

This circular walk is one of a number of walks produced by Kent County Council. If you liked this walk you can find more on the Explore Kent website at www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

We welcome any feedback about this walk or the content of the guide. If you know of a good walk and would like to share it, please let us know and we may feature it on our website.

If the route description or pictures are out-of-date please e-mail explorekent@kent.gov.uk

Please tell us about any problems concerning the paths using the Kent Report Line **0845 345 0210**. This guide is available in other formats on request.

FAMILY FUN!

Walking is not only a healthy activity but it can be fun and informative too. Free activity worksheets for children of all ages to take on the walk can be ordered by emailing explorekent@kent.gov.uk or calling **08458 247600**.



When you're out walking in the countryside, please respect the Countryside Code.

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any arrows or signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



FOOTPATH



BRIDLEWAY



BYWAY



RESTRICTED BYWAY

Walk Overview

Distance: 5 miles (8km) allow 2.5 hours



Start/Finish: Horsmonden Village Green (The Heath)



Stiles: 16



Gates: 3



Terrain: Fields and tracks with some on-road sections. Some steep slopes



Views: Some good views



Toilets: None on route



Refreshments: Pub and shops near start/finish

How to get there...

Road Map:

Multimap website www.multimap.com. Search for "Horsmonden".



By Car:

From A21/A262 near Lamberhurst, take B2162 towards Maidstone to Horsmonden. Can also be reached from the A26 near Maidstone via Yalding.

Parking: Limited on-road parking is available on roads around the village. Please park with consideration and note that the pub car park is for patrons only.

Train:

Nearest station – Paddock Wood (5 miles). National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950

Bus:

K6 (Kildown – Maidstone) 1 journey. Tue only
296 (Tunbridge Wells – Paddock Wood) 2 journeys. Mon, Thurs, Sat
297 (Leigh Green – Tunbridge Wells) 3 journeys. Mon-Sat. 1 journey on Sun
Traveline: 0870 6082608



Walks in West Kent Horsmonden

5 miles (8km) approx. 10,000 steps
Allow 2.5 hours

About the walk...

Horsmonden was the centre for the three main trades of the Weald – gunmaking, weaving and hop growing. In the 1600s the area was the most important gunmaking site in Britain.

This walk follows orchards and pasture surrounding the village along paths, farm tracks and country lanes. Throughout the walk there are fantastic views of the High Weald, Greensand Ridge, Teise and Medway Valleys.

Route Description

- 1** Starting from the village green with the Gun and Spitroast pub on your right, walk along the main road on the pavement, past footpath map, bus stop and village shop.
- 2** Cross road to join footpath signposted on the right. After passing through a kissing gate the enclosed path soon opens out in to an orchard. Continue ahead, keeping to the right hand boundary.
- 3** At the corner of the orchard, turn right to head along a grassy track, past houses on right. When you reach a surfaced road, continue ahead.
- 4** At junction, turn left to take surfaced track past Lewes Heath house. When you reach a driveway on the right, take the arrowed path to the right of the main track next to a gate. Follow enclosed path, crossing stile into a field.
- 5** Continue ahead over another stile to walk by fence on the right hand side. Cross over stile and head across field towards another stile at the road.
- 6** **Beware of traffic.** Cross over stile into the road and turn left. Continue along the road, past the entrance to Share Farm to take next footpath on the right. Cross over stile into wooded area and follow path through trees into a field. Keeping to right hand boundary, continue ahead.
- 7** Cross both stiles. Keeping to the right of the trees ahead, cross lawn to another stile at the fence. After crossing the stile turn left down track towards houses and head towards gates.
- 8** Go through gap and continue ahead. Cross bridge spanning the river Teise. Follow arrows along fenced grassy path. At the end of fenceline, follow the path bearing to the right.

