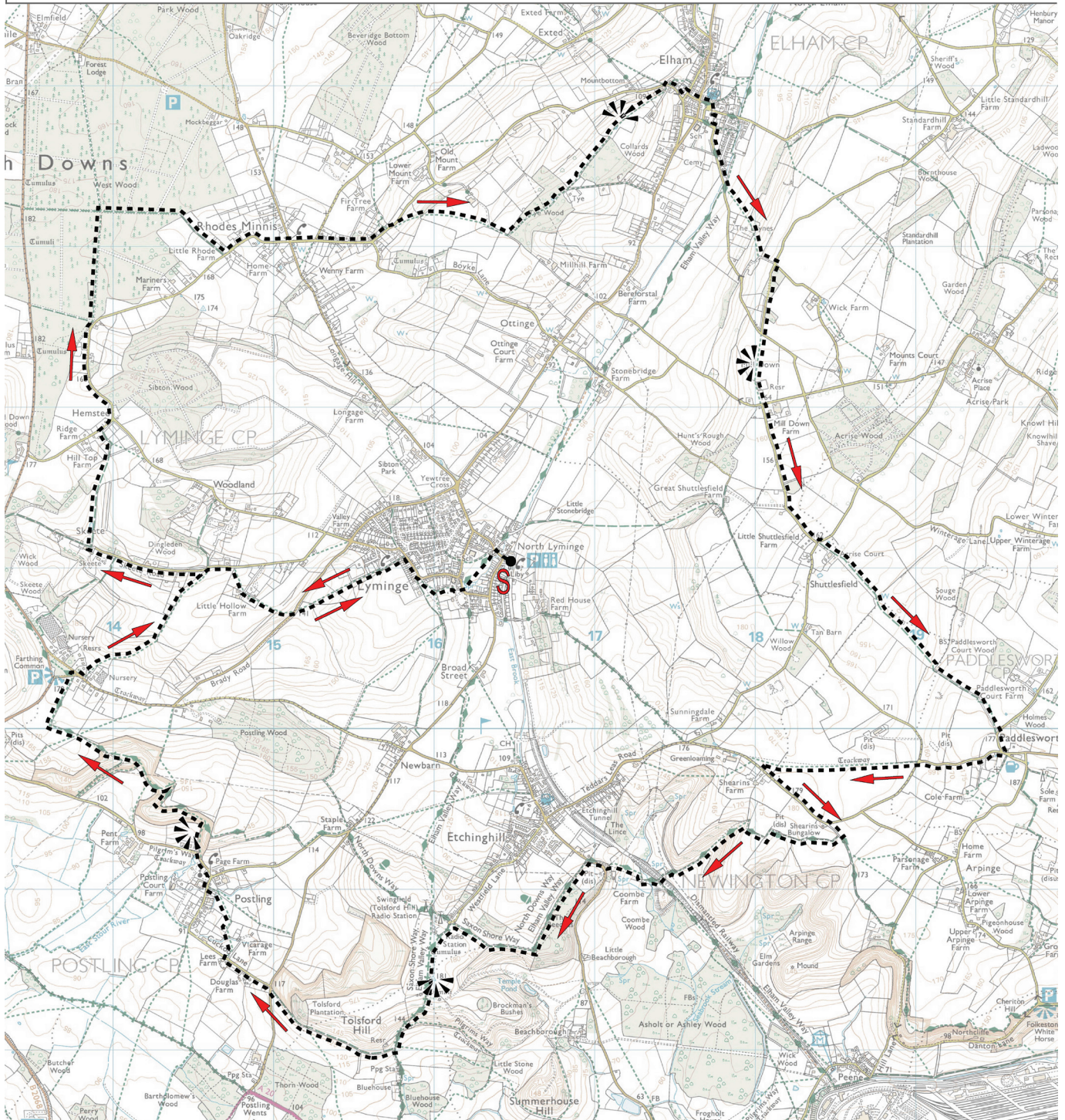


WALK LYMINGE 7

LYMINGE RING

17.4m 8 hrs demanding



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please follow the countryside code



DIRECTIONS (ROUTE RUNS CLOCKWISE)

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

Cross the main road from Lyminge Library car park, TR to walk along the pavement. TL into Kimberley 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 continue up to gate to road, passing St Eadburg's Well on right continue up to wooden gate.

Cross the road, TL and immediately TR to follow the narrow lane to the church. TL into the churchyard, with the church on your right passing the site of St Ethelburga's tomb. Just after the church porch take the path to the left, bearing left just before the war memorial. Bear right walking between gravestones to small wooden gate. TR and follow path diagonally down over meadow. Go through the KG (pond on left) and down a short flight of steps to the road. TL uphill and at the way mark post just after Nidema house TL up steep steps onto the FP.

Follow the enclosed path crossing two adjacent stiles, leading to an open meadow. Go through the small metal gate in new fence. *Viewpoint* before reaching KG. Follow the path to next KG. Take steep steps down to cross road, TL and immediately TR to go through the small metal gate to bear left steeply downhill to a KG.

Follow narrow track to the left of the house. At lane TR and almost immediately TL through KG. Follow the path uphill across field to small metal gate and the road. TL and walk approximately one mile, passing Skeete House on left. TR onto Bridleway opposite Skeete Farm Office. Go through small metal gate, walking uphill to corner of paddock, TR then immediately left passing through two more small gates to the road.

