



A4 Pass through gate and turn right, following road downhill into Selling. If it's open, do take a look around St Mary the Virgin church. Note the bier house by the gate, used as a mortuary until 1939. Turn left at crossroads. Turn left at next T-junction and walk past apple orchards on your right to The White Lion pub on your left. This Shepherd Neame pub is a great place to enjoy a break, local food and the many beers brewed in nearby Faversham. Continue on this road, passing the cricket ground on your left, keeping the flint wall to your right.

Selling to Perry Wood

B1 At junction, turn right to Perry Wood - named after a pear orchard planted here by monks. The 150-acre wood is believed to have once been home to a Roman encampment and now hosts a wealth of wildlife.

B2 Following brideway sign bear left across driveway, enter wood keeping house fence-line to your right. On reaching car park go straight ahead and cross road to brideway through woods. Cross wooden bridge and at fingerpost turn left and pass through gate towards Keeper's Cottage. Turn right after gate and walk uphill bearing

around Perry Wood.

A3 With Owens Court Farm on your left, turn right at junction and follow public right of way to Saffery Farm. Take path straight ahead at way-marker as path bends left to apple orchards. Continue on path flanked by open countryside and farm buildings to road. Cross straight over, following brideway opposite into wood. Pass through garden of house in front of you and turn right on to lane. Take brideway on your right uphill through woods. Continue on through arable fields to gate, keeping hedgerow on your right.

You'll notice hops and berries in the hedgerow, in season, and abundant orchards. Fine views across rolling countryside greet you on your right as you make your way through these foothills of the North Downs.



A2 Turn right at country lane, skirting on either side by fields, with Lees Court Estate and Gosmere Farm on your left. The Lees Court Estate grows non-food crops for skin care products, such as marigolds, which you may see in the fields around you. Turn left at junction opposite postbox by the wall, following signpost to Boughton and Hernhill.

A1 From Sheldwich Lees with the cricket ground on your left, walk towards the Ashford Road. Turn right into Hunters Way and continue on brideway, following path through arable fields. Here you'll catch views of The Swale, Sheldwich church on your left, and an east house on the horizon to your right - a lasting reminder of the area's hop growing history.

Sheldwich to Selling

Planning your walk
Feel free to start your walk at any point: as this is a circular walk you'll always return to where you began. We have included detours for those that wish to take this walk at a more leisurely pace and there are pubs offering a refreshing break along the way.
There are several places to leave your vehicle if you are arriving by car, including Sheldwich Lees, Sheldwich Church and Perry Wood. Alternatively, you may like to start your walk at The White Lion in Selling or The Rose and Crown at Perry Wood, where you can use the car parks and enjoy refreshments at the end of your walk. If not arriving by car, there are mainline stations at Selling and Faversham.
There are no public toilets, but you can use the facilities at the pubs on this route.



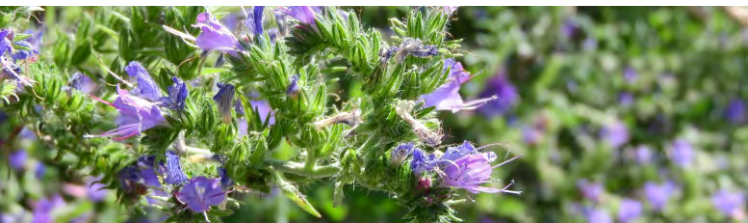
A rural tour on the Downs

Explore one of Kent's most picturesque and appealing farming landscapes; nestling in the chalk slopes of the North Downs, an area of outstanding natural beauty in the heart of the Garden of England.

Your Land for All Seasons walk takes you through spring meadows grazed by dairy herds, sun-drenched fields of marigolds and the bright blue echium plant (rich source of Omega 3) in summer, abundant orchards in autumn and ancient woodlands alive with wildfowl in winter.

You'll pass stunning homes as you make your way deep into farming country through cornfields and along country lanes, you'll discover remote hamlets and farms that work these fertile downland foothills.

Whatever the time of year, you'll be captivated by the tranquil beauty of this remote rural haven, where rolling countryside is studded only by sleepy villages, historic churches, hop gardens and tractors at work in the fields and orchards.