- 9** Bear left at arrow post to follow path across a field and passing through a gap, bear right to head towards the woods ahead.
- 10** Enter into wooded area and follow path. Pass pond on left-hand side travelling uphill until you reach a gate. Cross over stile to right and continue ahead until you come to a main road. There are good views of the High Weald to your left at the gate.
- 11** **Beware of traffic.** Cross the road into Gore Lane opposite and follow until you reach the junction with the main road again. Turn right to walk along the road, again, **beware of traffic.**
- 12** **Beware of traffic.** After passing Monks Cottage on your left, look for a footpath signpost on the left. Follow track to Finchurst Granary and turn right to take enclosed grassy path between wall and bushes.

Upon reaching the end of the fenceline, follow path diagonally across field, past large pond on the right.
- 13** Cross over stile in corner of field and keep to right hand boundary. Go through gate to continue ahead to a junction with a track.
- 14** Turn left and walk along track for approx. 50 metres until it bends round to the left, do not follow track but turn right to head towards concrete bridge. Cross this and continue ahead towards a gate.
- 15** Bear left to cross over a brick bridge and bear right, crossing stiles of enclosed part of the field to follow path up the hill - a fairly steep but long climb (observe sign posts where shown).
- 16** Follow path ahead. Turn left at the top of the field, following boundary and cross stile in corner.

Walk your way to a healthier lifestyle



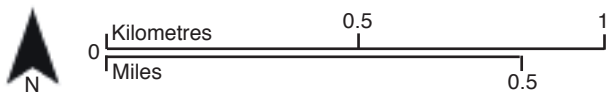
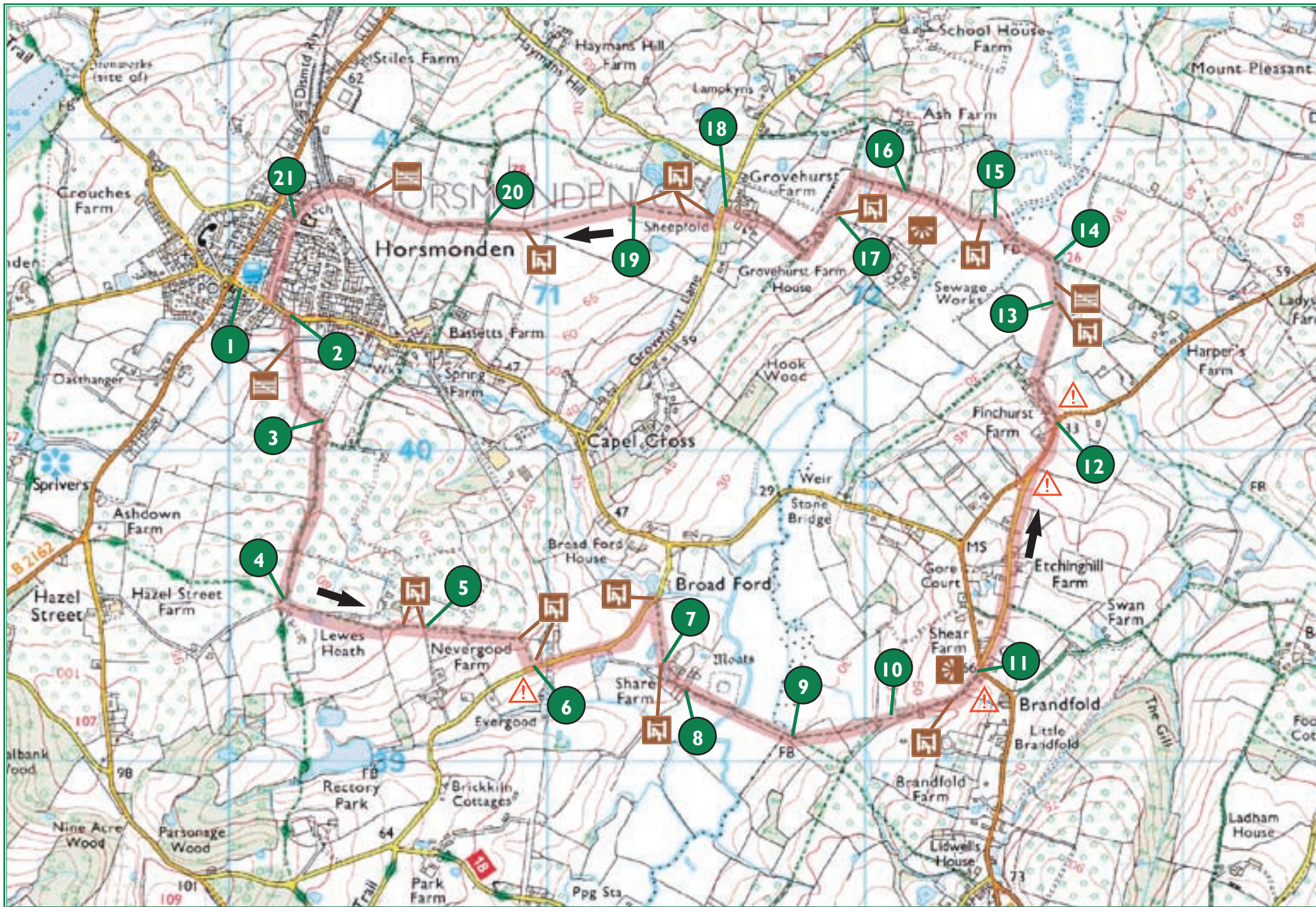
"Walking for one mile burns virtually the same number of calories as jogging for one mile, it just takes a little longer!"

