

Heart of the Weald Challenge

8th July 2023

Route Description – 26 and 20 mile



Welcome to the Heart of the Weald Challenge Walk. Please ensure that your number is recorded at each checkpoint, we track all entrants and will try to find you if we miss you at a checkpoint. Entrants who arrive at checkpoints after closing time will be retired. However, if necessary, each checkpoint will remain manned after closing time in an attempt to account for everyone. It is therefore important that anyone wishing to retire does so at a checkpoint. If this is not possible, then the organisers must be notified, giving your name and walk number, without delay.

Respect the Countryside Code – Leave gates as you found them and Leave No Trace (Checkpoints have litter bags)

Compass bearings in degrees are figures in brackets, e.g. (150°) Distances are approximate.

Abbreviations (alphabetical):

ahd	ahead	LHS	Left Hand Side
BL	Bear left	LMG	Large Metal Gate
BR	Bear right	LWG	Large Wooden Gate
B/sl/L	Bear slightly left	opp	Opposite
B/sl/R	Bear slightly right	O/S	Outside
BW	Bridleway	Pls	Please
cnr	Corner	R	Right
cont	Continue	rd	Road
encl	Enclosed	RHS	Right Hand Side
fb	Footbridge	SMG	Small Metal Gate
FL	Fork Left	SO	Straight On
fld	Field	st	Stile
flw	Follow	SWG	Small Wooden Gate
fp	Footpath	thru	Through
f-post	Finger post	tk	Track
FR	Fork Right	TL	Turn Left
GR	Grid Reference	TR	Turn Right
immed	Immediately	wmk	Waymark
jcn	Junction	X	Cross
kg	Kissing gate	yds	Yards
L	Left		

Please take care when crossing and walking along roads

We hope you enjoy the walk!

**Stonegate Village Hall to Edge of Dallington Forest – 7.2 miles Start at 08:30
for 26 mile walkers, 10:00 for 20 mile walkers and runners**

1.	<p>From door ahd thru car park to reach main rd & TR. Cont on verge on RHS of rd for 70 yds. X Rd with CARE to LMG & st on L.</p> <p>X st & ahd RHS of field to reach gap in hedge. Thru and BL (160°) to SWG in cnr. Thru & ahd across grass, then BL over drive (water treatment works on L) to X st.</p> <p>Ahd on encl fp. TL at fence cnr (now in trees) & cont downhill on fp, which bears R, to reach & X fb on L.</p> <p>BR, up bank to X st & BR (150°) across grass to go thru LMG. X fld (170) X fb & st in R cnr of fld to enter wood.</p> <p>Ahd to flw fp thru wood, over fallen tree & in 35 yds reach fork in path and wmk on tree on L. BL up into fld & TR now with wood on R.</p> <p>On reaching overgrown gap in trees cont along RHS of fld, soon rising gently, to far cnr. BL uphill with trees on R for 90 yds to pass pond & reach f-post on R</p>	<p>0.77 mile (1.24km) GR669275</p>
2.	<p>TR between ponds & cont into fld. BL LHS of fld (pond & trees now on L). At gap & wmk on R, BR on winding fp across fld to X fb to gravel drive.</p> <p>TR downhill for a total of 530 yds, soon joining trees & hedge on L. 15 yds before gate (may be open) TL off drive onto encl path to X st in front of barn. TR, hedge on R & barn on L.</p> <p>Cont with fence on R to pass or go thru doorway. X st and SO to reach double doors. Thru and ahd to SMG to X Railway (CARE). Thru another SMG</p> <p>Down fld keeping to RHS of field to pass house on R & reach fence cnr post with yellow tape (pond to R). BL across fld (160°) to cnr of ditch with wire fencing.</p> <p>Cont ahd LHS of fld to TR at cnr to reach & X bridge on L. Ahd towards LH cnr of trees (110°). TR for 50 yds to next cnr & TL for 40 yds to reach f-post on L, then BR downhill (180°) towards bridge. X and thru LMG. BL to join hedge on L & cont to end of fld.</p>	<p>1.97 mile (3.17km) GR670259</p>
3.	<p>TL to X st beside double LMG's & TR RHS of fld. Cont down fld to X fb via 2 SMGs & ahd (180°) to O/S fence cnr.</p> <p>Ahd with fence on R & in 400 yds reach fb on R. Do not X, but TL uphill to X st. BR to join fence & BL up RHS of fld to reach & X fb on R.</p> <p>Along encl fp & at end X st by LWG & cont ahd uphill on drive to main rd (A265) at Burwash.</p>	<p>2.86 mile (4.6km) GR672247</p>