The Countryside Code



RESPECT - PROTECT - ENJOY

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you will enjoy walking in Kent and help protect the countryside now and for future generations.

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control and on a lead around livestock
- Consider other people
- Remember to always follow the Highway Code

For more information about how to safely enjoy the countryside, visit the following website or scan the QR code
https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/countrysidecode/



Other Nature Trails in this Series



Faversham Town Council
12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE
T: 01795 503286 www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk



A Land for All Seasons

Explore one of Kent's most picturesque and appealing farming landscapes; nestling in the chalk slopes of the North Downs - an area of outstanding natural beauty



A rural tour on the Downs

9-12 miles

EXPERIENCED WALKERS

B3 Take the chance to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding countryside from The Pulpit by taking the path on your right up wide steep steps. Standing some 500 feet above sea level, The Pulpit offers unparalleled views across this deeply rural landscape, broken only by the solitary hamlet of Shottenden below. Take care on the steep path with its loose pebbles. On returning to bridleway continue alongside fruit orchards and fields of grazing sheep. Turn left at the Cottage on to gravel track and continue along the track to the idyllic Rose and Crown pub – another great place to sample local food, ale and apple juice produced just a few miles away.



continue straight on. At road, turn left, passing houses on your left and right and then arable fields on either side. Turn right at T-junction and continue along road, with raspberry fields on your right.

C2 Turn left through wooden gate on your left at Hogben's Hill. Continue along bridleway through wooded valley - part of the Lees Court Estate. Keep to your left and pass through cattle

gate and holding pen on your left, continuing along bottom of valley. (For a slightly longer walk, taking in the Red Lion pub and Badlesmere Common, follow Badlesmere Loop from C3).

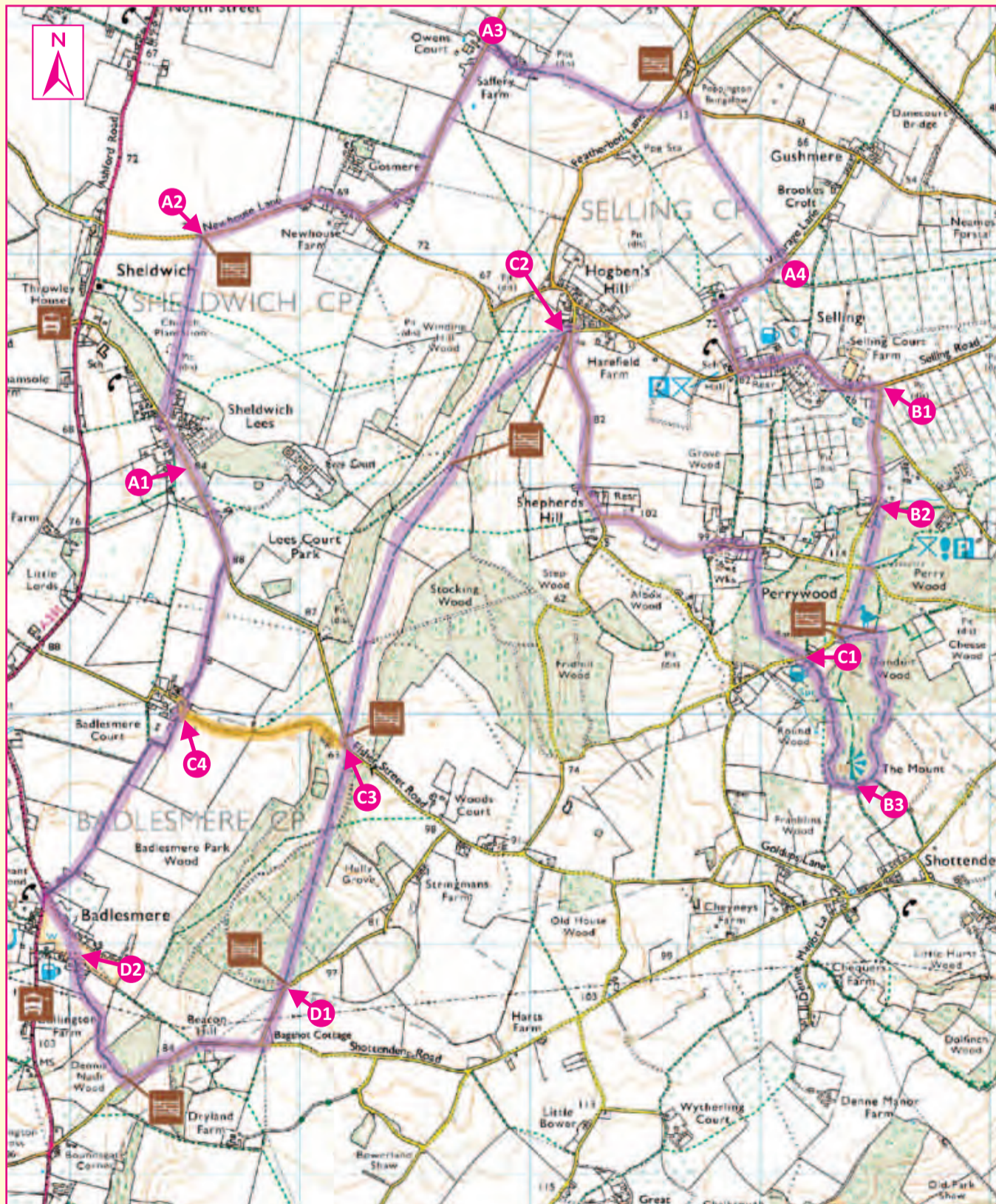
C3 At gate, turn left on to road and turn right uphill into Fisher Street Road. Continue on lane to Badlesmere Court Farm.

