

# North Downs Way - Section 7: Cuxton to Detling

**11.9 miles (19.15 km)** allow 5 hours

Walk through a nature reserve known nationally for its wild flowers. Stop for lunch at one of the finest views in Kent and visit a neolithic megalith older than Stonehenge!









Spectacular views from Blue Bell Hill

## How to get there -

**Parking:** On street - Bush Road in Cuxton, The Street or Pilgrim's Way in Detling

**Train:** Nearest stations: Cuxton and Detling

**Bus:** 151 from Rochester to Cuxton  
334 from Maidstone to Detling

<b>S</b>	Start	Bush Road, Cuxton Postcode ME2 1HE
<b>///</b>	what3words	device.fuzzy.listed
<b>F</b>	Finish	Detling ME14 3EY
<b>///</b>	what3words	mimic.flip.advantage
	Gates	6
	Stiles	0
	Steps	3
	Terrain	Bare earth, gravel tracks, grass, surfaced tarmac roads, chalk.
	Views	Epic views from Blue Bell Hill
	Refreshments	Plenty of options - shops and pubs in Cuxton and Detling

## Route description

1. Turn right off Bush Road. Pass through the gate and continue straight as the footpath travels uphill. Turn left over the bridge, once you have crossed turn right and pass down some steps. Cross the field and keep straight as the footpath bends right uphill to a gate.



Ranscombe Farm

2. Pass through the gate and walk straight with view on your right. Continue along this main footpath for 0.5 miles until you reach a road. Turn right and walk on the road. It will soon bear left downhill to a small car park.
3. Turn left alongside the busy road towards a roundabout. Continue on the pavement as it veers left, downhill and then passes under the busy road. Turn left and keep left and you will emerge on the other side of the roundabout. Turn right after 250 metres and follow the small road leading to the Medway Bridge.
4. Walk for almost 1 mile crossing the bridge. When you reach the road turn right and walk under the motorway then turn left onto Nashenden Farm Road. Continue on this road for 0.5 miles and turn right when you reach the buildings. Keep left passing a row of cottages and continue uphill to a gate.
5. After a short distance turn right onto the smaller footpath into a field. Bear left and follow the field edge, with the trees on your left. Continue to the top corner of the field, through a gap and onto a gravel track, continue straight.

6. Keep walking for 2 miles as gravel path turns to road. Pass house on right called Fairview, then shortly after turn right through a gate. Walk slightly downhill and bear left and pass through a second gate. Walk along top of the hill with view to right.



Blue Bell Hill

7. Continue straight passing car park on your left. Walk into the woods and continue to intersection turning right. Continue straight downhill with a busy road on your left. It will lead into a road and up to a busy road. Turn right and pass under a footbridge. Turn right onto a footpath down some steps.
8. Continue straight looking for a detour to explore Kits Coty on your right. Back on the footpath continue downhill to a road. Follow pavement round to left, cross at crossing. Turn right downhill and take footpath on left. Continue to end of track.
9. Turn left on small road and then turn right through the tunnel and follow this path round to right. With the petrol station on your right turn left and walk down the side of the building with the green fence on your right. Keep left and cross over railway.

10. Walk straight up the steep hill, as the footpath bends to right, turn left on footpath and continue straight uphill. Continue uphill for 0.5 miles passing up some sections of steps. When you reach the end of woods pass the big stones and turn right into the field and walk along the edge of the field with the woods on your right.



Westfield Wood

11. Follow this footpath under the pylons and shortly after turn right into the woods. Turn immediately left and continue straight then the path will bend to the left. Continue walking round to your right and you will pass through a gate, then onto a road.
12. Turn right on the road and follow it around the bend to your left. Continue straight and at the T-junction cross straight over into the woods and keep to the left. Continue through the woods for 1.2 miles to the end of this footpath.
13. Turn right onto the track and continue downhill as the path turns into a road. Turn left at the junction into the Detling. At the end (just before the busy road) turn left and follow the path across the footbridge. Walk down to where the footpath meets the road. This is the end of the walk.

## Points of interest

### 1. Ranscombe Farm Nature Reserve

This is a 560 acre area on the North Downs managed by Plantlife who are a conservation charity helping to save threatened wildflowers and plants. The reserve has been designated a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and is famed for its collection of rare wildflowers and orchids.



