

# Apples Galore Trail










**4.25 miles (6.8km) allow 90 minutes, suitable for all fitness levels & dogs**

An uplifting rural walk through the North Kent Fruit Belt where apple orchards abound. Along quiet country lanes to the picturesque village of Hartlip with its pretty church and characterful houses nestling on the edge of the North Downs. Across open fields spotting birds of prey and lapwing on the loop back into Newington. A walk that will warm your heart and feed your soul.



## How to get there:

Use the free journey planner on the Kent Connected app to find the best route to the Apples Galore trail, whether by train, bus, cycling, walking or driving.

	Start/Finish	ME9 7LU
	what3words	taps.decisive.demanding
	Gates	6
	Kissing Gates	3
	Stiles	2
	Steps	2
	Terrain	Fields, paddocks, unmade paths, country lanes.
	Views	Estuary and rolling countryside
	Refreshments	Rose & Crown, Hartlip

## Step-by-step Guide:

You are free to start your walk at any point on the map: as this is a circular walk, you'll always return to where you began. To help you plan your walk we've flagged where you'll find a pub, restaurant or coffee shop along the way – for a little break during your walk or to reward yourself with a welcome treat once you've finished!

We've provided a Step-by-Step guide to help you navigate the route, in addition to the map, and to highlight some points of interest along the way. Remember you don't need to start at No. 1 – you can start the walk at any point. Your walk, your choice!

### ► NEWINGTON - HARTLIP

1. From Bull Lane in Newington keep walking straight ahead and immediately after the turning for Playstool Road turn right off Bull Lane down a footpath between houses – it's very uneven, take care. At Pear Tree Walk garages turn left along the footpath – there's a sign up high on the garages - and continue forward passed the houses. The footpath (ZR62) bears right running alongside a fruit orchard. Take the footpath (ZR62) on your left and head across the orchard – the wet clay can be waterlogged in winter. Pass through a gap in the hedge and head across the apple orchards until you come to a track with a footpath sign pointing to the left and right. You are now walking in an area that is known as **The Fruit Bowl of England**.
2. Turn right down this track (ZR68) and keep going forwards. At the end of the orchards keep going straight on, through an opening to the left of the conifer trees. Continue forward along the footpath through a wooded area to the kissing gate at the end – you have reached the village of **Hartlip** on the edge of the North Downs. Turn left along Lower Hartlip Road - this can be a busy road with no footpaths, so do take care.
3. Turn right at **The Rose and Crown** pub, up Hollow Lane alongside fields. This country lane has no

footpaths. At the top of the hill turn left at the T-junction into The Street. Continue forward turning right at the public footpath (ZR79) signposted to the village hall. At the village hall go through the gap in the hedge along the public footpath (ZR79) running alongside the allotments and then through an opening into a field. Head left diagonally across the field and exit through a gate at the end of the field (Hartlip Place is opposite you) and turn right along the road (Place Lane). This is a quiet country lane with no footpaths. Fields and paddocks and a few attractive houses greet you along the way.

4. At the house called Place Corner on your right and Place Stables on your left, turn right into Dane Lane and take this quiet country lane around the village of Hartlip. Continue along the lane with fields and orchards either side and a few houses. There is a lovely view of the church to the right. The road bends round to the right. Continue up this country lane turning right onto Munn's Lane and then right again down The Street into the picturesque village of Hartlip. Check out Pope's Hall on your left. Originally built in the 15th Century, this home is named after Thomas Pope who once lived there. Continue along The Street until you reach **St Michael and All Angels Church** on your right.

### ► HARTLIP TO NEWINGTON

5. Turn left down the public footpath (ZR77) opposite the church between houses. Go through gate into field with paddocks on either side. Exit the field through a gap in the hedge and turn left onto Lower Hartlip Road. Take care exiting the field as this can be a busy road. Retrace steps and turn right through the kissing gate at end of the houses along the public footpath (ZR68) through the wooded area once again. Continue forward into the apple orchards. Keep walking forwards along the grassy track through the fruit farm. Cross one track running to the left and right straight on through the farm. Continue forwards passing a track to your left. Continue straight on until you reach the point where the line of trees changes from the right-hand side to the left-hand side.

