

Walk 7: One Tree Hill figure of 8



The fantastic wooded greensand ridge of the North Downs figures strongly, plus medieval Ightham Mote. Another take on Walk 6 with Wilmot Hill thrown in

How long? 3-4hrs/5 miles

Public transport: Nearest rail is Sevenoaks and Hildenborough. From there it's a taxi I'm afraid.

Parking: One Tree Hill NT car park on Carters Hill, Sevenoaks, near Knole Park

Start of walk: aforementioned car park

Steep slopes? some steps on the escarpment, nothing prolonged

Walk highlights

Wonderful trees clinging to the cliff-like sandstone ridge with vistas beyond across the Weald to the Bidborough ridge and the Ashdown Forest. Medieval glory of the NT's Ightham Mote. Chaser Inn pub at Shipbourne is excellent. [Ordnance Survey Explorer 147 map](#)

[Click here for GPX map of route showing realtime location](#)

THE WALK IN SHORT

Points 1-2: 300m. Leave One Tree Hill NT car park and take path heading south (on your right). The path meets the Greensand Way; turn left, heading east

Point 2-3: 130m. At grassy glade with bench and view head left (northish) towards rear right hand corner of glade. Look for orchard ahead of you

Point 3-4: 130m. Walk north, parallel with edge of orchard. Turn right when you see white house ahead of you and you've just gone past northern edge of orchard

Point 4-5: 560m. Go east, past the northern edge of the orchard then, after passing another house on your right, you will come to a lane

Point 5-6: Cross lane and find footpath (you might come out opposite it or slightly south of it - if latter, turn left on lane until you find

marked footpath on right).

Point 6-7: 280m Once on this path, stay on the path on the right heading south and walk past a field on your right

Point 7-8: 250m. The path now completely in woodland begins to bend left downhill

Point 8-9: 320m. The path descends Wilmot Hill beautifully among great trees with view on right. At bottom, the path joins the Greensand Way. Turn left (heading east) and you will soon come to a cottage with a nice garden

Point 9-10: 1km. Walk past cottage ignoring path off to the right (you'll come back up that later) and continue as track becomes lane to Ightham Mote

Point 10-11: 120m. Turn right on lane just before Ightham Mote. Look for path over stile off to the left alongside field.

Point 11-12: 520m. Path goes along edge of

field then through South Seers wood

Point 12-13: 500m. Leave woods and make for church ahead of you on same path

Point 13-14: Walk past rear of church then take path striking out west across fields

Point 14-15: 430m. Cross large field and enter Cold Blows woods (mostly conifers).

Point 15-16: 260m. Take left fork in woods

Point 16-17: 420m. Walk to Budds hamlet.

Point 17-18-19: 850m. Cross lane and, slightly to right, take path heading north through field uphill back to cottage.

Point 19-20: 850m. Turn left at cottage and follow Greensand Way path past boulders, 'jungle' of trees, etc, to Rook Lane/Rooks Hill

Point 20-21: 420m. Turn right on Rook Lane then, very quickly, left, up steps on footpath. Follow this path back to car park

Blue lines on map are alternative paths

There are lots of paths crisscrossing each other initially on this walk so it can be a bit confusing but even if you take the wrong one you'll find your way just fine. Use the orchard as a reference point and the two houses and lane beyond.

The initial part of the walk is pleasant but so-so. But things get a whole lot more interesting with the path down the escarpment at point 7-8. This is a truly magical stretch of walk with the Weald view to the right framed by ancient branches of beech and yew. Ightham Mote is a real beauty with great gardens and a super cafe. Seers wood, and Cold Blows wood after Shipbourne are both primarily of conifers – quite different from the broadleaf woodland of the ridge.

The only farmland stretches of this walk are

around Shipbourne (where the Chaser Inn is much recommended) and after Budd's Green. Then you are back in the woods. On the return, you enter a section where sandstone boulders mark the way and the trees tangle together in a jungle-like fashion. Watch out for a very tall, straight-trunked oak tree here and an abundance of butterflies in spring/summer. Kestrels hunt along the edge of the fields below and I've seen buzzards, hobbies and a tawny owl here too. Look out for llamas in the fields as you pass White Rock Farm.

Later, there are more views of the Weald from the escarpment (here called Rooks Hill) and trees growing out of the side of the 'cliff'. A surprising and richly varied walk, but, alas, muddy from November to April.

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