



Fackenden Down is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) managed by Kent Wildlife Trust and is notable for its chalkland plants and butterflies. A superb viewpoint with panoramic views south and southwest across Otford to Sevenoaks and the Greensand Ridge as well as views west across the Darent Valley to the continuation of the North Downs at Polhill Bank.

- 5 After enjoying the view, the route continues straight ahead down the hillside. Cross two stiles and emerge onto the A225 main road and turn left. Take extra care here as this is a busy road with no pavement for the first 100 metres. It is best to cross temporarily to the far side of the road where there is a narrow verge, until the pavement starts on the left at the junction of Greenhill Road. Otford station is about 500 metres along the road on the left.



The Darent Valley Rail Trails have been created by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. DVLP is led by the Kent Downs AONB, working throughout the Darent Valley to conserve the area's rich heritage landscapes and encourage people to enjoy, explore and connect to them www.darent-valley.org.uk

A selection of the Rail Trails are available to use on the Darent Valley Trails app, available free of charge on the App Store and Google Play. With special thanks to Alan Dyer for devising this route.

Downs and Butterflies

A 2.7 mile circular walk visiting Otford chalk pit and Fackenden Down nature reserve, whilst being immersed in the panoramic views of the Darent Valley landscape.



EUROPEAN UNION



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Photo credits - johmillerphotography.com, Paul Burgess Photography and Andy Waller

Start / end point: Otford station

Length: 2.7 miles / 4.3km

Terrain: Fields and tracks with some on-road sections. Undulating path. Some steep slopes up and down

Accessibility: There are steps, kissing gates and stiles on this walk and a short section of road walking with no pavement

Toilets/refreshments: Available at Otford station (during opening hours)

What3Words: ///finds.stable.with

OS Explorer map: 147

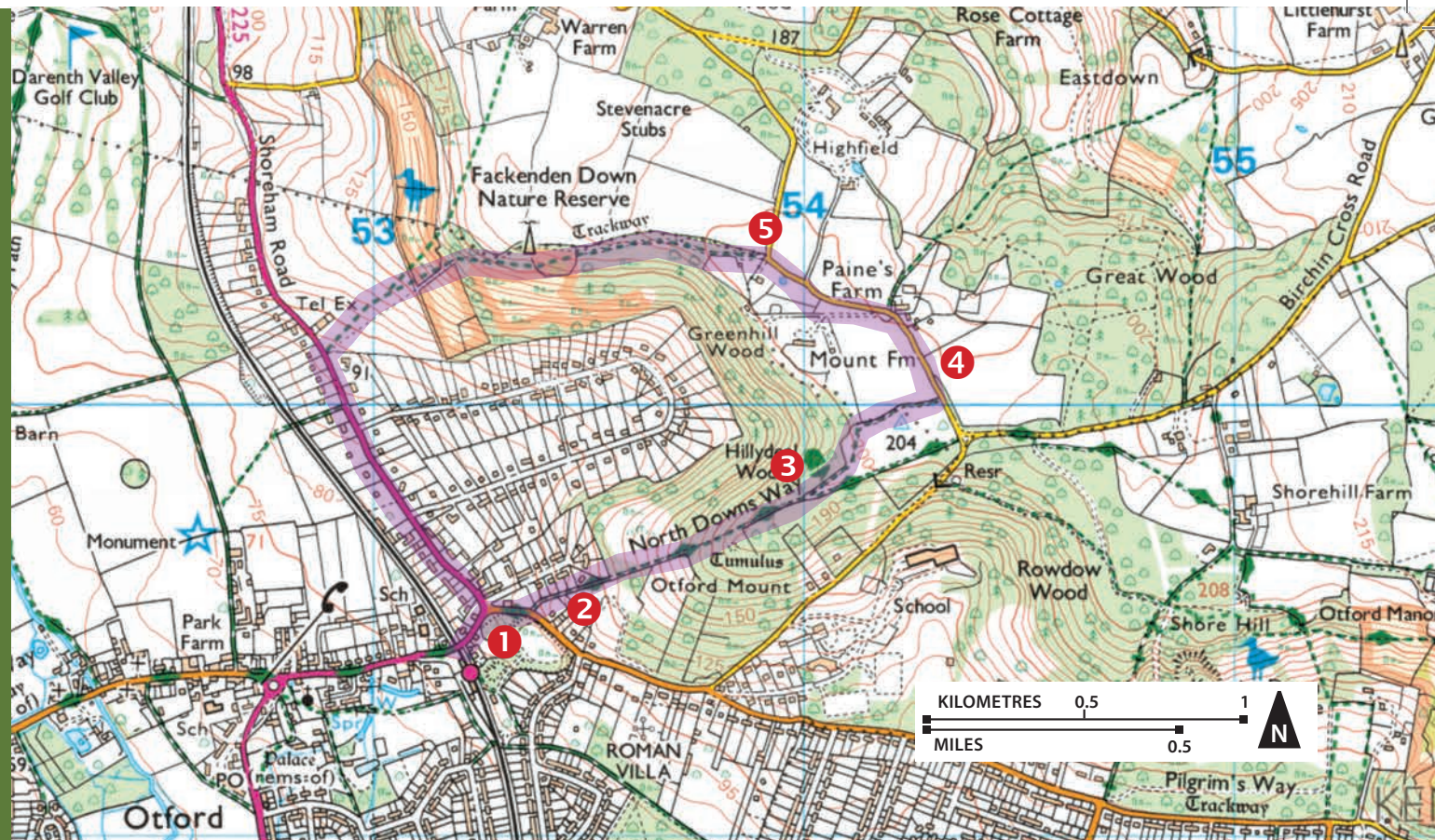
* Note that in wet conditions, parts of this route can be muddy and the upper part of the return route downhill can be slippery.

On The Way

- Explore a section of the North Downs Way National Trail
- Discover Otford Chalk Pit
- Climb to the highest point on the walk; Otford Mount Trig Point
- Enjoy the panoramic views offered from Fackenden Down

1 Leave the station from the exit on the southbound platform which leads onto a driveway. The steep tree-covered slopes in front form part of the former chalk pit. On exiting the station, turn right then after a short distance turn left onto a track, passing a sign for the chalk pit. This leads to a level grassed area where you bear left and head up a slope to a road (Pilgrims Way East).

The Chalk Pit was worked in the late nineteenth century and was later an early landfill site. Now it is a wooded informal open space, used and enjoyed by the local community and managed by Otford Parish Council.



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2 Across and just to the right, take the driveway signposted as the North Downs Way. The route is now steadily uphill first as a drive, then a path between gardens and finally through a woodland corridor. On the way up, just left of a bench, there is a view between the trees towards Fackenden Down which is reached later on in the walk.

3 Beyond the bench there are some steps to negotiate but then the gradient eases and the path eventually levels out. Continue into a field and bear left when the field widens, leaving the North Downs Way (there is no sign at this junction). Follow the left edge of the field, passing to the left of the Otford Mount OS trig point. A stile in the top corner takes you out onto a quiet lane.

Otford Trig point marks the highest point of the walk at 204 metres (669ft). Trig points were originally constructed by Ordnance Survey for mapping purposes but with new technology, are now redundant and generally maintained by volunteers.

4 Turn left and follow the lane for about 400 metres until it turns right. Fork left here through a kissing gate and onto a track which soon enters more woodland. When the track emerges onto open downland, a superb view opens up to the south and southwest. Follow a grassy path that bears left, down and across the slope to a gate, then turn right onto a path. Follow the path past a bench and then left downhill through a small patch of woodland to reach another excellent viewpoint, this time oriented more directly across the Darent Valley.