### 7. Bluebell Hill Viewpoint

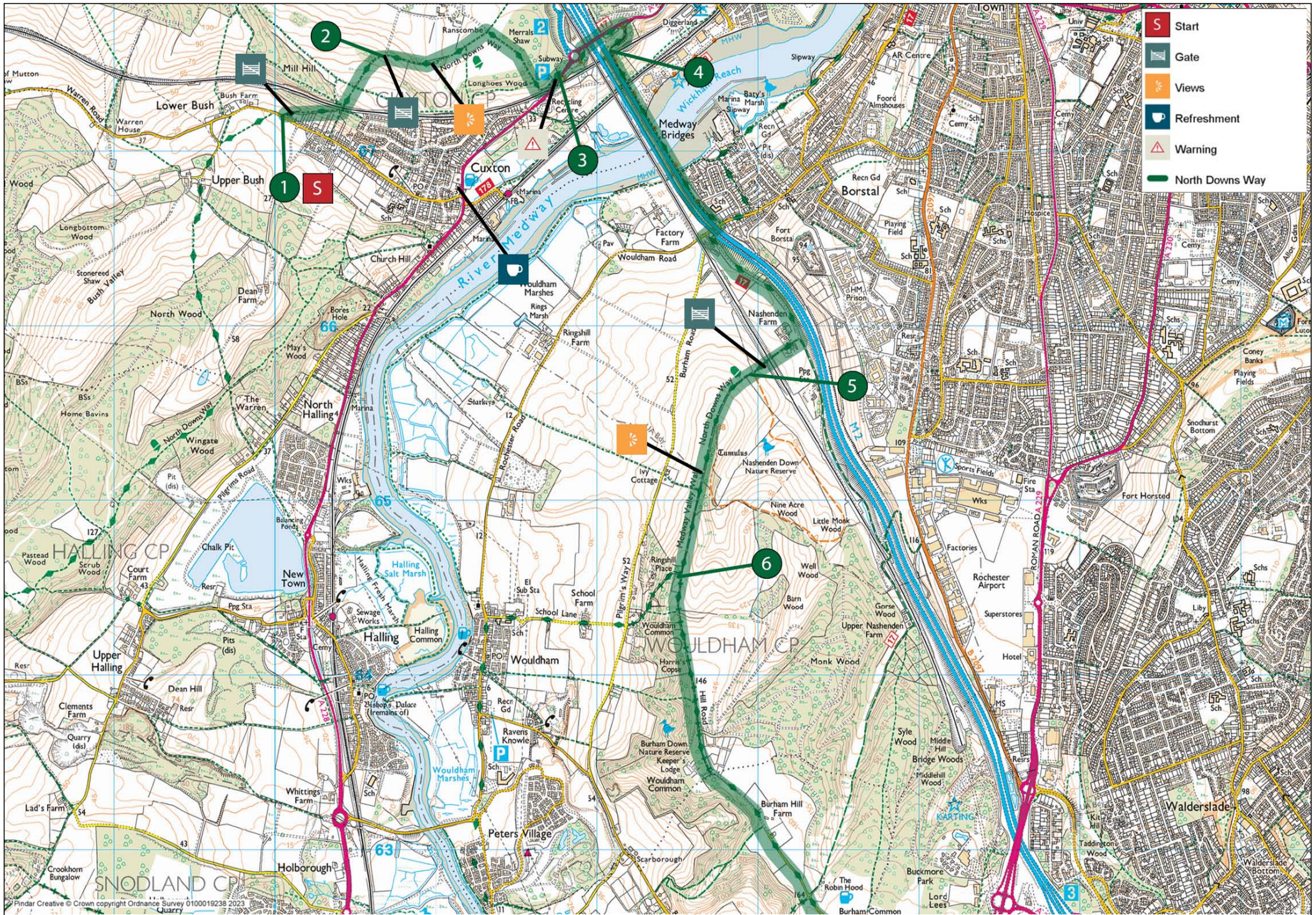
This stunning panoramic viewpoint is the perfect place to have a picnic or rest stop to admire the view from the North Downs over The Weald. This chalk grassland habitat is home to the many unusual and rare plant species which in turn support an array of insects and butterflies.



### 8. Kits Coty

This impressive megalith is one of two long barrows situated in this area. It is thought this structure dates back to the early neolithic period between 4000 and 3000 BC. It would have been used as a burial chamber for the nearby farming community and would have held great significance to these people.





- S Start
- ⚡ Gate
- 👁️ Views
- ☕ Refreshment
- ⚠️ Warning
- North Downs Way

