

Oasts & Orchards

Paddock Wood

A 5.3 mile / 8.6km circular route from Paddock Wood train station through the town, beautiful farmland and woodland.

Distance: 5.3 miles / 8.6km.

Time: 2 - 2½ hours approximately.

Terrain: Some walking through town is required. Some paths can become muddy. Four stiles through the orchards and some gates.

Start/end point: Paddock Wood train station.

OS Explorer Map: 148.

6 Just after a moat on your right, follow the path as it bears left and runs diagonally across the field. After a last small hill the path narrows to run between the fences of houses. At the lane (Chantler's Hill) turn right and follow the lane.

Pass Waterman's Lane and continue straight on Chantler's Hill. When you reach the next lane (Mascall's Court Road) turn right and carefully follow the lane for 300 metres up to Mascall's Court Farm.

7 Just after the bend (be careful on the road at this point) and the oast houses of Mascall's Court, turn left to follow the footpath past the houses. At the large green farm building turn right. With the orchards and then a ditch on your right follow this path for 600 metres.

8 Cross over the stile at the bottom of the field onto Church Road. Turn left and follow Church Road all the way back (approximately 2km) to the train station.

You'll pass Paddock Wood Cemetery on your right where you can see the headstone for Dorothy Dickens, daughter of the famous author Charles Dickens. Also on route why not stop off for a beverage and a well earned break at the John Brunt VC public house on Church Road? This pub was originally called the Kent Arms but to honour local hero John Brunt the name was changed. John Brunt was decorated twice for bravery during World War II including receiving the Victoria Cross. He was killed by mortar fire at the age of 22.

There are several other locations to stop for something to eat and drink before returning to the train station.

Print managed by County Print & Design 01622 60368 20560/BS



Bluebells (Steve Songhurst)



Valley of Visions and the Kent Community Rail Partnership gratefully acknowledge funding or other assistance received for this project from the Heritage Lottery Fund, ACORP, Network Rail, Department for Transport, Interreg Iva, Kent County Council Members Local Engagement and Highways fund grants, the Halling Association, Southeastern, Explore Kent and the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

This walk is endorsed by Explore Kent.

Photo credits cover: Foxglove (Andy Vidler www.andyvidler.co.uk). Woodland, Broad-bodied Chaser, Oast House (Steve Songhurst)



Starting at Paddock Wood train station this route takes you through the town and up around the countryside near Brencley. Enjoy the stunning views past oast houses and orchards to the Weald of Kent and the Medway Valley. It is a reasonably long walk but through the town there are opportunities for refreshments.

- 1 Leaving to the south of Paddock Wood train station, proceed to the end of Station Approach and cross the road to join Commercial Road.