4.	<p>X rd with EXTREME CARE and TR on pavement. Cont to pass lane on L, signposted to Batemans, & then garage on R. Ahd to 50 mile limit sign, & in 115 yds reach steps on L with handrail.</p> <p>Up steps & thru KG. Cont down RHS of fld to bottom. BR thru SMG & flw path which swings L downhill to go over fb & thru SMG into fld.</p> <p>In 10 yds BR with hedge to go thru SMG, over fb & BL with path with pond on R. X fb, thru SMG & ahd down field (160°) to gap.</p> <p>Thru & BR across fld (190°) to NT wmk post & cont to far RH cnr of fld. Thru SMG & TR on encl tk. Cont ahd to reach house on L (Rye Green Farm).</p> <p>Join drive from house & in 25 yds, when drive bears R, BL up bank thru gateway into fld (wmk on tree). BR across fld (250°) to pass thru bushes to reach & go thru SMG.</p> <p>Cont initially between bushes & then uphill LHS of fld. At top BL thru LMG & cont with hedge on R and young trees on L to meet & X st to R of LMG.</p> <p>TL on LHS fld downhill (110°) to reach kg on R just before far cnr. Thru into wood & cont downhill on winding path.</p> <p>Thru KG & ahd to field with trees and stream on R for 100 yds to X bridge on R. Thru LMG & TR along narrow fld, then as fld opens out cont uphill on fp. Path swings R & then L to reach kg.</p> <p>Thru & B/sl/R thru trees to X st, then ahd to X a second st. SO on encl path. At end X st & cont to flw path to BR downhill towards road sign to reach & X st.</p>	<p>5.27 mile (8.49 km) GR658226</p>
5.	<p>With CARE X lane & ahd thru SMG onto BW encl by hedges. At end ahd up gulley to reach garden wall cnr.</p> <p>Ahd now with wall and then garden fence on R. When fence ends, ahd (210°) to RHS field O/S hedge cnr passing L of farm roller. Cont, keeping hedge on R, ignore overgrown track on R, to meet LWG in cnr & thru onto encl tk to reach & pass thru another LWG.</p> <p>Cont ahd to reach small, isolated tree. BL (220°), keeping parallel to telegraph poles, & ahd to go thru gateway. SO LHS of fld to go thru SWG to X earth bridge into fld.</p> <p>Cont ahd for 5 yds, ignore open gateway on L, & ahd (240°) for 60 yds to TL to find hidden SWG in trees .</p> <p>Cont on path thru wood [tree has fallen on power line but may be cleared], gently climbing, for approx 250 yds to pass wmk post on R & ahd to X fb. Cont flwing wmk's downhill to X fb then ahd on path uphill to top to find next wmk on L. BR over fallen tree, to go downhill to X small stream & then cont uphill on winding path bearing R & L to reach barriers & X tk.</p> <p>Thru & TR on eroded fp steeply downhill to reach drive at bottom.</p>	<p>6.38 mile (10.26 km) GR651213</p>

