

# BECKLEY

## THREE WALKS

- 1. 3 kilometers:** Village Centre – Buddens Green – Bixley Lane – Bartlett Shaw – Village Centre
- 2. 6 kilometers:** Village Centre – Sussex Border Path – Dean Wood – Decoypond Wood – Kitchenour – Four Oaks – Village Centre
- 3. 15 kilometers:** Rose & Crown – Clayhill Shaw – Hoath Wood – Beckley Furnace – Ludley - Hayes Lane – Beckley Woods – Flatropers – Kings Bank - Slipshoe Wood – Church Lane – Rose & Crown

## INTRODUCTION

Here are three walks of different distances all within the Parish.

- The shortest (on page 2) is about 3 kilometers/1¾ miles (allow one hour) and starts and finishes at The Village Centre.
- The next one (on pages 3 & 4) is about 6 kilometers/3¾ miles (2 hours) and also starts and finishes at The Village Centre.
- The longest one (on pages 5 to 7) is about 15 kilometers/9½ miles (5 hours). It starts and finishes at The Rose and Crown.  
Depending on when you go, a packed lunch might be a good idea.

The map facing page 4 is for both the Short and the Medium Walks – just follow the appropriate coloured symbols. The map on the centre page is for the Long Walk. The scales are approximately:

¼ inch = 100 yards (1cm = 200m).

*NORTH is straight up the map. WEST is left. EAST is right*

On all the walks look for the yellow and black waymarkers as well as the Public Footpath signposts.

The two longer walks have opportunities indicated for taking a short cut home should you need it. The longest walk is not recommended unless you are used to walking these distances.

### Sensible Precautions

1. Look at the weather and take appropriate clothes, particularly a waterproof anorak or something similar.
2. All three walks include some cross-country paths, so good, sturdy shoes are advisable.
3. Take something to drink and a high-energy snack. Take a compass if you have one, and if possible a mobile phone.
4. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
5. If you park your car at the start, leave no belongings in view, no valuables in the car, and no children or pets alone in the car.

*On a walk, "take only photographs, leave only footprints, kill only time".*

## SHORT WALK (approx 3 kms)

*Using the map facing page 4, follow the RED \* signs*

Leave Village Centre car park and Turn Left onto Main Street  
Go 450m, just past Buddens Green but before Orchard Cottage  
and Turn Right onto public FP

Rise through an avenue of trees, then the edge of a field towards  
a wood. Do not enter the wood at the first stile, but  
follow the edge of the wood round to the right between  
it and a new plantation until you can go no further.

Then enter the wood over a stile. There are a lot of paths, but  
Follow the direction of the yellow arrow, uphill, keeping the  
motorbike area on your left

Continue in the same direction from the top of the hill, keeping  
the house and garden (Oaklands) on your left, until you  
come to Bixley Lane where it joins the Peasmarsh Road.

Without going into Bixley Lane, Turn Sharp Right on another FP.

Pass through a 'gap'

Stay in the woods going West until you come to a T-junction  
at the end of the wood

Turn Right over a broken stile. Follow the wired channel over  
another stile into open fields

Continue along the hedgerow for 300m to join Kings Bank Lane

Turn Left on Kings Bank Lane for 50m, then

Turn Right just past Annfield Cottage, over a stile onto a FP

After 125m Turn Right over another stile and drop downhill to  
the corner of the field.

*It is slippery here when wet*

Cross another stile into Bartlett Shaw (a small wood)

Keep to the FP and pass through the wood to an iron gate,  
then across a field to the far left hand corner and through  
a metal gate to join Main Street.

Turn Right for the Village Centre.

## MEDIUM WALK (approx 6 kms)

*Using the map facing page 4, follow the BLUE + signs.*

*The first 400m of this walk is rather rough going through an undulating overgrown orchard with long, sometimes wet, grass.*

Start at Beckley Village Centre

Go out onto Main Street, Turn Left and immediately Turn Left again over a stile onto the Sussex Border Path following the hedge beside the Village Centre

Follow the Path north for 400m to the Sewage Works

Then go NE (ie bearing Right) for 200m to Whitebread Lane

Turn Right, then after 100m Turn Left onto the Sussex Border Path

Go uphill, pass over two stiles then through the strip wood near the top.

Go due East across the top of Dean Wood on a pleasant grassy walkway with seats to join Hobbs Lane at Swallowtail Hill.

Turn Right on Hobbs Lane

(Short Cut Home: continue down Hobbs Lane to Four Oaks – Main Street)

Go South (towards Beckley) for 200m

Just before the bend Turn Left through a field gate onto the Sussex Border Path

Follow the Path along the edge of an ancient hedgerow, over a difficult fence and along the edge of Barbers Wood, then into another small wood and over a stile to open fields.

Note the direction of the yellow arrow on the stile.

