

Kent & East Sussex Railway Walks



Railtrail 1 – Wittersham Road Station to Tenterden Station

1 From Wittersham Road Station, go left, in a southerly direction, on Wittersham Road. (*Busy road, take care.*)

After approx. 400 yds (366m) go left, at a footpath finger-post, opposite the entrance to Maytham Farm.

Keep ahead across a field, to cross a footbridge at the far side, then maintain direction across another field. At the far side, cross a footbridge and go immediately left on a bridleway.

Continue on the bridleway to reach a wide bridge over the Newmill Channel, near to its junction with the Reading Sewer.

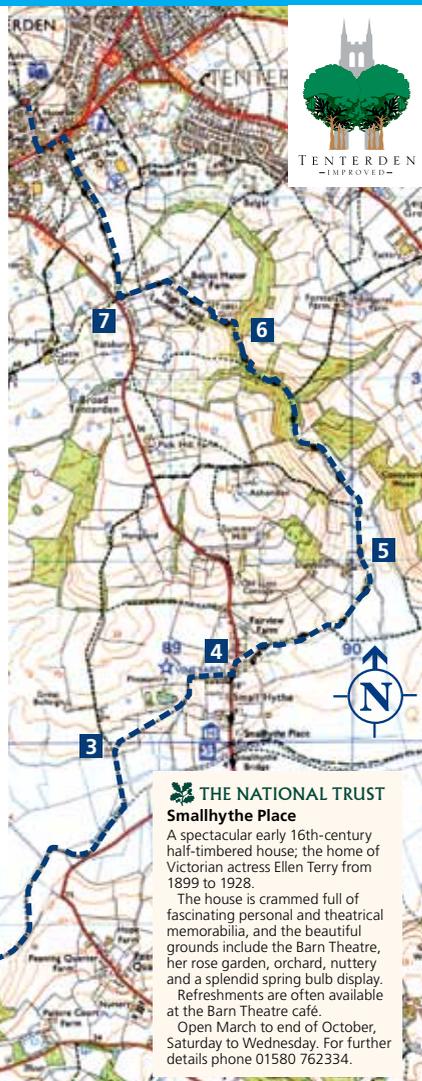
2 Cross the bridge and pass through a metal gate then go right, to reach a brick built pumping station.

Keep ahead, with the field edge and the Reading Sewer to your right. Continue to follow the path, ignoring a track on the left by a metal building, to reach a concrete bridge, which joins the B2082.

Do not cross the bridge, but continue with the Reading Sewer to your right for approx. 400 yds (366m), to reach a waymark post (2nd one).

Go left here, to cross a field, heading for the left-hand edge of the line of large trees on the far side. From here, continue with the field edge to your right, to reach a stile in the corner.

Cross the stile to join a track, then cross a bridge/stile combination on the opposite side of the track, into a field corner.



THE NATIONAL TRUST Smallhythe Place

A spectacular early 16th-century half-timbered house; the home of Victorian actress Ellen Terry from 1899 to 1928.

The house is crammed full of fascinating personal and theatrical memorabilia, and the beautiful grounds include the Barn Theatre, her rose garden, orchard, nuttery and a splendid spring bulb display. Refreshments are often available at the Barn Theatre café.

Open March to end of October, Saturday to Wednesday. For further details phone 01580 762334.

Trail Information

Distance: 6 miles (9.7km).

Time for walk: 3 hours.

Time of train journey: Tenterden to Wittersham Road – 19 minutes (approx.)

Maps: OS Explorer 125.

Parking: Tenterden Station.
Grid reference: TQ882335.

Start of walk: Wittersham Station.

Terrain: Waterside, field and woodland paths.

Refreshment:

Tenterden Station Refreshment Rooms.

Public houses and cafés in Tenterden.

Bistro at The Chapel Down Winery, Small Hythe.

Public Transport:

Buses: Traveline - 0870 6082608.

3 Bear diagonally right across the corner of the field, towards the roofs of vineyard buildings in the distance, to reach another bridge/stile in the hedgerow.

