

Bixley and Flatropers Woods

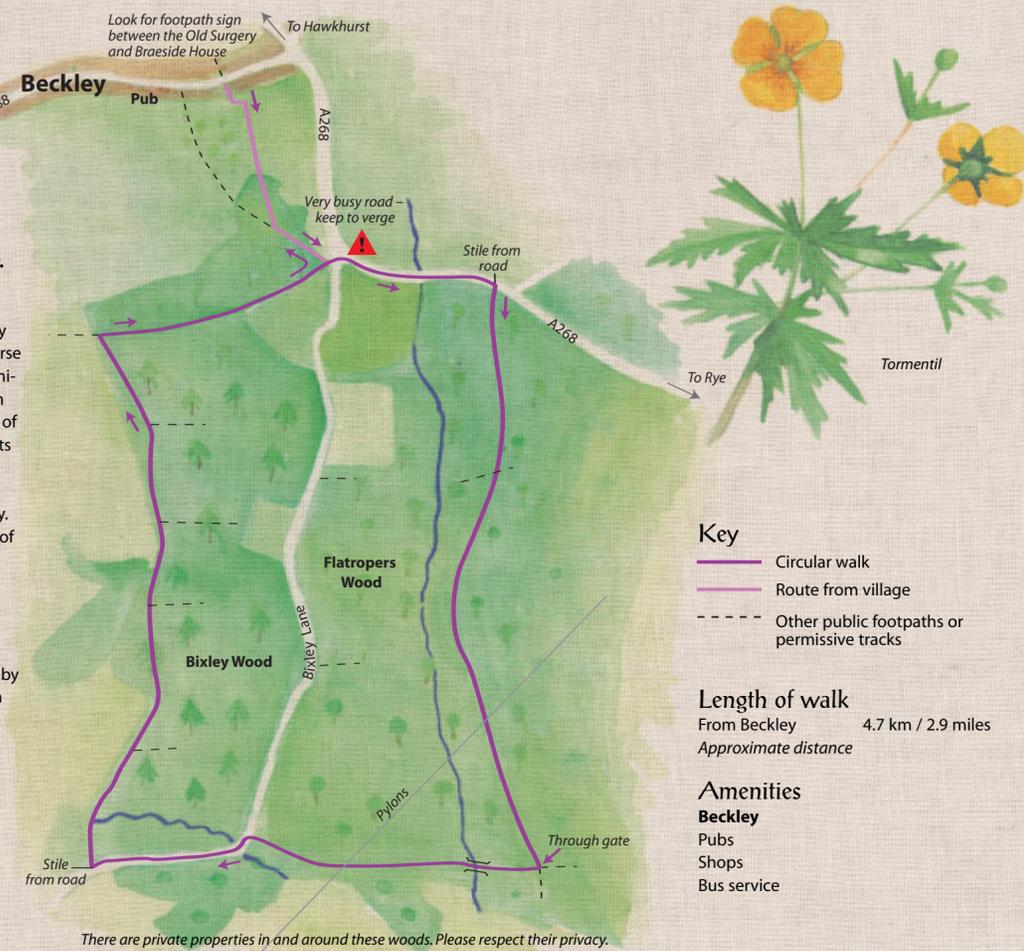
This walk passes through a beautiful woodland complex with open glades dominated by heathland plants. As you follow the route you will pass through areas managed in different ways for timber. A wonderful walk in every season.

Flatropers Wood is a nature reserve owned by the Sussex Wildlife Trust and is home to a diverse range of plants and animals. The reserve is semi-natural woodland, some areas are coppiced on rotation to open up glades. You may see signs of Wild Boar – keep a look out for their hoof prints in the mud. Huge piles of pine needles can be seen from the pathway. These are the nests of Wood Ants and are often teeming with activity. In autumn the wood boasts an amazing array of large fungi, including the Fly Agaric. You are welcome to explore the reserve using the network of paths, but please allow more time for this.

Bixley Wood is a commercial wood managed by Forest Enterprise. Here you will walk through a plantation of mature Oak trees before passing through clearings and a coniferous wood. The rides and glades are full of heathland plants including heathers, Tormentil and Broom.