TR and then first left at lane junction. Walk approximately three quarters of a mile then TL opposite Middle Park house onto the Bridleway. TR onto the forest track and TR at the first major track junction. Where the path narrows and splits to enter trees bear right to walk through fields, FP fenced on both sides.

TL onto the road, passing the Rhodes Minnis Cat Sanctuary. Go straight on at cross roads. At road junction in valley bottom TL and 100 yards after passing entrance to Hunters Lodge stables leave road and bear right through a large metal gate and walk diagonally left uphill to top corner of field and over stile. Bear right to top of slope and take a left diagonal line across the middle of the field to a small metal gate in the top lefthand corner.

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Go through the next large metal gate on left to enter woods continue along the FP. Exit woods via gap next to the large gate then immediately TL over a stile. Follow the path along the crest of ridge at the edge of woodland passing through a gate (often open), a stile, and a KG, enjoying the view northwards with the green spire of Barham in the distance as you approach Elham.

Cross the stile and go down a short flight of concrete steps to road, TR downhill and TL at the T Junction, to then TR down Cullings Hill. *(Here there are facilities to eat and drink. You may like to take some refreshment before the last leg back to Lyminge).*

Cross the road next to the village stores, walk down St Mary's Road and cross The Square diagonally. Enter church grounds walking with church on your left to reach the road (Vicarage Lane), TL to go on this road past the playground.

Just after the last house on the left go through KG on left and walk diagonally right uphill to a KG in the hedge, cross a field uphill and into a band of woodland, over a stile, into field and steeply diagonally uphill to a large metal gate. Keeping left follow the now enclosed track to the road, TR.

At the next road junction take the FP opposite over a stile crossing two fields via a second stile to Mill Down (*viewpoint of the two villages, Elham and Lyminge*). Keeping the fence line to the left reach the road via two more stiles and cross straight over and walk along the road, past Shuttlesfield Barn.

TL and then immediately TR onto Bridleway passing large red brick barn on the right. Go through the wooden gate and with the hedge on your right continue over these undulating fields (known locally as Ninety Acres, for good reason). Go through two wooden gates and walk straight on, as you rise the hill look for an isolated way mark post, then drop down to the next gate. Follow this now enclosed track to the road. TR. Walk to the T junction.

You are now in Paddlesworth (*option to TL and visit the Cat & Custard Pot pub, and also St Oswald's Church is opposite*). TR to walk down the road and at the grass triangle take the FP through small metal gate. Walk up field with fence on right, then leaving the fence line at the corner to follow FP diagonally left across the field. This FP is not always clear but look at your map and head for 'Greenloaming' (now renamed Manor Barn) and you will find a small metal gate to the road. TL.

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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.

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 TL and join the Byway on a concrete road. Where the road

bears right at the corner of the chain link fence TL to continue on the now stone track Byway. Viewpoint. Pass the Trig point on left with glorious views to the Channel and, on a clear day, Dungeness Power Station. Drop down through scrub, taking care on the uneven surface. Go through large metal gate. At the two concrete bollards with Bridleway way mark post TR (leaving the Byway). At the second small metal gate keep to the top of the field to reach another small metal gate to the road. TR and then TL to walk down road, passing Douglas Farm. Homefield Farm on the left often offers home grown produce at a stall.

At Vicarage Farm TR onto FP and walk diagonally left across field to a large metal gate. Cross the stream to small metal gate. TR keeping hedge on your right and over stile. Walk diagonally left across field to opposite corner. Go through large gate, TL through small metal gate and walk between houses to the road. You are now in the attractive hamlet of Postling. TR and first left, direction Monks Horton.

Opposite Church Field leave road to take FP on the right uphill through KG. The FP soon bears right (way mark post) off the main track to head uphill. Look for the NDW way mark post before you reach the summit

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and continue uphill to the top fence (*Option to TR and steeply uphill to the crest of the scarp to find a small bench on which to pause and take in the spectacular panoramic view.) Viewpoint.*

At fence corner post keep right to way mark post. TL down small dry valley to trees at bottom. Just before KG keep right on NDW byway, trees on left. Enter open meadow and continue uphill under pylon lines then telephone cables following floor of dry valley, past NDW way-marker post back to crest of the scarp. Through metal gate and straight on with trees on right to next KG. Stay on path with trees on right.

TR to reach the road at Farthing Common. At road TR, then TR again at road junction. Cross road with care. TL down metalled lane with North View Cottage on right to metal KG on left.

Enter field and bear right with corner of garden on right and diagonally downhill staying on the higher ground of spur to KG in fence at field corner at bottom of field. TL. Continue with woodland on your left, uphill to stile (or use metal handrail) and Skeete Road.

TR. After 200m leave road at metal gate on right. Follow FP downhill through field with Little Hollow Farm to right. Exit field via KG to cross the lane and TR then immediately TL in to partly concealed tree-lined narrow path down side wall of double garage on right.

Pass straight on across field to KG and steeply diagonally left uphill to metal gate and road. Cross with care and climb steep steps of FP opposite to metal gate. Bear left across corner of field to KG. Straight on to metal gate and straight on through wilding meadow to find narrow tree-enclosed path. Downhill with trees to left, wire fence to right.

TR crossing 2 adjacent stiles. TL on to narrow path with paddock on left. Reach road via steep wooden steps. Cross road and TR then **either** follow road back to Lyminge village **or** return via FP on right after the entrance to the Village hall car park, pass pond on right, across meadow to grounds of St Ethelburga's church to reverse the route back to car park.

- 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.