6.	<p>TR & then BL with drive to X bridge. At Glaziers Forge Farm BR to wall (f-post on R) & TL steeply uphill on encl fp.</p> <p>Cont for 1,100 yds, tk enters woodland & widens as gradient eases, to reach LMG & 'Private Keep Out' sign on R.</p> <p>Then ahd with fence on R for a further 400 yds, passing barn on L, to reach rd. TL to arrive at</p>	7.33 miles (11.8 km) GR638208
<p>Checkpoint 1 – Edge of Dallington Forest What3Words – operation.lakeside.park Opens: 10:15 Closes: 13:15 What3Words – operation.lakeside.park</p>		
<p>Dallington Forest to South Street Car Park, Mayfield – 7.3 miles</p>		
7.	<p>From CP TL uphill on Private Road for 400 yds to reach red "SLOW Children & Animals" sign on L. Cont ahd uphill for a further 450 yds to reach railed fence on L & pass gate on R with "Footpath Preferred Route" sign. (Ignore 15 milers turning R here.)</p> <p>SO & in 110 yds at f-post on L, TR up drive marked Black Down Farm. In 45 yds at end of hedge TL up steps onto encl path. In cnr TR with path & in 70 yds TL over st.</p> <p>TR & then BL across tk to wmk & cont for 15 yds to X st on R. Ahd on encl fp. At end X st & TR on rd. Fllw rd, passing windmill on R & cont downhill to T-jcn.</p> <p>X rd & st opp to join encl fp. At end X st & ahd with barn on R. Down LHS of fld crossing 2 st's to reach drive. Ahd thru SWG to rd & TR to T-jcn.</p>	8.6 miles (13.8 km) GR622206
8.	<p>TL & in 250 yds TR over st to L of LMG & ahd LHS of fld to cnr. TL over st & stream & flw path thru trees. At end X st & fb & ahd on encl path.</p> <p>BL over fb & cont. X st onto gravel path & SO to go thru LWG to X lane to track/drive opp. Ahd to X st and sheep barrier & TR along RHS of fld.</p>	
9.	<p>At cnr thru kg & cont along narrow path to TR on major tk heading downhill thru trees. At gateway & wmk on R, BR down fld (20°) to X st to L of LMG into wood.</p> <p>Fllw fp downhill to BL around tree to X fb & then BR with fp uphill. Cont on winding fp uphill under & over fallen branches. At top X st & ahd on encl path.</p> <p>At end X st & ahd LHS of fld to cnr. X st & BL down bank to drive. TL for 700 yds to reach main rd. Initially drive climbs steeply to pass buildings on R &</p>	

	on reaching wide tk to L, drive begins to level before descending & bending L & R to meet the BUSY A265.	10.7 miles (17.2 km) GR610225
10.	<p>With Extreme CARE X rd, & TL for 20 yds to TR onto encl fp to L of LMG. (CARE barbwire fence on R). X st, TL & cont on encl fp. Over fb, thru SMG & ahd LHS of fld to X broken st in cnr. Over fb to drive at Wish End Farm & TL thru gateway to rd.</p> <p>X rd & TR downhill on pavement. X Street End Lane & cont downhill to reach deregulation rd sign. Cont for 550 yds to find & X st on L, to R of LMG & immed before drive & house, Hornsbeam Wood</p>	11.4 miles (18.4 km) GR606234
11.	<p>Ahd with hedge/fence on R & in 25 yds as fence bears R, ahd down fld (250°) to bottom aiming 35 yds to R of LH cnr (ignore LMG in LH chr). BL to go thru hidden LMG with yellow wmk.</p> <p>Cont on path to X earth bridge & BL uphill to LMG. Thru gate & ahd across fld (200°) to join fence on L & SO to go thru LMG. BL across drive towards fence & wmk.</p> <p>Cont on encl fp to X fb, up steps & X st into fld. TR to X st & ahd on encl fp to join drive from R. Cont to go thru LMG & in 6 yds, at f-post, turn sharp R down steps & X St (rocky bottom step).</p> <p>TR along RHS of fld & cont thru gap to X sheep gate. Ahd on short encl path which bends to R & then L to X fb.</p>	
12.	<p>Ahd across fld to X st in LH cnr. Cont LHS of fld for 60 yds to X st on L & flw path downhill to X stepped bridge. BL with path uphill for 30 yds to short wmk post & TR (DO NOT MISS THIS).</p> <p>Flw this winding path, initially on a high bank above a stream. Path soon bends L uphill & cont's to swing R past a further wmk post. At next wmk, join tk from L and cont downhill. Down steps, over fb & ahd uphill into fld to meet wmk post.</p> <p>BR uphill (320°) to X st in hedge. BL uphill (300°) to SWG in treeline & ahd thru holly trees to then BL on narrow path. Flw path as it bears R to X drive, with green gates on R, & cont on encl path thru trees to BL into fld.</p> <p>BR downhill along RHS of fld. Nearing bottom path swings L & R & then B/sl/L over small path to reach st with wmk. X st & ahd on path with trees on L & fence on R. As path narrows, cont to BL with fence to X st. Ahd across fld to X st in fence line & cont up bank to meet drive & f-post.</p>	12.9 mile (20.7 km) GR596242

