

North Downs Way



This peaceful and refreshing walk starts by the river in the picturesque village of Otford and then climbs high above the valley to take in stunning views.

Artists and poets have been inspired by the idyllic scenes of picturesque Kent villages sheltered by rolling, chalk hills.



LANDSCAPES AND ROMANCE

A CIRCULAR WALK FROM OTFORD



HOW TO GET THERE -

By Car: Otford is on the A225, just north of Sevenoaks

Parking: Free car park in Otford

Train: Nearest station – Otford (500m). National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950

Bus: 421 (Sevenoaks – Swanley). 3 journeys. Mon – Sat.

434 (Sevenoaks – Shoreham) 3/4 journeys. Mon - Sat

Traveline: 0870 6082608

5 MILES (8KM)

TIME: ALLOW 3 HOURS

	Start/Finish	Otford
	Gate	4
	Stiles	8
	Terrain	steep, open farmland and hillssections. Some steep slopes
	Toilets	Shoreham and Otford
	Refreshments	Public houses and restaurants in Shoreham and Otford

Co-financed by the European Union Regional Development Fund

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Quickly leave the sound of traffic behind and enjoy the birdsong following the lane to join the Darent Valley Path. Running alongside the banks of the Darent across the golf course and through a cricket field you reach the centre of Shoreham just by the historic building of The George public house.

Follow the road past the impressive churchyard of St Peter and St Paul and pass under the railway bridge for an invigorating walk up the hillside towards the woods. Leave the woodland and turn left to follow the road, taking advantage of clearings in the trees to look back across the valley.

Turn right along the track past Warren Farm and head over the fields to discover a dramatic view of the Memorial Cross carved into the hillside at Shoreham.

Follow the path through mature woodland before emerging to join an ancient trackway with plenty of viewing points taking in the village of Otford and beyond to the Greensand ridge of Sevenoaks.

In summer, this is an excellent place to pause and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere and the wildlife, including hundreds of colourful butterflies and wild flowers that thrive on the chalklands.

Butterflies are a feature of the Downs from spring through to the autumn and the adonis blue and chalkhill blue are completely dependent on chalk grasslands for their survival. Their caterpillars feed on horseshoe vetch which




thrives here. Other distinctive butterflies to be seen on the Downs include the small blue, common blue, brown argus, marbled white, dark green fritillary and grayling.











Pass through the gate and turn into the woods. Here the path is strewn with large nodules of flint and lined with crab apple trees – delightful in Spring. Turn right along the road through a traditional hamlet and then bear right again to join a short section of the famous North Downs Way.

Cross the field to take the steep and narrow stepped path down back to the centre of Otford with its fine medieval buildings and independent shops, restaurants and traditional inns.



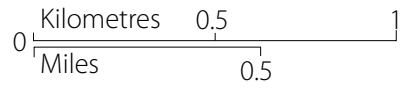


 Open access land - areas of land where you can walk freely and don't have to stick to public footpaths

-  Darent Valley Path
-  Parking  Visitor Centre
-  Public House  Museum
-  Golf Course
-  Take care  Gate  Stile
-  Railway Stations



© Crown copyright 100019238.



Also use Ordnance Survey Map: **Explorer 147**