After 250m Fork Right onto High Weald Landscape Trail (the fork is marked on an Oak tree on the edge of Decoypond Wood. From here to Kitchenour Lane the route is well marked with yellow-topped posts)

Skirt the very open Decoypond Wood, keeping it a little to your right, likewise the lake.

*/continued on page 4*

## **MEDIUM WALK continued**

Drop down and then up into Kitchenour Lane, keeping Streamland Wood on your immediate right.

Turn Right on Kitchenour Lane for half a mile (750m) then, just past Kitchenour (a substantial red brick house on your right)...

Turn Right through the hedge to take public FP following the overhead power lines until you come to an iron gate.

Bear Right keeping the hedge and earthworks on your right to another iron gate on the crest line between two Oak trees.

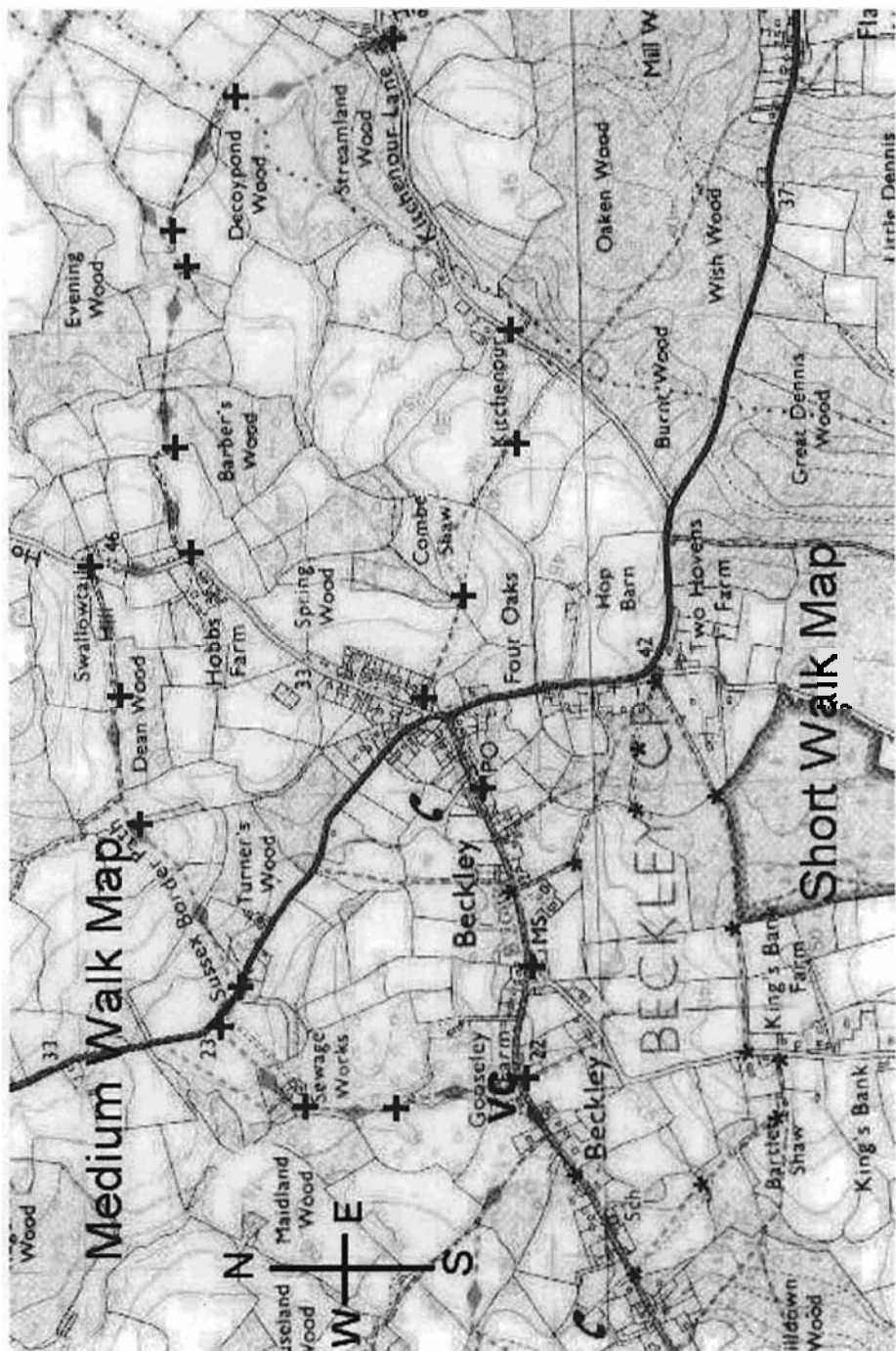
Note the direction of the yellow arrow and drop downhill to the southern tip of Combe Shaw.