15.	<p>From cp</p> <p>Scout hut – TR through car park to tarmac path. Follow downhill with children play area on R becoming enclosed path, swinging R just before reaching rd. X rd and TR. Immed BL with Rose & Crown sign on R. TL at rd East Street (Fair Oak Farm sign). Ahd to X Southmead Close & pass Bus Stop on L. Cont ahd for 140 yds to reach Summer Lawn Cottage on L & TL on fp, wmk to R of fp.</p> <p>Fp soon becomes encl, initially between hedges. At rd X to tk opp & in 30 yds BR onto encl path, garden fence/hedge on R & trees on L. At end cont across fld downhill between fences. At bottom of fld pass to L of st & down into dip.</p> <p>BR up bank to X st & IMMED TR over 2nd st & ahd downhill RHS of fld. Thru gap & keep to RHS of fld, soon uphill. Nearing top pass house & hedge on R to X st in RH cnr to R of LWG.</p>	16 miles (25.7 km) GR601269
16.	<p>TR on tk & immed before rd BL up drive with BW marker, signed Merrieweathers Farm & Stoney Croft. Ahd downhill for 350 yds & with white building ahd, BL off drive (BW wmk).</p> <p>Cont on encl path still downhill. In 400 yds reach wmk, with fp to L & LMG to R. Ahd for a further 180 yds to reach tk jcn with green triangle & wmk post.</p> <p>FL & immed TL on tk to cont to X major bridge with rails & TR over st. Cont ahd thru fld with stream to R for 500 yds to go thru gate posts & SO towards cream building (Rof's Farm).</p>	16.9 miles (27.2 km) GR613270
17.	<p>Pass to R of building, X drive towards LWG & TL thru SWG. TR on fp & cont on LHS of fld to BL with path over stream, up bank & at f-post TR on tk.</p> <p>At f-post on L, keep ahd on undulating main concrete tk for 400 yds to reach & X st to R of LMG (white house on L - Hampden Lodge). Ahd towards LMG & at f-post TR thru gateway down into wood. At bottom X st to L of LMG & ahd on fp thru narrow fld to X st to R of LMG (pls DO NOT OPEN AS GATE DROPS!!).</p>	17.6 miles (28.4 km) GR623267
18.	<p>Ahd thru trees & at jcn, with buildings ahd & bridge to R, TL on path. Cont ahd with stream on R, later fence, to join drive & cont in same direction to pass between buildings. SO on path to pass brick outbuildings on L. Ahd downhill LHS of fld, thru SWG & cont on encl path to go thru wooden barrier to meet tk.</p> <p>SO on tk & in 500 yds X lane. Thru LMG with wmk & BL up tk to join garden fence to reach LWG on L. In 15 yds at fence cnr (may be overgrown wmk),</p>	

	BR across middle of fld (90°) to go thru LMG (with wmk) & ahd RHS of fld. At end TR down bank & TL over st.	18.6 miles (30 km) GR637265
	26 & 20 MILE ROUTES DIVERGE HERE – FOR 20 MILE ROUTE PLEASE GO TO PARAGRAPH 28	
19.	<p>TL on lane, ignoring 20 milers continuing straight on. Ahd uphill for 90 yds & when lane bends L, BR up drive on BW. In 300 yds at f-post, BL & ahd on fp.</p> <p>Pass house on R & cont to BR with tk uphill. In 400 yds, with LMG to L, BL with track still uphill & cont thru trees & LMG with wmk. SO to pass to L of LWG & ahd on fp into wood. In 40 yds FR downhill, over X tk & cont downhill to reach path T-jcn with wmk post & green viewing platform.</p> <p>TR & in 8 yds BL on path still downhill. At next wmk BR & cont to reach information board. X st & fb & keep ahd to meet jcn with f-post. TL on fp, X fallen tree & then BR on path over tyres uphill. Keep on main path & as it swings R, ignore gully to L. Cont on path to exit wood onto drive. Ahd downhill to T-jcn & TL on lane.</p>	
20.	<p>At next jcn keep ahd downhill & in 140 yds, as lane bends L, TR over st at Glen Farm. Ahd up drive to X st & cont ahd up LHS of fld. With care X railway, thru SWG & SO LHS of fld. 20 yds before cnr & LWG TL over st.</p> <p>Keep ahd RHS of fld to reach wmk & TR to X st. BL & cont LHS of fld to meet hedge cnr & oak tree on L, then BR with path across fld to X st. Fllw path downhill thru trees to X st & cont to reach rd.</p> <p>TR uphill to jcn & BL over railway bridge. Fllw rd downhill, passing rd on R, & as rd bends L cont ahd onto Snape Lane. SO uphill for 160 yds to reach handrails & f-post on L to TR on fp into wood.</p>	GR634301
21	<p>Ahd to X railway via 2 st's. Cont ahd, over tk jcn to wmk & narrow path. Ahd steeply uphill thru trees. As gradient levels & at wmk post on R, ignore path to L. Path soon descends gently to meet major tk. X & cont on narrow path, over sleeper bridge & up bank to go thru kg into fld.</p> <p>TL uphill LHS of fld to X st to R of LMG (pls use st as gate is unsafe). Ahd on fp into trees to go thru LMG & then SO uphill with fence on R to X st. Cont RHS of fld to go thru gap in cnr & ahd downhill to X st.</p>	

