

WALKS AROUND HEADCORN VILLAGE



Walk No 4 – Circular route from Headcorn Village to Little Brookwood, Little Bubhurst Farm and Waterman Quarter

Around 3 hours at a leisurely pace but you can take a short walk to a pretty bridge in 15-20 minutes and return the same way.

Please follow the countryside code and check your route before you set off using the KCC PROW map. The author takes no responsibility for any path changes or inaccuracies, or you getting lost! This is a personal description of a walk taken in July '21.

This is a lovely long walk heading south from Headcorn Village. It takes in historic homes, farmland, streams and bridges. There are some sections that are not well-walked therefore you'll need to keep your eyes peeled for the markers. Just a few things to consider: you need to cross the railway line, plus this walk was tested in July 2021 and there were tall crops in some fields and if the crop is wet you'll get wet. A few muddy patches too so walking boots would be a good idea. There was a horse to pass in a field. There are stiles so dog-walkers need to bear this in mind. There is a very short section on a road but otherwise this is off-road or on quiet lanes. For a very short walk you can take the section to the first bridge sown at the top of page 2 and then return.

Start at St Peter & St Paul Church and take the iron gate on the south side, on footpath KH597. This takes you straight to the railway which you need to cross, taking great care.



Start from the Church

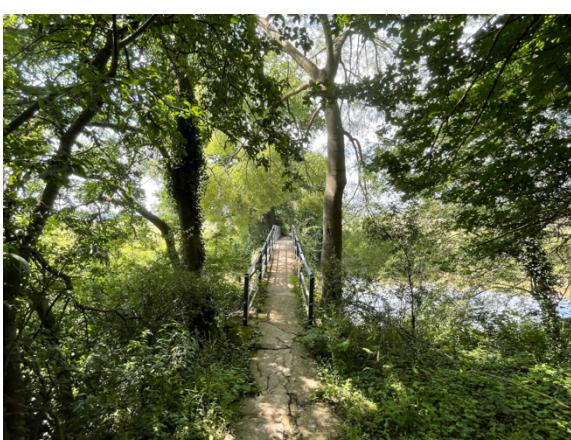


Gate before the railway line



Cross the railway line carefully

Continue on the path and you reach **Pell Bridge**. Continue ahead then you enter a fenced path along a field. Continue and the next field seems to have two forks if you cross a stile, which I didn't (beware livestock). Hence you continue straight ahead, footpath KH596.



Pell Bridge



Walk along the left side, straight ahead

At the end of the field there is a stile, a quiet lane to cross then another stile, still KH596. Continue along the tree line until you reach the river. Here there is a lovely spot to stop a while. If you have opted for a short walk just retrace your steps here.



A beautiful spot

Cross the bridge and walk along the tree line, right to the end until you reach a stile.



The stile at the end

Over the stile you will see the route ahead, followed by a small bridge and another stile.



A well-groomed section of the path



The next stile

Continue ahead across the fields. There are some map signs here put up the landowner. Continue across the bridges and stiles until you reach the final one which has a track on the other side.



One of the very small bridges



Quite well hidden last stile

As you exit the field here you should turn right to join a very small section of road (Water Lane). But it isn't really a clear route, as you'll see. When you reach the road turn left, after perhaps 20m there is a very well hidden gate on your left. Enter this field, being aware of any horses. This is the start of footpath WC267. But the exit of the field here isn't easy. There are gates but they don't open (or they didn't when we visited). But when you do come out there is a clearer path ahead. (*Incidentally it would make sense to simply turn left on the track into Brookswood Barn to avoid the horse field but technically that is not the path and we didn't try it.*)



Little gate on Water Lane



Trying to exit here



Continue, through a gate into a farm

Follow this route and you pass through Hammerstream Farm. We encountered barking dogs on the loose, but they appeared friendly. (*Update June 2023: a report that these dogs were not friendly and not supervised has been made.*) Continue through a fixed two-bar gate and then you'll see the path continue as a track ahead through the adjacent field.



Two bar gate



This continues in the adjacent field

After a while the track seems to take a 90 degree left, but you don't. You'll see an opening into the field on your right and you take that.



Go through the opening into the field.

There isn't really a visible path but follow the tree line on your right.

We got fairly confused in this section, but keep going, pretty much straight ahead until you have to bend round to the left. Eventually you should see a stile and bridge in the corner.



Stile and bridge tucked in the corner

You should then see another stile and a gate to go through.



