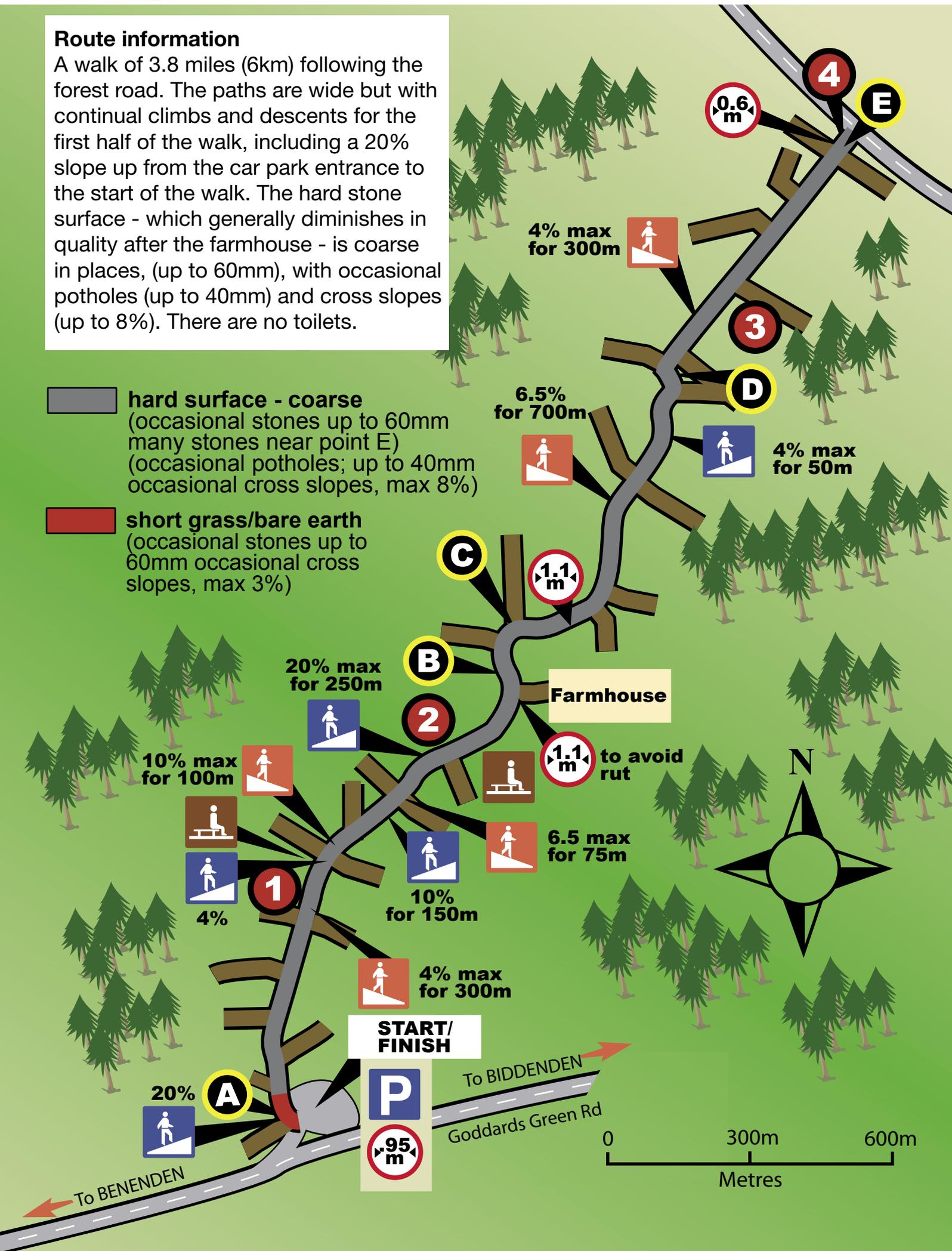


Route information

A walk of 3.8 miles (6km) following the forest road. The paths are wide but with continual climbs and descents for the first half of the walk, including a 20% slope up from the car park entrance to the start of the walk. The hard stone surface - which generally diminishes in quality after the farmhouse - is coarse in places, (up to 60mm), with occasional potholes (up to 40mm) and cross slopes (up to 8%). There are no toilets.

-  **hard surface - coarse**
(occasional stones up to 60mm many stones near point E)
(occasional potholes; up to 40mm occasional cross slopes, max 8%)
-  **short grass/bare earth**
(occasional stones up to 60mm occasional cross slopes, max 3%)



How to get to Hemsted Forest

Road: From Biddenden take the A262 south signposted Ashford and Tenderden. Turn right at Woolpack Corner, signposted Biddenden and Hospital. Follow this road for 3 miles (5km), and continue at the cross-roads, passing through East End (Benenden). Passing Walkhurst Road, the car park is 0.3 miles (0.5km) on the right hand side, indicated by a wooden "Footpath" signpost. (Height restriction barrier - 2.3 metres)

Road map: www.streetmap.co.uk - 581200,134400

Route description

START To access the forest track you can either retrace your steps to the height restriction barrier (20% uphill climb), or take one of the paths across the grass.

- A** Continue ahead on the forest road ignoring all side paths to reach the farmhouse.
- B** Carry on, passing to the left of the barrier, until you reach a T-junction.
- C** Turn right and continue on the forest road bearing to the left, ignoring all side paths, until you reach a fork in the road.
- D** Take the left-hand fork which bears immediately to the right and continue ahead to reach a barrier.
- E** From the barrier retrace your steps back to the car park.
FINISH



Points of interest

- 1** The large open area to the left was cleared of mature conifers in 2000 and replanted in 2003 with Douglas fir.
- 2** Shortly before the farmhouse, the 'Community Planting' indicated with a sign, is an area where mature trees blew down during the great storm of 14th October 1987. Members of the local community replanted it.
- 3** The Pine plantation to the right was planted during 1992. The dense foliage of these trees is a valuable habitat for a number of bird species and dormice.
- 4** The large Pine trees on either side of the road just before the barrier gate were planted in 1941.

P Car park Open parking; uneven, bare earth

 Uphill gradient

 Downhill gradient

 Width restriction

 Rest area

Additional information - For more information about the walk or Hemsted Forest please call the Forestry Commission on 07771 811378