Wood Ant



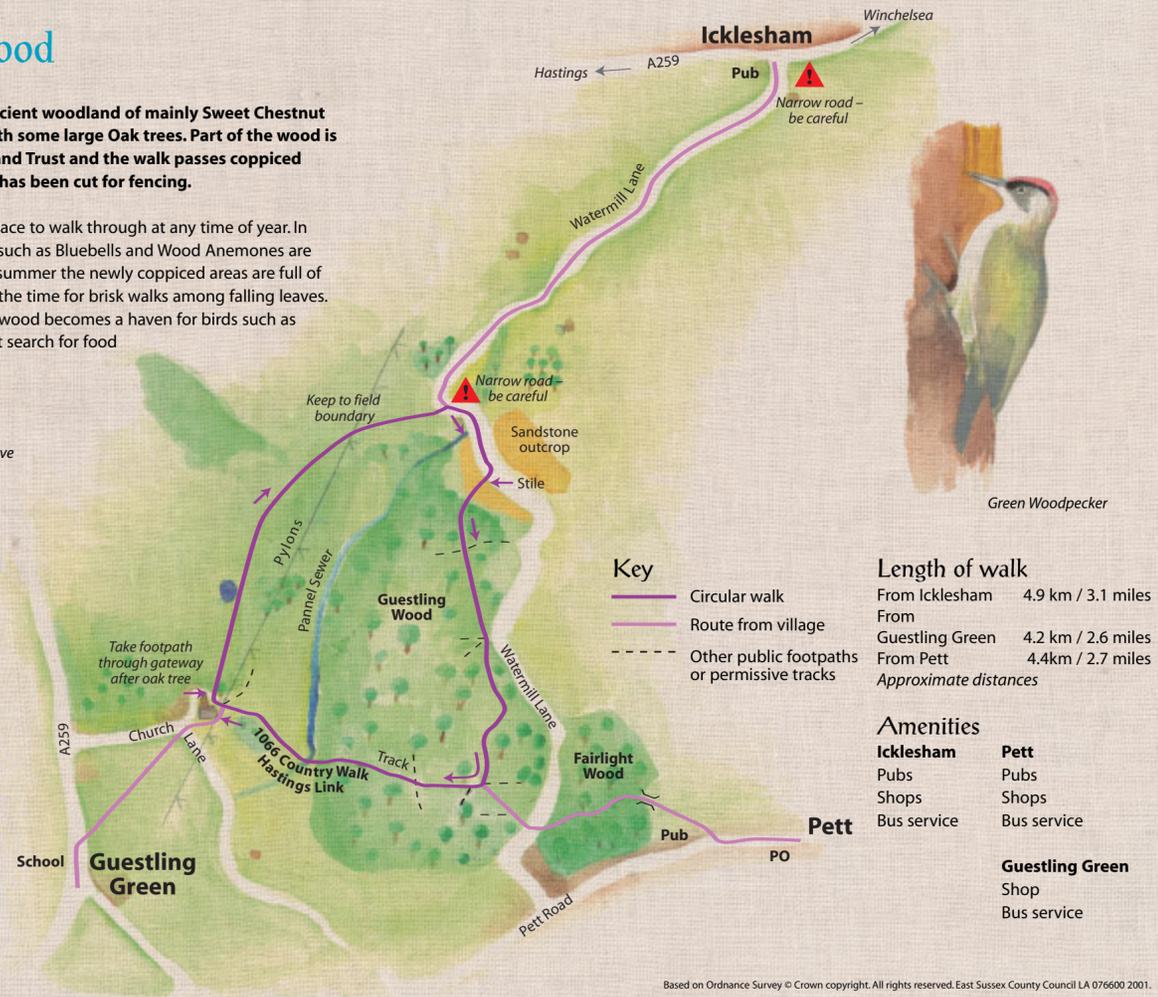
Questling Wood

Questling Wood is an ancient woodland of mainly Sweet Chestnut coppice interspersed with some large Oak trees. Part of the wood is managed by the Woodland Trust and the walk passes coppiced clearings, where timber has been cut for fencing.

The wood is a beautiful place to walk through at any time of year. In spring woodland flowers such as Bluebells and Wood Anemones are present in abundance. In summer the newly coppiced areas are full of Foxgloves and autumn is the time for brisk walks among falling leaves. In the winter months the wood becomes a haven for birds such as woodpeckers and tits that search for food through the trees.



As the route leaves the woodland, it passes through countryside of mixed farmland. Other features of interest along the walk include St Lawrence Church, Guestling and the sandstone outcrops in Watermill Lane.



Green Woodpecker

Northiam

Northiam is a pretty East Sussex village with weatherboard houses. It is situated on the old coach road to Rye, so many travellers have stopped here on route, including Queen Elizabeth I.