6. Continue forwards along the track, the land becomes scrubby. At the footpath sign cut diagonally towards a gap in the corner of trees surrounding the next orchard where there's a large round corrugated iron storage unit. This path can get overgrown in summer, if so, continue along the track until you see a worn path on your left. Follow the footpath signs through the orchard. Once through the trees continue through the gap in the hedge and turn left walking around the perimeter of the grassy area. Exit through the gate at the bottom onto Bull Lane.
7. Immediately on your left go up some steps through a kissing gate onto a public footpath (ZR63) through fields. Keep to the left. Go through gate at the end of field and through another gate and head for the next gate slightly uphill in front of you. Look out for lapwing and birds of prey over these open fields. Go through this gate and into next field. Keep going forwards along left hand fence line. There is nice view of the Swale Estuary ahead. Go through a kissing gate on the left near the tall mast. Walk through paddocks and through the gap in the fence in top right-hand corner into next field. Head to gate straight ahead bordering right hand side of the field (keep dogs on leads as horses). Go through gate. Walk straight ahead and through a gap and over a stile ahead of you into another paddock. Walk diagonally across the field and over the stile in the bottom left-hand corner. Turn right along the footpath (ZR63) when you reach the stable and along the footpath between houses and fields.
8. Turn left alongside the flint wall of Newington Manor and exit the footpath down some steps and turn right onto Bull Lane in **Newington**.



This walk undulates across fields, paddocks and, quite literally, through orchards, over unmade paths and down country lanes. Here are some of the things you will discover along the way.

**Hartlip** – A beautiful, picturesque village in an agricultural region of high quality fruit farming, hops and grain. The name Hartlip derives from the Old English 'hliep', which meant a gate or fence. In combination with 'heorot' (hart or stag), the name therefore means a “gate over which harts leap”.

**St Michael and All Angel, Hartlip** – A beautiful Grade I listed 14th century flint-built church. The church has a peal of 6 bells, the oldest (bell number 5) being cast by Robert Burford between 1392 and circa 1418. Adjacent is the Hartlip Endowed Church of England Primary School, one of the oldest primary schools in Kent, set up and maintained by the Mary Gibbon Trust from the 1600s. The school and church have enjoyed a closely knit relationship for centuries ever since. Many village homes still treasure Mary Gibbon Bibles presented to former pupils.

The church is open during the day and there are benches outside in the churchyard for a rest and quiet reflection with beautiful views over orchards to the rear. The church serves coffee on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning of the month to which walkers are very welcome.

**The Rose & Crown, Hartlip** – A small traditional country village pub & restaurant serving a selection of real ales and home-made food. Dogs are welcome in the public bar. Open fires. The garden has a large enclosed covered area known fondly as “The Lockdown Shed” with heating and plenty of comfy seating. The pub is situated at the lower end of Hollow Lane, a lane whose name is reputed to come from a secret tunnel leading to it from the church! Open Tuesday to Sunday.

