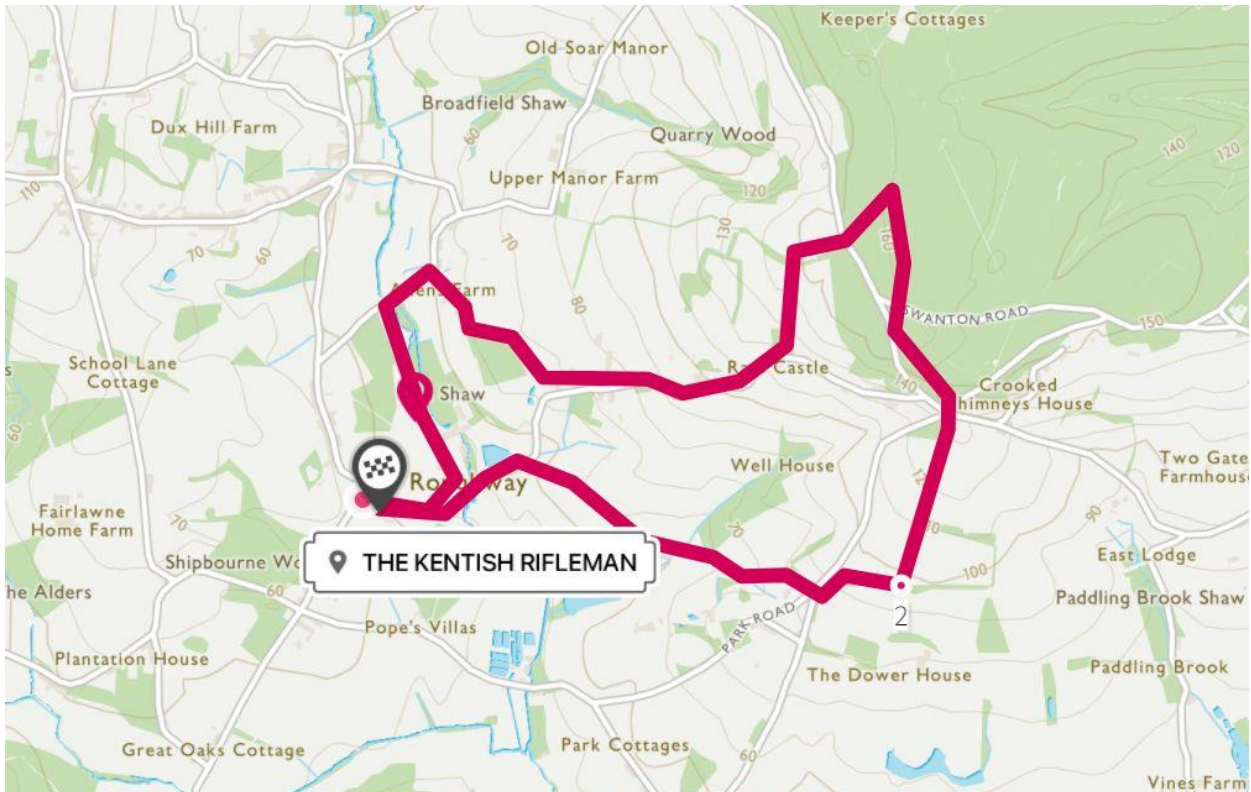


Walk 23 – The Paper Trail

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Description: A short but challenging circular walk from Dunks Green to the edge of Mereworth woods. The route features countless orchards, beautiful views and sleepy country lanes.

Length: 4 miles /6.47 km (approximately 2 hours)

Grade: A little challenging

Good for: A walk for all seasons

1. Begin your walk at The Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green. Turn right out of the pub and walk with care down Roughway Lane. Walk past the trio of cottages and then follow the lane for approximately 100 metres more until you see a path on your left leading through the hedge.
2. After a short distance, the path will run parallel with a deep stream - there are no barriers here so take care and supervise any children or pets that are walking with you. Continue through the wooden gate and then walk onwards through the field, heading for the right-hand corner.
3. Leave the field via the submerged wooden bridge, then walk across the next set of planks and then continue across the boggy field, tracing the path until you reach a kissing gate. Go

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through the gate and then immediately turn right walking over the bridge and up the lane - do not climb the stile opposite!

4. After 150 metres the lane will bend round to the left. At this point, continue straight on, following the path along a driveway that runs between two hedges. Continue straight on, leaving the gravelly driveway and veering onto the grassy track that leads uphill to the left.
5. When you reach the large wooden gate, continue to the left and follow the path into the orchard (cobnut plat). Continue onwards through the Plat, pausing at the top to look back and admire the view back to Plaxtol.
6. Go through the gate and then turn right following the path beside a field of poly tunnels. Follow the path round into the orchard and then continue along the hedge, heading towards the oast house at the end of the track. Just before the oast, turn right and follow the stony track for 20 metres until you reach the lane.
7. Turn left, then follow the lane uphill for approximately 780 metres. Continue uphill and just after Rats Castle you will see a byway leading up the hillside on your left. Follow this to the top of the ridge where you will meet another path.
8. Turn right and follow this track for 180 metres until you come to a road. Cross over with care and follow the bridleway into the woods. This is a working forest so please be aware of your surroundings at all times.
9. Continue straight on through the clearing. At the time of writing this walk, this section required some thought, to pass round the huge muddy puddles – do take care as these are very deep!
10. When you reach the cross roads, turn right and walk down the track until you reach a small road. Cross over with care and then continue along the path as it narrows to a ledge, running parallel with the road below.
11. Walk on down Govers Hill. Keep an eye out for the viewpoint tucked away on your right, this is well worth the small detour. When you re-join the path, continue to the road, then walk to the junction of Peckham Hurst Road with care and then cross over, taking the track to the left of the house.
12. Walk down the track, keeping the hedge to your right. You will reach a crossroads at the bottom of the track, turn right, following the blue arrow. The path will lead you directly past the end of the rows of polytunnels. Keep going, continuing out of the left-hand corner of the orchard.
13. Walk along the path and then down the steps until you reach the road. Turn left, walking down the road with care for 40 metres and then turn right up the track and over the stile.
14. Continue along the track for 50 metres and then turn left down the grassy footpath and round through to the corner of the field . This is very slippery when wet so do take care.

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15. Follow the path round past the edge of the field and then cross over the ditch before continuing towards the right-hand corner of the field and the tall trees.
16. Climb the stile and then turn right, walking for approximately 30 metres before taking the path on your left. This leads you through the pine forest, before emerging into an open field.
17. Walk uphill through the field and then when you reach the next field turn right uphill following the path between the field and the hedge until you enter an apple orchard. Walk straight on and when the track bends to the right, take a diagonal left, following the path between the rows of fruit trees until you reach the hedge.
18. Go through the gap in the hedge and then cut diagonally across the field before following the track round to the left and out of the far left-hand corner of the field.
19. Climb the stile and then turn left, following the lane with care underneath the row of cottages. Continue along the lane, crossing the River Bourne once more and then retrace your steps back round the lane to The Kentish Rifleman, marking the end of your walk.

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When enjoying this walk, please remember to follow the countryside code:

Respect other people

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors

Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear

Leave gates and property as you find them

Stay on footpaths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

Leave no trace of your visit - take all your litter home

Don't have BBQs or fires

Keep dogs under effective control

Bag and bin your dog poo.

Enjoy the outdoors

Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared

Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures

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