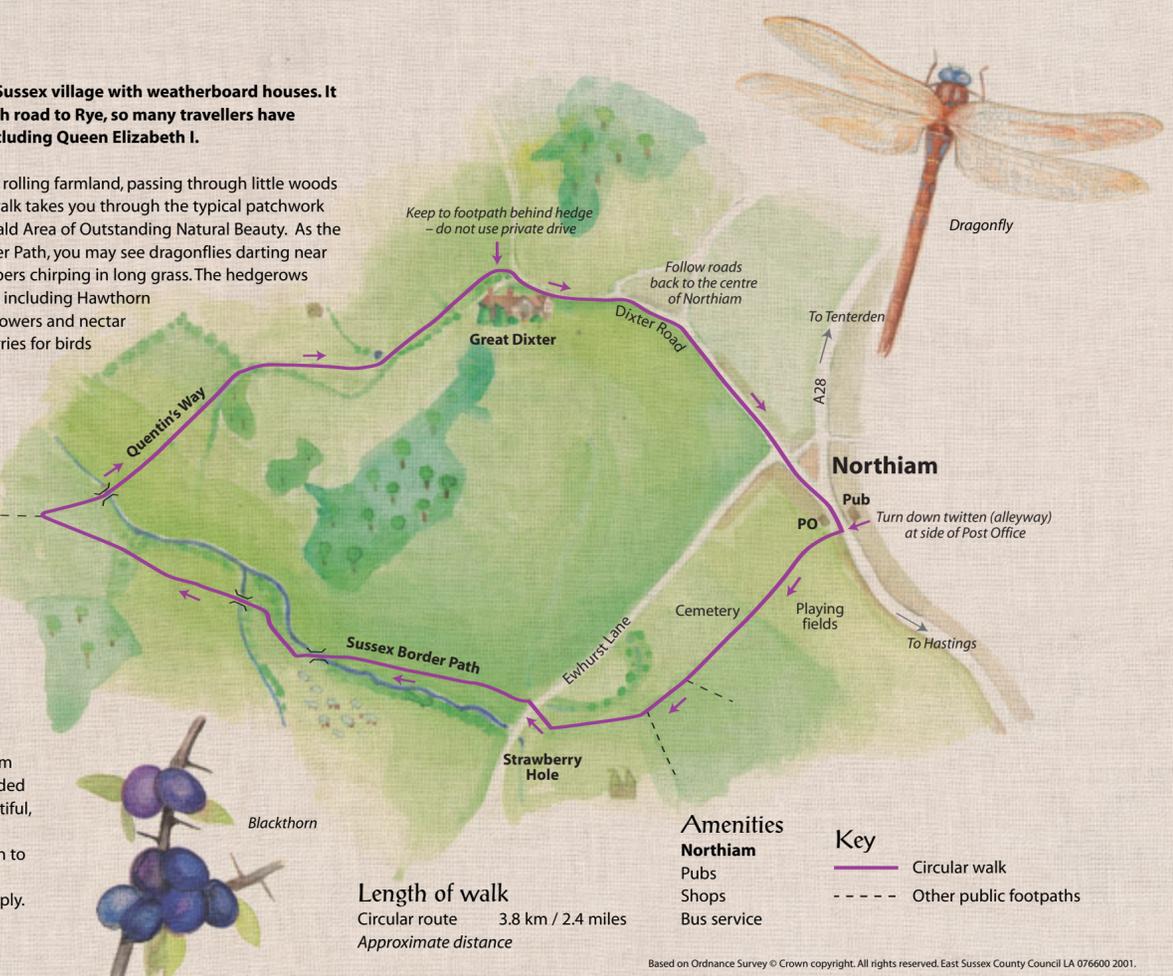
Descending through gently rolling farmland, passing through little woods and crossing streams, this walk takes you through the typical patchwork countryside of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As the route joins the Sussex Border Path, you may see dragonflies darting near the water or hear grasshoppers chirping in long grass. The hedgerows are full of a variety of plants including Hawthorn and Blackthorn, providing flowers and nectar for insects in spring and berries for birds in autumn.

The walk then rises up Quentin's Way – a path dedicated to the memory of Quentin Lloyd, brother of Christopher and former Parish Councillor. The route passes close by the famous Great Dixter House and Gardens before heading through some of the village.