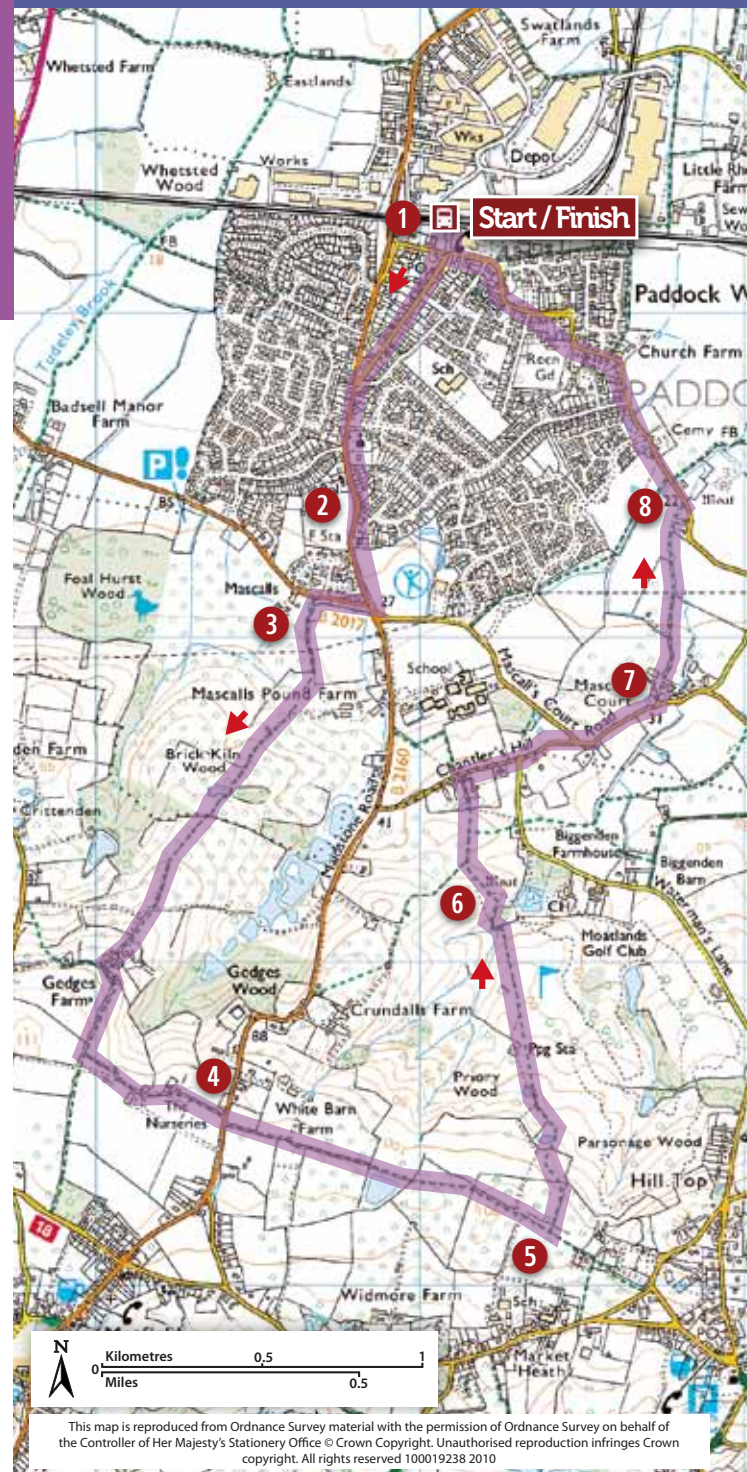
The station was opened in May 1842 to serve between Redhill and Dover.

Paddock Wood has a history connected to hop farming and as such the area is dotted with picturesque oast houses many of which can be seen on this walk. These oasts were where the hops were dried before being sent to the brewery. Many traditional oasts have now been converted to become modern dwellings.

Follow this road up through the town for 500 metres, passing the Church of St Andrews on your left with its large rose window.

The original church was constructed in 1860 but it was hit by a stray bomb on the 4th November 1940. The ragstone from the original church was used in the construction of the church you see now.

- 2 At the end of Commercial Road bear left onto Maidstone Road. After passing the fire station and recreation ground turn right into Badsell Road and follow it for 150 metres. Just after passing Mascall's Park carefully cross over the road and take the footpath on your left. For an extra excursion at this point visit the Local Nature Reserve of Foal Hurst Wood which is further along Badsell Road.



War Memorial (Steve Songhurst)



Robin (Steve Songhurst)



Fly Agaric (Steve Songhurst)

- 3 This footpath (which may occasionally flood in winter) passes some seasonal ponds so look out for a variety of wildlife in spring and summer. Follow the yellow footpath signs as the path bears right to diagonally cross the orchard. Follow the path straight on past the house on the right and through more orchards. Take the gap in the trees ahead before bearing right, then bear left to head straight up the field and through the middle of a narrow avenue of oak trees.

Enjoy the views of the woodland beyond.

Turn right onto the track and head towards and past Gedges Farm and through the small gate. After the oast house turn left onto the path which runs to the right of the house. Follow this path around to the right.

- 4 After 250 metres the path turns left between the fence and the tree line. Follow this towards the oast house in the distance. Once at the house turn left and follow the lane past more buildings. Cross the main road (Maidstone Road) and continue straight ahead on the lane until it bears left. Here take the footpath ahead on your right go straight on between the trees and the hedgerow. You'll follow this path towards Brencley for just over 1km as it runs adjacent to orchards, across an open field and back among and around more orchards.

- 5 Just before you come to another oast house you'll see a waymarker in the middle of the orchard. Turn left and follow the path down through the orchard and over the stile. After the stile follow the footpath signs downhill all the way through Moatlands Golf Course back towards Paddock Wood. Follow this path for 1.5km.