C4 Keeping green barn to your left, pass round side of barn through yard of dairy cows – one of Kent's last remaining milking herds - to concrete track. Continue along track to road. Turn left for Sheldwich Lees.



Perry Wood to Sheldwich

C1 With the Rose and Crown on your right, turn left onto the road and immediately right along bridleway through woods. At crossroads in path



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Garden/Arboretum
 Public house
 Viewpoint
 Place of worship
 Telephone
 Gate
 Refreshments
 Train
 0 Kilometres 0.5 1
 0 Miles 0.5 1

Walk Overview

Distance: 9.25 miles (14.75km) Including Badlesmere loop 11.25 miles (18km)
Fitness level: A challenging walk in places, with steep inclines
Toilets: Pub facilities
Refreshments: Pubs
Transport: Main railway station at Faversham and Selling
www.thetrainline.com
Pay phones: Sheldwich, Selling, Badlesmere
Parking: Sheldwich Lees, Sheldwich Church, Perry Wood, White Lion, Rose & Crown
Map: OS Explorer 149

Badlesmere Loop

C3 Turn left at gate on to road, cross over, and take footpath immediately to the right of Fisher Street Road sign. Continue forward uphill along track into woods.

D1 Turn right after gate to road and right again at T-junction. Walk along Beacon Hill and turn right after woods along bridleway. Continue on uphill to Badlesmere Common.

D2 You can follow the track here to the Red Lion pub or cross diagonally over the common to your right and take bridleway on your right in front of a house just before road (A251, Ashford Road). Follow this track through arable fields, until you reach Badlesmere Court Farm and its farmhouse. Rejoin main route at C4.

Perry Wood Panorama

Historic Perry Wood is a truly unique place, covered by 150 acres of mature trees and glades alive with heathland wildlife amid the rolling North Downs.

Owned by Swale Borough Council, Perry Wood is part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This delightful woodland is set aside for nature lovers and walkers as it attracts a wide variety of wildlife, from birds such as nightjars and woodpeckers to foxes, badgers and many insects. Walkers might also spot the heathers that cling to some of the wood's steep slopes and its jutting mounds of pebbles and sand.

Discover the area's rich history by using a wealth of footpaths leading to a suspected Roman encampment, Windmill Bank, once graced by flour mills, and one of the area's highest vantage points, The Pulpit. Elevated above the tree tops, the famous platform offers unparalleled, panoramic views of this unspoilt and deeply rural part of the North Downs.