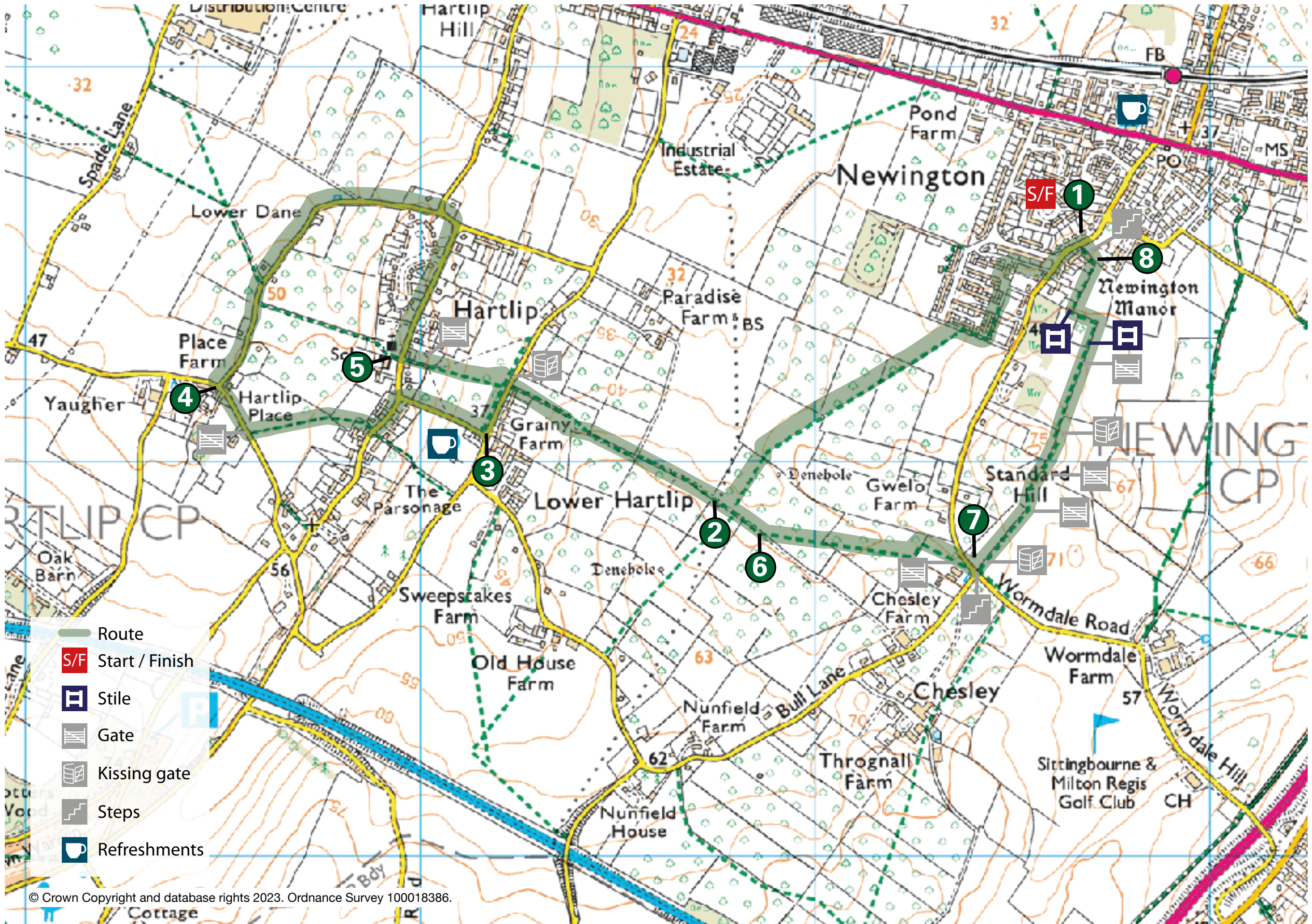
**Newington** – A large village located beside the A2 road (originally a Roman road), with a station on the mainline between London and the Kent coast, surrounded by Kentish countryside, orchards and home to the national collection of Witch Hazel. There is a pub (The Bull) and

coffee shop (Albion Cafe) just off Bull Lane on the High Street.

**The Fruit Bowl of England** - This area is part of the North Kent Fruit Belt, where both the soil and the climate are ideal for growing top-fruit. Although the Romans and the Normans planted here, fruit growing had fallen into decline by the 16th century – but was revived by one Richard Harris, who planted 105 acres with cherries and apples in Teynham, just a few miles away. Others followed suit and you still see throughout the area extensive orchards today. It is also ideal for growing hops, as evidenced by the number of oasthouses still standing. Both crops required armies of fruit pickers – many were Romany Gypsies, while tens of thousands from London’s East End also came “hopping down in Kent”.

We have taken all responsible steps to ensure that this route is safe and achievable by people with a reasonable level of fitness and skill. However, all outdoor activities involve a degree of risk. To the extent permitted by law, Swale Borough Council accepts no responsibility for any accidents or injury resulting from following this route. Walking routes change over time. Weather conditions and other users may also affect the route. Please use your own judgement when using the route, based upon the weather and your ability, experience and confidence levels.





-  Route
-  Start / Finish
-  Stile
-  Gate
-  Kissing gate
-  Steps
-  Refreshments