Cross the bridge/stile into a field and walk diagonally across the field, again in the direction of the vineyard roofs, to the corner of a field gate, to join a track.

Follow the track uphill then go right, into a yard between the vineyard buildings.

Cross the yard to the opposite corner then go left on a metalled track to pass The Chapel Down Winery bistro and shop and reach the B2082. (*To visit Smallhythe Place, go right, downhill on the road for approx. 300 yds (274m). After visit retrace steps to point 4. Busy road, take care.*)

4 Go left on the road for approx. 150 yds (137m) and, immediately after passing a telephone box, go right at a footpath finger-post for the High Weald Landscape Trail (HWLT), which is followed for the remainder of the walk. Continue, with a garden boundary hedge to your right, to reach a stile in a wire fence in a field corner.

Cross the stile and go diagonally left across the field, heading to the left of a telegraph pole, to reach a bridge in the field corner. Cross the bridge and go diagonally right, to the opposite corner of the field, and cross a bridge/stile to the left of a field gate. Cross the bridge into a field and go right, with the hedgerow to your right, to reach the corner of the field.

Go left, following the perimeter of the field for approx. 50 yds (46m), to reach a stile/bridge.

Cross the bridge into a field. Using a hill as a focal point, walk directly ahead over gradually rising ground. To your left, the white cowls of oast houses at Dumbourne Farm soon come into view, enabling you to identify the location of a boundary hedgerow that lies approx. 200 yds (183m) to their right.

With the hedgerow to your left, keep ahead to reach an open gateway, and adjacent small pond, at a field corner.

5 Pass through the gateway and go diagonally left across the field to a stile/bridge in the field corner, at the side of an old orchard. Cross the bridge and follow the path ahead to reach a track.

When the track goes through a wire fence into a field, go immediately right, into an area of uncultivated land, and follow a path that runs on the lower ground, to the right of hedgerow, to reach a stile near two concrete bollards.

Cross the stile into a field and, where it is narrowest, cross directly to reach a stile/bridge in the boundary hedge. Cross the bridge and keep ahead, staying on the lower ground, to the right of hedgerow, to reach a raised embankment.

Climb the steps in the embankment and go left, to follow a waymarked path, with a lake to your right. Continue on this path, to cross a stile/bridge followed by a sleeper bridge, and emerge into a small grassed valley. Ignore a path to the right and keep ahead to a gate, at the boundary of a wooded area, marking the start of Tilder Gill.

6 Pass through the gate and follow a waymarked path ahead, through the woodland, on an undulating course, via bridges and steps, ignoring side paths.

At the top of a flight of steps the path emerges into an area of grassland. Turn left and continue, with the field edge to your left for approx. 100 yds (91m), then go right, uphill for approx. 100 yds (91m), towards the left side of a stand of trees at the top of the slope.

Keep ahead, with a boundary hedge to your right, to reach a bridge/stile in the field corner. Cross the bridge into a field and go diagonally left, over rising ground, to pass to the left of buildings at Belcot Manor Farm.

Keep ahead, passing through a gap between bushes, and with a pond to your right, to reach a stile in a railed fence in the field corner.

Cross the stile to join an unsurfaced driveway, with high hedges either side, and go left. Continue on the drive, which soon becomes surfaced, to reach a junction with the B2082.

7 Immediately before the junction, go right, through a hedge and follow the left hand path (HWLT). The path soon descends gently through a gated gap in a hedge and continues as a surfaced path, that runs to the left of a hedge, to cross a small bridge.

Continue, now with a hedge to your left, climbing gently uphill to join an unsurfaced roadway, with dwellings to your right.

With St Mildred's church clearly visible, keep ahead between the timber and tile hung houses of Bells Lane to emerge, via an alleyway, into Tenterden High Street.

Cross to the opposite side of the road and go left, to reach The Vine Inn, then go right, downhill, on Station Road, to return to Tenterden Station.