



Orchards and oasts – a taste of the Garden of England

Open parkland, orchards, oasts and incredible panoramic views over the Weald to the South Downs make this a truly memorable walk.

Linton Village



Location: Linton

Distance: 4 miles (6.4km)

Time: allow 2.5 hours

Explorer Map: 136, 148

Terrain: mainly arable and pastures paths with some road sections

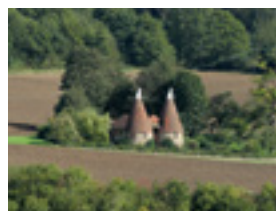
Stiles: 8

Steps: 2 sets

Public transport: for information about local bus and train services in Kent, contact Traveline tel: 0871 200 22 33, www.traveline.org.uk

Step count: approx 8,400

Start in the centre of the small and enchanting village of Linton, on the outskirts of Maidstone, with its typically Kentish church, neighbouring almshouses and village inn – The Bull – owned by Shepherd Neame, Britain’s oldest brewer.



Walk through the churchyard and out of the gate into the parkland beyond to join the Greensand Way and follow the ridge high above the River Beult. The impressive white walls of Linton House can be glimpsed through the trees on the right as the path passes through light woodland and copses of holly, sycamore and sweet chestnut.

Cross Loddington Lane to walk alongside well established orchards – a mass of blossom in Spring and richly apple-scented in Autumn, high hedges help protect the fruit trees from potentially damaging winds. Gradually the fine views across to the right open up towards Goudhurst.

Even clearer dramatic views can be enjoyed from alongside St Peters’ Church, Boughton Monchelsea. The lychgate is thought to date from the 15th century and is possibly the oldest in Kent.

Walk up the hill alongside the weathered walls of Boughton Monchelsea Place with their rich mosses and lichens and on through the car park and out again into the fields – some of which are used for pasture while others take advantage of the good local soils for arable crops.

Here the circular walk leaves the Greensand Way skirting round the end of the large deer park through more orchards, alongside a former quarry and then heads steeply downhill. Fast streams can run down these slopes after prolonged wet weather and planks have been put across the ditches to assist walkers wishing to keep their feet dry.

Cattle and sheep flourish in these luxurious fields. Follow the marked route across the fields dotted with mature, specimen trees through to join the quiet country lane and on to Church Hill. Turn left and rejoin the route on the right to pass through further orchards, farmland and coppiced woodland.

Crossing the small bridge and stile turn left into Loddington Lane and follow the road turning off to the right at the first footpath sign into the heart of Linton Park. Look to the right for views of the impressive white Palladian mansion with its high flagpole. Continue to cross the park to reach the lake on your left – filled with water lilies and a popular habitat for waterfowl throughout the Summer.

Finally leave the park behind to reach Linton Hill. Turn right up the hill and back to the car park opposite The Bull.



St Peter's Church, at Boughton Monchelsea, was seriously damaged by fire in 1832 while St Nicholas Church, at Linton, was struck by lightning in 1838. Part of the spire was destroyed.

look out for...

- Almshouses
- Apple orchards
- Linton House
- Lychgate at Boughton Monchelsea
- Oast houses
- Livestock
- Unusual tombstones at St Peter's Church

did you know?

Stone has been quarried for building from the Greensand Ridge here since Roman times. The last quarry closed in the 1960s.

The oldest part of The Bull at Linton is believed to date from the 16th century and was built as a watering hole for travellers. The pub is reputed to be haunted and there are tales of secret tunnels.

Apples originated in the Middle East more than 4,000 years ago. They probably came to the UK with the Romans but it was really in the Norman era that specially cultivated varieties spread across Europe. Apple growing was in decline in England following the Black Death and the Wars of the Roses. Orchards were revived by Henry VIII who instructed his fruiterer to scour the known world for the best varieties which he planted in Kent.

Apple pips contain traces of cyanide but not enough to be harmful.

Fallow deer have wandered in Boughton Monchelsea Place deer park for more than 300 years.

Linton House was built in the 1730s on the site of Capell Court. The house served as the headquarters in 1778 – 9 for more than 11,000 soldiers camping out between Coxheath and Boughton Monchelsea ready to repel a French invasion.



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0 Kilometres
Miles 0.5 1

Greensand Way National Trust
English Heritage Public House
Stately Home Stile Gate Steps