Go uphill through another metal gate towards the single "stag horn" Oak tree and rejoin Hobbs Lane by Oak Oast.

Turn Left on Hobbs Lane to join Whitebread Lane

Turn Left, then Turn Right at the Four Oaks Roundabout

Walk up Main Street 800m to the Village Centre.



## LONG WALK (15 kms)

*Using the centre page map, follow the RED + signs*

Start at The Rose and Crown Public House

Go towards Northiam for 50m

Fork Left at Road End House. Continue down Clayhill on B2165 for 150m

Fork Left at Crooked Cottage onto a gravel footpath

Follow FP past Goldspur into fields

Follow down hedgeline for 200m into Clayhill Shaw (small wood)

Bear Right, then Left through the wood following the FP signs

At the exit take the public footpath going half left for 300m through a grassy field to the far Left Hand corner and...

Enter Hoath Wood on the left by the slippery wooden footbridge

Follow the FP through (the edge of) Hoath Wood over a fence and into the remnants of Tilebarn Wood

Continue following the footpath signs over stiles and through gates.

Note the change of direction to the Right near Tilebarn Farm.

Look for a 2-plank bridge over a ditch at the edge of a thicket.

Then over more fields, keeping the stream and hedges on your right.

Enter Furnace Wood over a stile.

Exit Furnace Wood, pass cottages on your left and right into Furnace Lane at Beckley Furnace

(Short Cut Home: up Furnace Lane - Horseshoe Lane - Main Street)

Turn Right, go downhill for 100m, then

Turn Left off the road onto public FP

Follow the well-signed FP, gently uphill, to below Great Conster Farm.

At this point go over a stile and then Half Left - the FP has been officially diverted here to avoid a house

Continue East to enter Burnthouse Wood over a stile. Cross a rickety bridge, climb some steps and continue on that line. (There is a FP sign here pointing Left which you can safely ignore).

Leave Burnthouse Wood by the gate, pass through Ludley Farm yard to join Horseshoe Lane at the bottom of Ludley Hill

(Short Cut Home: go up Ludley Hill - Horseshoe Lane - Main Street)

Cross over Horseshoe Lane into Hayes Lane

*/continued on page 6*

## LONG WALK continued

Go down Hayes Lane for 1000m to Hayes Farm where you  
Turn Left onto public FP, pass through farm (keeping the oast house on  
your left and Hayes Farmhouse on your right)

Climb uphill, skirt close to Coney Wood (on your right)

Go through a metal gate/stile into Starvecrow Lane

Turn Left for 70m, then Right into Rowland Wood over a stile (NB. This  
is not shown accurately on the map)

Bearing Left, pass through Rowland Wood to rejoin Horseshoe Lane  
(Short Cut Home: go up Horseshoe Lane – Main Street)

Turn Right, go North on Horseshoe Lane for 300m, past  
the junction with Moores Lane, then

Turn Right onto Forestry Commission 'Licenced' FP  
(marked with a red O on the map)

You are going through Beckley Woods, basically in a NE direction:

After about 400m, at an open area where several tracks meet,  
bear Left. After another 400m, do not take the obvious  
track to the left, but take the grassy track Straight On.

At the end of the track bear slightly Right following the sign, cross a small  
wooden bridge, then a stile and go along the edge of a field on a  
raised bank; cross another stile and through some new iron gates.

After a second new iron gate, look for the entrance to the Sussex  
Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve on your Left.

Go through it and follow this track passing under the pylons until you  
join Bixley Lane. Do not turn right, but...

Continue West on Bixley Lane until you reach Birds Farm

Turn Right onto the FP which runs up the length (the West edge)  
of the Forestry Commission part of Bixley Wood. Head for the  
top Left Hand corner

There, at the T-junction, go straight on over a broken stile, follow the  
wired channel to the Left over another stile into open fields.

Follow the hedgerow until you reach Kings Bank Lane

Turn Right, down Kings Bank Lane until to reach the gate at the top of  
Jubilee (Playing) Field

Cross Jubilee Field and into Main Street opposite the Village Centre

Turn Left up Main Street

/continued on page 7

(Short Cut Home: continue up Main Street - Northiam Road)

Opposite Dunedin, Turn Right through the metal field gate to  
join the Sussex Border Path

Skirt Slipshoe Wood (a small open oak wood) on your left

Just past the wood at the gateway take the Left fork, cross the field to  
the far left corner (or go round it)

Go through the open gateway into the field on your left, go round the  
little thicket/pond and look for a broken down stile in the  
hedgerow

Follow the arrow heading gently uphill towards the white gabled stable  
and through a gate to join Rectory Lane.

Turn Right, then after 100m Turn Left into Church Lane

Continue up Church Lane, pass the Church on your right

Join Main Street, Turn Right to reach The Rose and Crown after 200m.

## NOTES