22.	<p>X drive & st ahd, ignoring path to L. BR uphill on clear fp (20°) to top of rise, then cont downhill to BL to join fence & X st on R. TL on lane (Washwell Lane) uphill.</p> <p>At T-jnc with Courthope Ave to L, X rd to pavement opp & TR. Ahd to just before converted oasts on both sides of rd. TR and X rd to LMG and :</p>	GR641317
<p>Checkpoint 3 – Football Field, Wadhurst – 22 miles</p> <p>Opens: 13:00 Closes: 17:45</p>		
<p>Wadhurst to Stonegate Village Hall – 4.6 miles</p>		
23.	<p>From CP, X rd and TR. At Townlands Rd, BR X rd and TL on pavement. Cont uphill to Wadhurst High Street to TR. Pass Commemoration Hall on R (Toilets on rhs of hall) and pass Greyhound pub on R after 120 yds to pass Uplands Academy Drive & when safe to do so, with CARE, TL across rd. TR on pavement downhill to X over Stone Cross Rd & then Oakwood Way. 25yds after passing Brinksters Lane on R and before deregulation sign, TL to X st.</p> <p>Ahd on fp uphill thru bushes into fld. X fld (60°) to X st in RH cnr to R of LMG. X lane, thru gap & ahd with trees on R. Downhill to gate & BL with path with fence on R. At end of fence BR with path down into trees, over bridge & cont on path thru woodland. Path bears L & then R thru SMG into fld. Initially BL & then R steeply uphill towards buildings. As the steepness lessens, join hedge & fence on L. Thru kg & up steps to drive.</p>	<p>23.2 miles (37.4 km) GR656313</p>
24.	<p>TL for 450 yds to meet low building on R “The Bothy”. Just past building TR thru LWG (green fp sign) & ahd to pass large tree on R. Immed BR (140°) to reach wmk (not easily visible) to L of large oak tree & then BL downhill between trees. Cont downhill with trees & fence on L to X bridge & double gates.</p> <p>Ahd (30°) to BL up gully. 5 yds before end of trees at wmk on old gate post, TR between 2 large oaks & ahd uphill with trees now on L. Cont uphill later with fence & hedge on L. Exit fld via LWG & TR downhill on lane for 400 yds to reach rd jcn.</p>	<p>24.2 miles (38.8 km) GR664315</p>
25.	<p>TL, sign posted towards Birchetts Green. Cont on lane for 700 yds to X bridge with white railings. Ahd for 40 yds to X st on R, to R of LMG, & ahd uphill on LHS of fld. At top of fld X st 10 yds to L of LMG (or thru gate if open).</p> <p>Cont initially along LHS of fld & as trees sweep L, keep ahd (200°) towards LMG (awkward catch - gate is sprung). Thru & TL. X st to R of double LMG’s & ahd LHS of fld. In cnr pass to R of gate & TL over st & then TR onto encl fp. Cont on path to meet busy rd (B2099).</p>	<p>25.2 miles (40.5 km) GR667302</p>

