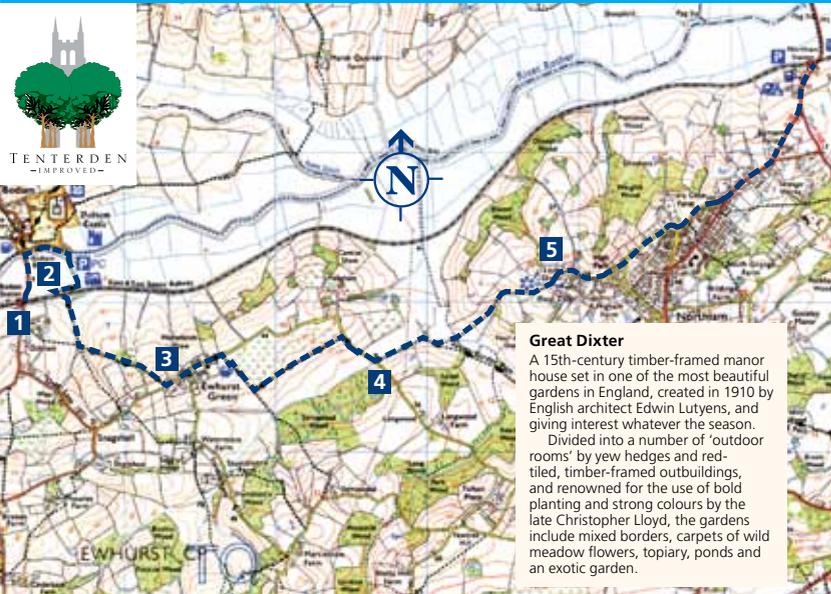




Railtrail 6 – Bodiam Station to Northiam Station



Great Dixter

A 15th-century timber-framed manor house set in one of the most beautiful gardens in England, created in 1910 by English architect Edwin Lutyens, and giving interest whatever the season. Divided into a number of 'outdoor rooms' by yew hedges and red-tiled, timber-framed outbuildings, and renowned for the use of bold planting and strong colours by the late Christopher Lloyd, the gardens include mixed borders, topiary, ponds and an exotic garden.

1 From Bodiam Station go left, downhill on the road, towards Bodiam Castle. (*Busy road, take care.*)

On approaching a stone bridge over the River Rother, look for waymarked stile on the right, just after a lay by. Cross the stile and go left to ascend the river bank, then right, to follow the river for approx. 300 yds (274m) to reach a gate.

Do not pass through the gate, but go right to descend the bank and, keeping to the left-hand field edge, cross the field towards a stand of poplar trees lining the railway. On reaching the corner of the field, go right, and continue with the field edge to your left for approx. 175 yds (160m), to reach a stile.

Take care here, particularly with children – Stop, Look and Listen before crossing the track.

2 Cross the stile and the railway. On the far side of the track cross two more stiles then turn right onto a footpath, to the right of a barn, to cross a footbridge over a ditch.

Keep ahead, with a hedge to your right, to reach a footbridge with a stile in the corner of the field.

Ignore a waymark on a stile and go diagonally left, up an incline, to reach a stile beside a gate in the left field boundary.

Cross the stile and continue uphill to reach a fence. Go right, along the field edge, to reach a stile by a gate, waymarked 'Sussex Border Path'.

Cross the stile and keep ahead with a fence to your left. After approx. 150 yds (137m), cross a stile by a gate in the fence and cross a thicket to pass through a kissing-gate ahead.

3 Go right and continue, with the field edge to your right, ascending to reach a kissing-gate. Pass through the gate to join a metalled road and go left, to enter the hamlet of Ewhurst Green.

Immediately after passing through the hamlet, go right, at a footpath finger-post. Keep ahead on this path for approx. 300 yds (274m), to reach a footbridge in the hedge on your left.

Go left, to cross the bridge and keep ahead, now with a hedge to your right, waymarked 'Sussex Border Path'.

At the far end of the orchard, approx. 700 yds (640m), go right, to cross a footbridge. Descend into a field and after approx. 100yds (91m), cross a stile on the left, next to gates, to join a metalled road.

Go right and continue on the lane for approx. 100yds (91m). Just before reaching a brick bridge, go left to cross a stile in to a field.

4 Bear right and continue to the far end of the field, with the field edge and a stream to your right.

On reaching the corner of the field go right, to cross a footbridge over the stream, then after approx. 100 yds (91m), go left to leave the Sussex Border Path and join another path.

Keep ahead to cross a field and reach a footbridge in trees. Cross the footbridge and keep ahead, uphill, across the centre of the field to reach a stile in the top corner, to the left of woodland.

Cross the stile and keep ahead, uphill to cross a stile in a fence, to the right of a gate. (*The roofline of Great Dixter House now comes into view ahead.*)

Continue uphill, with a hedge to your right, which bears round to the right to reach a stile. Cross the stile to join a metalled road.

5 Keep ahead on the road towards a small barn on the left (the barn carries a sign for car park/gents toilet).

Just here, and before reaching the main entrance to Great Dixter, bear left to join a footpath, which goes behind a hedge and runs parallel to the road, to emerge at a junction with Dixter Road and High Park.

Go left, along High Park and keep ahead on Dixter Lane to reach the A28 – Station Road. (*Busy road, take care.*)

Cross to the opposite side of the A28 and go left, in a northerly direction.

Keep ahead to pass the small village green and descend Ballards Hill (Station Road) to reach Northiam Station.

Trail Information

Distance: 4¾ miles (7.6km).

Time for walk: 2½ hours.

Time for train journeys:

Tenterden to Bodiam – 47 minutes (approx).

Northiam to Tenterden – 30 minutes (approx).

Maps: OS Explorer 125 & 136.

Parking: Tenterden Station.

Grid reference: TQ882335.

Start of Walk: Bodiam Station.

Terrain: Field paths and bridleways.

Refreshment:

Tenterden Station Refreshment Rooms.

N.T. tearoom and public house in Bodiam.

Public houses in Ewhurst Green and Northiam.

Public Transport:

Buses: Traveline - 0870 6082608.

