

Walk 8 – The little ace

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Description: A scenic nature walk from Golden Green that includes rivers, lakes, locks and spacious water meadows. There is the option of a longer route if you take the 'Big 8' - an additional circular route round Moat Farm and the orchards that can be completed to make the walk a figure of 8.

Length: 3.1 miles / 5 km (approx 1 -2 hours)

Grade: Not too tough

Good for: A short walk with beautiful sunsets.

1. Turn left out of the recreation ground and cross Three Elm Lane with care. When you reach the Bell Inn, take the right hand turn into Victoria Road and continue for approximately 200 metres until you reach the bridge
2. Cross over and take the path on your right, walking between the field and the river bank. Continue along the bank for around 700 metres until you reach a wooden bridge.
3. Cross the river and then take the path through the field and round to the left of the hedge, following a small stream. Once you reach the large gate, turn right onto Three Elm Lane and walk along the road with care for 15 metres before taking the left hand turn down the track.
4. Follow the path past the cottages and then climb the stile. Take a left turn at the hay barn and then turn right through the gate, just before the farm yard. Remember to close this behind you and keep any dogs on a lead as there are sheep grazing nearby.

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5. Walk down the grass track between the stream and the field. At the end you will come to a second gate, leading directly into a sheep field. This one is a bit stiffer to open. Continue on until you reach a third gate and then take the grass track to the right of the ditch. Don't panic if the bolt comes off in your hand, it does this every time - do replace it though!
6. Walk through the open gate and across another field. On the other side you will reach Ford Green Bridge. Cross over the bridge and then continue straight ahead, taking the path to the left of the trees, through the long grass.
7. At the end of the meadow pass through the wooded glade before climbing the stile. Follow the path through the bushes and round to the left. You will catch glimpses of a large lake through the trees and a smaller swamplier one to your right.
8. Cross the little footbridge and turn left. Follow the path round the hedge past the gates until you reach another larger wooden bridge. Take the path to the right of the bridge through the gap in the hedge. There will be a large lake to your left.
9. Cross the wooden bridge at the end of the causeway and walk across the small grassy field, before crossing another bridge and walking across the meadow.
10. Pass through the hedge and you will see the river once more. Go through the kissing gate and cross the river using the locks or the footbridge.
11. Once you have reached the other side of the bank, continue through the gate and walk straight ahead between the two pill boxes. Follow the gravel track until you see a path, turning off to the right through the field. If in doubt, head in the direction of Hadlow Tower.
12. Walk through the gap in the hedge and then continue up alongside the wheat field, passing two large oak trees. At the end of this path leave the field via the kissing gate and walk up Kelchers Lane until you reach the car park where you began 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