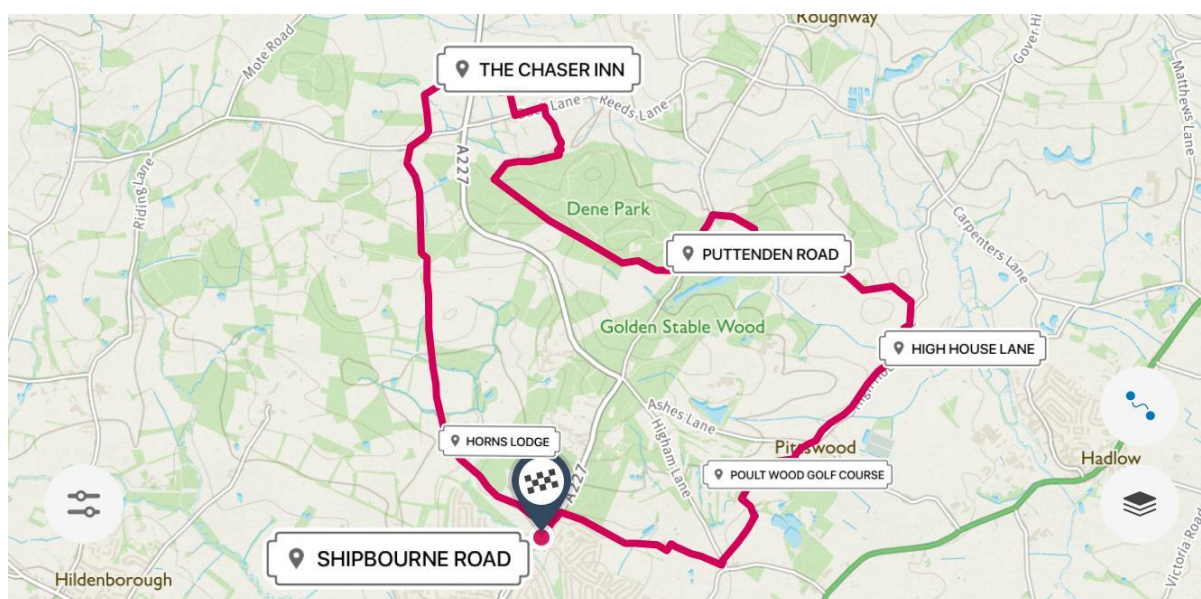


Walk 7 – The long way home

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Description: A long scenic walk that takes you from North Tonbridge up to the pretty village of Shipbourne and back via copious amounts of woodland and majestic views.

Length: 7.6 miles / 12.2 kilometres (approximately 3-4 hours, longer if stopping at The Chaser)

Grade: A little challenging.

Good for: A walk in the woods.

Begin your walk at the corner of Whistler Road and Shipbourne Road.

1. Walk North for 100 metres before crossing the road and taking the left hand turn into Horns Lodge lane. Follow the lane for 800 metres (1/2 a mile) until you reach the T junction at Horns Lodge farm. At this point turn left, following the road round to another junction, before taking the track to the right. Walk through the wooden gate, past the barn and the stacks of logs, continuing until you meet a second wooden gate.

2. Pass through the gate into the meadow and follow the hedge on your right. Follow the path to the end of the next meadow and then walk through the gate into the woods.

3. Walk on until you emerge from the woods. When you reach the cross roads at Avenue cottage, cross the gravel drive and walk straight ahead along the grassy path that runs between the woods. This can get very muddy after wet weather, so plan ahead. After 100 metres, turn off to the right slightly and pass through the enclosed kissing gate.

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4. Walk through the field and then at the hay barn take the path to the right, keeping the hedge to your left hand side. Pass through another enclosed gate at the end of the field and take an immediate right. Walk for 10 metres and then take the path to the left of the wooden gate, running alongside the horse paddock at West Green Farm. This will lead you through a gap in the hedge and onto Hildenborough road.

5. Turn right and walk along the verge for 200 metres before taking the path on your left, joining the Fairlawne estate once more. Cross the bridge and then walk through the field, passing alongside the wood. The path then turns right, gently climbing uphill. You will see St Giles church up in the distance.

6. Follow the path until you reach the church yard. Before you go through the trees, look to your left for a stunning view of the Greensand Ridge. Upon leaving the church yard The Chaser will be on your right.

7. Upon leaving the pub cross the road with care and walk diagonally right across the common. Keep your eyes peeled for a wooden kissing gate tucked in the hedge on your right. Make sure you replace the loop and keep dogs on a lead as there are goats in this field. Once you reach the other side turn left out of the next kissing gate before proceeding along Back Lane with care.

8. After 200 metres walk through another kissing gate and then take the narrow path between the hedges. Cross the little bridge and then follow the stream round until you reach the steps at the entrance to the woods. Climb the steps and then turn right, walking through Point Wood, part of Dene Park.

9. Once you reach the fence where the paths cross, turn left and walk straight for approximately 600 metres - ignoring the track that turns off to your left. Continue until you reach the barrier, then follow the shingle track until you see a path leading off to the right between a garden and a field. Stay on this until you see a car park. At this point stay to the right and continue until you reach Puttenden road.

10. Turn left and then walk along Puttenden road with care for 400 metres until you see a path on your right. This will lead you into to Clear hedges wood. Stay on this path for around 650 metres until you reach a track.

11. Take a right turn and then an immediate left into what becomes Frith wood. Follow this path for 280 metres until you reach a large gap in the hedge. At this point turn left joining the grassy track.

12. Walk straight ahead, walking past a hedge and then continue straight on as the track runs between two fields.

13. Follow the track round to the right and after 210 metres you will come to a stile. Climb over and you will emerge onto High House lane.

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14. Turn right and follow the lane for 800 metres until you will come to a junction with Ashes Lane. Turn right and then cross the road, taking the path to your left past Robin House and the bungalows. Continue along the narrow overgrown path until it forks at the meadow. At this point turn right and walk along the back of the gardens and the giant green house.

15. Climb the stile, cross through the little meadow and then cross another stile, before climbing a third stile next to the Poult House. Follow the path until the next stile which leads you directly onto the golf course. Keep dogs on a lead and beware of flying golf balls.

16. Turn left, walking through the hidden gap in the hedge and then cross over two little bridges. Continue straight across the fairway with care, heading for the green footpath sign in the distance. Cross a second fairway and follow the signs before exiting via the wooded path on the left. Walk through the kissing gate and you will come out on Higham Lane.

17. Take the footpath on the opposite side of the road and follow this for 400 metres until you reach Grange Farm. Walk round past the pond and then take the path to the left of the drive way.

18. Follow the pathway through two large fields and then continue through Carroty wood. When you reach Shipbourne Road turn left and walk down the road for 250 metres, where you will find yourself back at Whistler Road, ending your walk.

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