When you've then turned to the right you'll see a final gate on this section to walk through. You've then arrived at Bubhurst Lane.

*Through the
gate to join
Bubhurst Lane*



In Bubhurst Lane turn **left** and walk to a small junction at the end. Turn left past Little Bubhurst Farm.

Bear left



Continue down the lane until you reach the very beautiful Great Bubhurst Farm on your right. You will see a gate and stile ahead. This is now footpath WC278A.



Down the lane towards Great Bubhurst Farm



Over the stile to the left of this gate

Continue and go through the last gate and you emerge onto a field and you should aim for the little opening in the hedgerow opposite.



Gate at end



Exit into this field

Aim for the very small opening in the hedgerow, which is a stile soon followed by a bridge.



Stile at the end of the field



Continue over this bridge

Continue, there might be sheep in the field here. But carry on as the path bends to the right and becomes a wider bridleway. A particularly nice section of the route here.



Continue to the start of the bridleway



Wide bridleway

You go past a beautiful historical home, then eventually emerge at a T-junction.



Continue to the T-junction

After turning right at the T-junction into New House Lane, look for the gate on the left (with a stile). Then continue ahead, looking for another stile at the opposite end of the field.



Look for the gate and stile from New House Lane



Stile at the opposite end of the field

Another stile then you enter a small wooded patch. The path enters this then bends to the right and emerges in a field. The route here is a little hard to follow but we found it seems to run along the left of this field, along a newly made ridge.



Emerge into this field



Access a ridge with the footpath which is on your left

Walk along the ridge to the end and there is a gate and stile to exit the field. Turn left along the track, past some houses. Ahead you will see the path continues to the left of a gate, through a narrow path.



Walk along the ridge

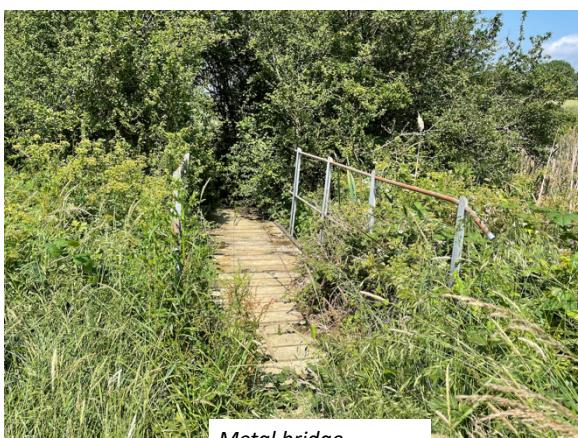


Take the path to the left of this gate

Continue along this narrow path, which crosses a few small bridges.



The next section isn't too clear. You emerge into a crop field and carry on straight ahead. You should see (though it is well hidden) a bridge to your right with metal railings. You emerge into another crop field and the path is not obvious.

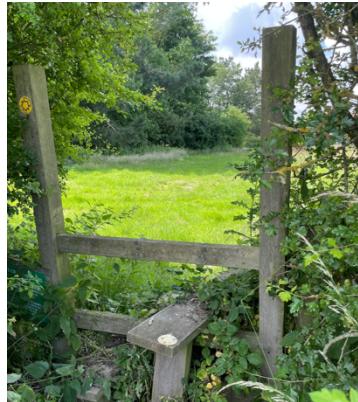


Metal bridge



Look carefully for signs of a path ahead

If you aim ahead but slightly left you should find a stile (shown below) hidden in the hedgerow. Over that and you emerge into parts of what looks like Little Newhouse Farm, or adjacent properties.



The stile to exit the crop field



Horses to your right

There are gates to continue through this property. Pass through these and in one large field look for a gate hidden in the hedgerow. Continue. Eventually you reach the final field, with horses in the adjacent field.



A few gates to pass through in this property



When crossing this field look for the gate to the left in the hedgerow

Hopefully things have changed, but when we walked here at this final section we were faced with electric fencing, or what appeared to be electric fencing. The gate had an electric wire suspended across its width. The left side fence had electric wire suspended across a gap. The correct path is actually not through the gate but across the suspended wire. There is no doubt that this is the right path, there are markers and it links to a stile. If you go through the gate there is no clear access back to the footpath. So don't try that. So, if you continue using the correct path across the field you will find the stile at the opposite side which means you're back on footpath KH597. Turn right and you are back at **Pell Bridge** where you began.



A rather confusing obstacle at New House Farm

For more walks and general information about Headcorn Village, check the website:
headcornvillage.org.uk