

WALKS AROUND HEADCORN VILLAGE

Walk No 3 – Circular route from Headcorn Village to Kelsham Farm, Boarden Farm and School House Farm

Around 2.5 hours at a leisurely pace

Please follow the countryside code and check your route before you set off. 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 May 2021.

This is a lovely walk heading west from Headcorn Village. It takes in historic homes, farmland and quiet lanes. It isn't yet a well-walked route therefore you'll need to keep your eyes peeled for the markers. Just a few things to consider: this walk was tested in May 2021 and there are some less-well maintained sections therefore long trousers might allow you to avoid stinging nettles. Near the Beult will be a little muddy too. There is likely to be livestock en route. There are stiles so dog-walkers need to bear this in mind. Also, there are short-ish sections on roads (depending on the exact route you pick).

Start at the Kings Road crossroads and head along Moat Road. When the footpath ends you'll need to walk for a short way on the road so take care. You have two choices now, to either take a pleasant dog-leg footpath route or continue on Moat Road and dodge oncoming cars on the road. The only real advantage to continuing along Moat Road is that you might save a little time. This route will now follow the dog-leg....

As you walk along Moat Road, BEFORE you reach the electricity substation there is a stile and footpath to your right (KH590). Enter the field and head towards the corner, slightly left.

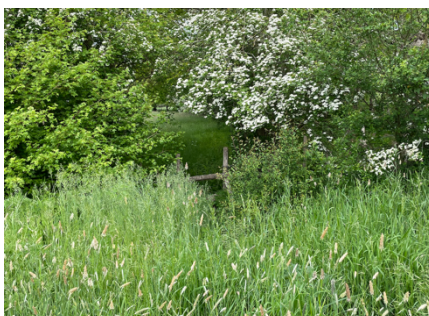


Start in Moat Road



Look for this sign to start the route

Hidden right in the corner is another stile to the next field. After crossing the stile continue straight ahead to another.



Well-hidden stile number two



In early May this is a patch of bluebells

Then head diagonally to the right to a large gate at the top of the field. To exit you need to open the gate so be very careful to close it behind you.

Walk straight ahead where you will see another gate. You are now on footpath KH591. Don't go through the large gate as you'll see a path round the side.



Large gate at the top



At the next gate take the path to the right of the gate

You'll then come to another large gate and stile. Continue ahead. You'll then reach another large gate which has a stile on its left. Continue ahead to a gate and lane. (There is a KCC footpath on the left before the lane KH618 but this is not maintained and was inaccessible.)

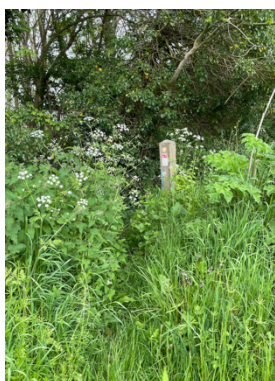


Large gate with stile on left

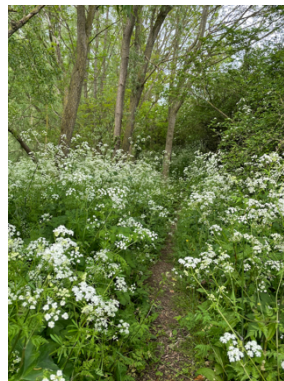


The gate and lane ahead

Take a left at Summerhill and you'll walk down the hill back to Moat Road. Once there look for the footpath sign (KH575) to your right, tucked in the corner.



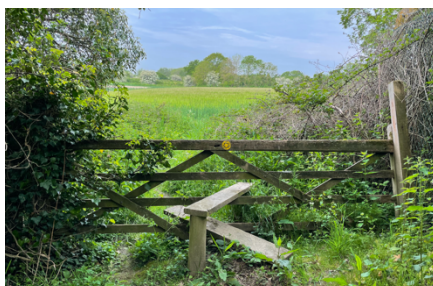
The start of footpath KH575 alongside the Beult



A huge amount of Cow Parsley!

You'll eventually pass the sewage works on the right. No unpleasant aromas when we walked past! Eventually you'll emerge into an open field via a stile. Head off to the right and there is a slim exit adjacent to a gate.

Arriving at crop field



A narrow exit here!



You'll now walk along a track towards Kelsham Farmhouse which is on the left. Follow the track as it curves right and you'll see the footpath enters a field on your left.



Kelsham Farmhouse (late 16th century)



Through fields, keep the ponds to your left

The path takes you along the left perimeter of a field and you'll notice a vast area of fruit farming. Continue ahead until you reach a bridge with 'Private Road' sign. The footpath should fork to the right here (KH629) but it looks like the landowner has closed it off. Therefore continue ahead.

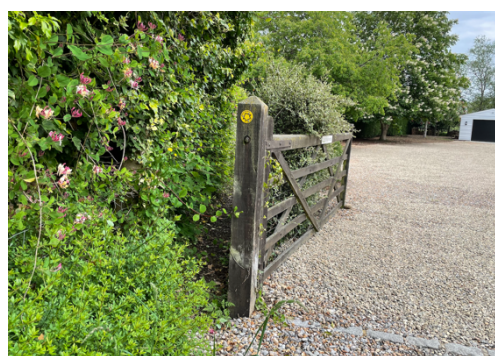


Private Road sign. Continue ahead

You'll shortly come to a crossroads in the track. Turn right. There is a sign saying The Clockhouse. Continue and you'll see the track appears to enter a private property. The path actually goes just left of the gate as you'll see in the photo below right. This has rejoined missing footpath KH629



Take a right



Squeeze through to the left here

You then weave through some houses. Don't take the left footpath, just continue ahead on KH629. After a left bend you'll see the path go through a gate to your right. Just beyond this is the entrance to School House Camping (*but if you're at the entrance you've just missed the path!*).

The entrance to School House Camping



Head through here

This section is a lovely long wide path (KH628) up to Four Oaks Road.



Turn right at Four Oaks Road and soon take the left fork in the road which is Plumtree Road. After that look for the footpath sign on the right (which will be KH579)



Take the left fork



No stile and no easy access to the path here

At the time of writing this section of path was unmaintained. But try your best to aim for a bridge in the corner shown below. Cross the bridge and head towards a stream ahead.



The bridge



Head to this gate with a (broken) stile

You'll emerge at the junction of Plumtree Road, Dray Corner Road and Sonestile Road. All seem to be quiet lanes. Take the lane ahead, Stonestile Road. After about 250m when the houses end you'll see a footpath sign to your right. This is KH589.



Take this track

Continue through a gate along the perimeter of a field. Very well hidden, about half way long on your right you should see a gate. Take that path.

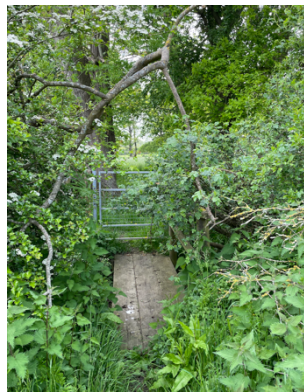


A lovely path along the edge of the field



Don't miss this on your right!

Continue along the left perimeter of the field to a bridge and gate.



Take this to your left



An interested bystander

Continue across a stile and then back along KH590 until you re-join the path you were on earlier from Moat Road. Trace your steps back to the village.

Then why not enjoy a well-earned coffee which you can now (as at May 2025) get at Headcorn Hardware!



The view from Moat Road



Coffee at the end!

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