"Walking is FREE and requires no special equipment or clothing – as long as you are comfortable"

"Regular walking helps reduce the risk of heart disease, strokes, diabetes and high blood pressure"

There are good views of the surrounding valleys and Greensand Ridge from here.

- 17** Reaching a track, cross over, following path to the left of buildings in front of you. Follow track round to right and pass farm buildings and cottages before you reach the road.
- 18** Turn left and walk a short distance until you see a signpost on the right. Cross stile and follow path between fences. At the end of fenced path, cross stile into a field. Head uphill towards oak trees.
- 19** Cross stile and footbridge (through narrow gap) and observe arrow on post to follow path to corner of field (heading towards mobile phone mast). Cross over stile and continue along enclosed path.
- 20** Cross track passing phone mast on the left to follow path between tall trees. When you reach a large gate, use the kissing gate on the right to continue along track past houses and school.
- 21** Upon reaching a road junction with a school on you're left, continue ahead along Back Lane until you reach the main road. Turn right to retrace your steps back to your starting point near the pub.



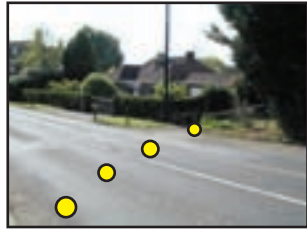
Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 136

Horsmonden Circular Walk www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Photo Guide



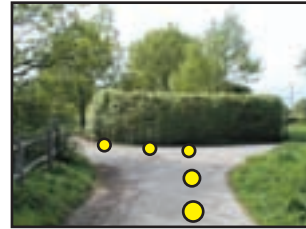
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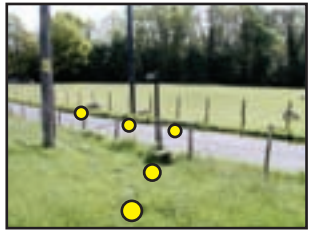
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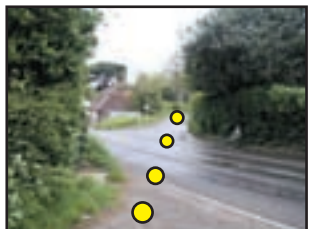
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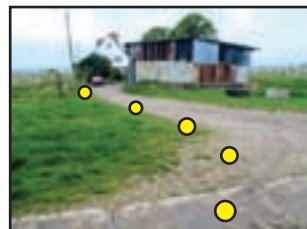
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For guidance only, actual conditions encountered may be different to what is shown depending on weather and time of year.