Great Dixter House and Gardens – The house, partly dating from the 15th century, is surrounded by Christopher Lloyd's beautiful, ever-changing gardens. The house and gardens are open to the public from April to October. (Admission fees apply. For further information call 01797 252878).



Blackthorn



Dragonfly

Camber Castle

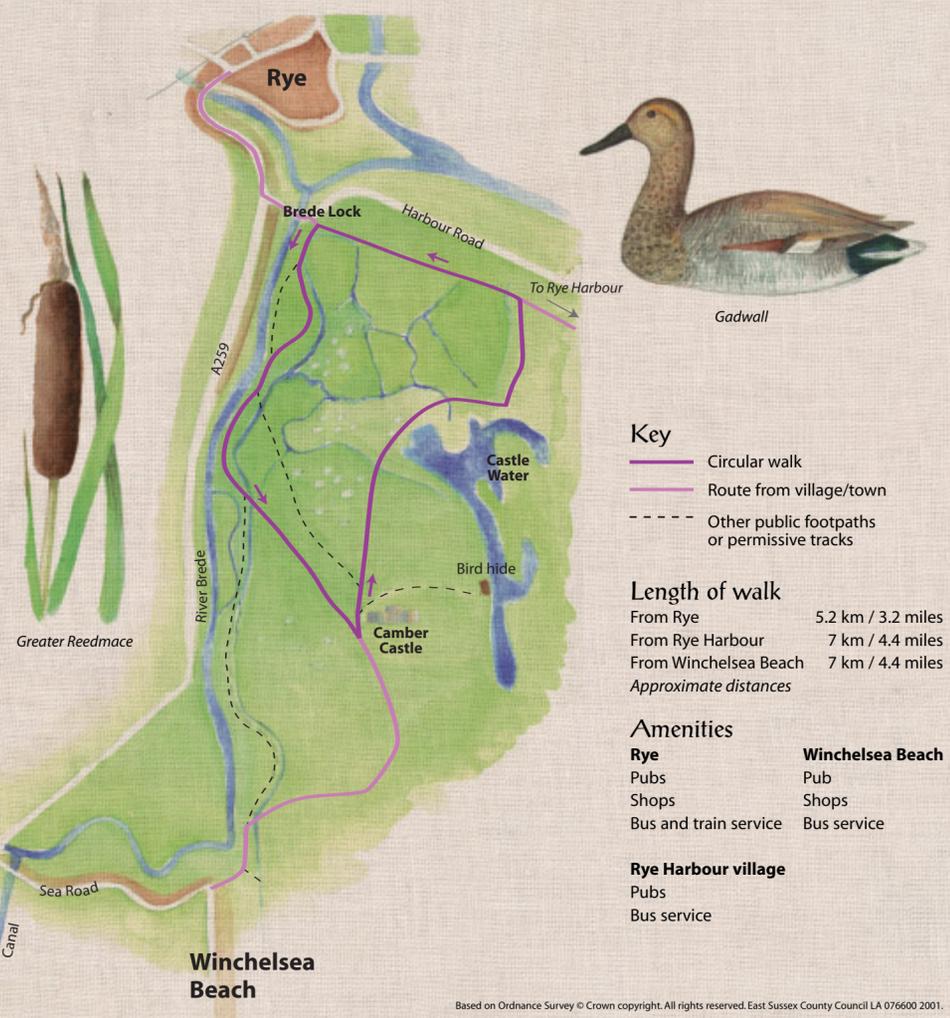
A walk through part of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, protected for its abundant and special wildlife. You will see sheep grazed pasture, intersected with ditches, ponds and gravel pits full of wetland wildlife.

This low-lying, flat land was formed behind shingle ridges deposited by the sea. Henry VIII constructed **Camber Castle** on the edge of the coast, to protect Rye from invasion. A garrison of up to 42 men was stationed here but the Castle became redundant as the sea receded. The first section of the walk follows the **Royal Military Canal path**. The Canal arcs between Cliff End and Hythe and was built, in the 19th century, to protect the coast against Napoleon.

Castle Water is a flooded gravel pit, formed by shingle extraction. It is now a haven for a large variety of birds including gulls, herons, ducks and geese, which feed on the thriving wetland plants and insects. Only a short distance from the route is a birdwatching hide, where you can shelter and watch the birds.

The final section of the walk follows the route of an old railway line, which used to transport extracted shingle from Rye Harbour.

Camber Castle is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm in July, August and September. It can also be entered on guided walks at other times of the year. For more details phone 01797 223862.



Gadwall



Greater Reedmace