26.	<p>With CARE X & TL. Cont on rd for 250 yds, passing telephone box & bus stop on R. At Wallcrouch Farm TR thru white gates (wmk on telegraph pole opp) & ahd on drive to LMG.</p> <p>Thru & ahd across grass to another LMG. Thru & BR across fld (190°) towards end of treeline. Thru gateway in RH cnr and TL down LHS of fld. In cnr X st and cont ahd down LHS of fld. Thru LMG & ahd now with hedge on L & wooden fence on R. Thru gateway/LMG to join concrete track & ahd between buildings. Thru LWG & SO on drive to rd.</p>	GR671293
27.	<p>X rd & TR for 1000 yds. (Cont on LHS of rd & after crossing bridge, when safe to do so, X to RHS.) At T-jcn at Stonegate TL. Cont on LHS of rd, using verge where possible, to BL with hedge to X minor rd. Ahd thru car park to Stonegate Village Hall & FINISH. 26.6 MILES</p>	26.6 miles (42.8 km) GR668285
	<p>Stonegate Village Hall & FINISH by 19:30</p> <p><i>Congratulations – Well Done!</i></p>	
28.	<p>X lane (ignore 26 milers turning left) & up bank opp to go thru SWG. X field (060° aim to right of farm bldgs.)) to X fb into next fld & BR towards LMG. Thru into fld 090 degs aiming between first two poles, then BL and keep parallel and to R of power line to reach and cross style on R, 30 yards before end of field and before LMG.</p> <p>TL and keep to LHS of field until field edge bears left, then continue ahead to pass WW2 pillbox on L, and to reach LMG. Do not cross but TR for 25 yards to TL onto rickety fb.</p> <p>Continue following to R of power line to and cross fb.</p> <p>Then BL across field (60°) towards 3rd power pole and hedge line, ahead thru gap with stream on R to cross concrete FB and thru SMG .</p> <p>Ahd up RHS of fld & in 60 yds TR over sleeper bridge & thru SMG. BL across fld heading slightly R of oak tree (120°) to reach SMG. Thru, up bank & TR on drive. Fllw to rd. With CARE X rd & TL on verge opp (joining 15 mile route).</p>	20 miles (35.4 km) GR655269

29.	<p>Cont ahd uphill for 270 yds & immed after house on R, TR thru SMG next to LMG (awkward catch, tilt handle forward & lift) & ahd over grass to go thru LWG.</p> <p>Cont downhill LHS of fld, down into dip & ahd uphill to power pole. BR (100°) across fld to find & X railway bridge, via 2 SMG's, & ahd across grass to go thru another SMG.</p> <p>Ahd (060°) to pass barn on L. Cont ahd downhill to lone wooden post with pond on L, then BR uphill to go thru LMG & turn sharp L onto drive.</p>	20.5 miles (33 km) GR662271
30.	<p>Ahd on drive to go thru LMG (may be open) & in 10 yds BR thru LMG with wmk (may be open). Cont on tk & in 200 yds, immed before gate posts, BR to go thru SMG next to LMG into fld.</p> <p>BL (060°) across fld to end of tree line to go thru SMG to R of LMG. BL across fld (070°) to meet SMG with white sign.</p> <p>Thru into trees, steeply downhill to x stream & BR with path, now with stream on R. Path climbs & swings L & then R to descend very steeply (eroded) to X fb. Up bank & BL uphill on winding fp to exit into fld. TL now with wood on L. (You are now retracing your steps from this morning).</p> <p>Thru overgrown gap & cont for 210 yds to TL into wood & in 15 yds BR on path. Cont on fp to meet & X st & fb.</p> <p>Ahd across fld to go thru LMG. BL across grass to st. X st & BR to X fb. TR up fp to water treatment fence & TL. At cnr of fence TR on encl path. X st & cont with fence on R to X drive & then grass to SWG.</p> <p>Thru SWG & B/sl/R uphill (340°) to fence post & gap. Thru & ahd LHS of fld to X st to R of LMG. With CARE X rd & TR. Cont on LHS of rd, using verge where possible, to BL with hedge to X minor rd. Ahd thru car park to:</p>	21.8 miles (35.1 km) GR668285
<p>Stonegate Village Hall & FINISH by 19:30</p> <p><i>Congratulations – Well Done!</i></p>		