



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund European Union

## Linking Coast to Downs Route 3

9.1 miles (14.7km) allow 3 1/2 hours

This walk runs from the coast (England Coast Path) at Milton Creek to the Kent Downs AONB, ending at the Hucking Estate and the North Downs Way. You can start this walk from coast or downs. There is also a circular Linking Coast to Downs Route 4, around Borden and Bredgar, part way along this linear route.



View from the Hucking Estate woodland back down to The Swale.



Lady Orchid in the Kent Downs AONB

The walk traverses coastal marshes, townscape, fruit belt and arable land, pretty villages and ancient woodland stacked with wildlife. There's plenty to see and do along the way.



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### How to get there

By Car: From A2 / M2 follow signs to Milton Regis and then Milton Creek Country Park

Parking: Use roadside at Green Porch Close, ME102HA, or use Milton car park, ME10 2AN

Train: Nearest station to start, Sittingbourne (1.2 miles), nearest station to finish, Hollingbourne, 3 miles,.

National Rail Enquiries: 08457484950

<b>S</b>	Start	Milton Creek Country Park
<b>///</b>	what3words	spoken.sheep.beam
<b>F</b>	Finish	Hucking Estate
<b>///</b>	what3words	fats.hunches.handlebar
<b>   </b>	Stiles	1
<b>H</b>	Gates	8
<b>▬</b>	Terrain	Field paths and tracks
<b>▲</b>	Warning	Take Care
<b>☀</b>	Views	Some excellent views
<b>☕</b>	Refreshments	Shops, cafe, pubs

## Route description



Sculpture at Milton Creek Country Park

1. Starting at Milton Creek Country Park, leave via the gate adjacent to Holy Trinity Church and crossover the road into North Street. Upon reaching the roundabout, turn left into the High Street and continue along this road until Crown Road.

2. Turn right here and follow the road until you reach the next roundabout. Continue straight ahead into Chalkwell Road, until you meet its junction with the A2.

3. Using the nearby traffic lights, crossover into Borden Lane and continue south through the outskirts of the town.

4. At its junction with Banister Hill, Borden Lane turns right and is known as The Street. Continue along this road towards the church situated at the junction with Pond Farm Lane.

5. Turn left into Pond Farm Lane and look for the signed bridleway between the houses, on the corner of the lane opposite the church. This route then heads out into open farmland, with a newly planted hedgerow to your right just beyond the farmyard.



Path between buildings and newly planted hedge at Borden

6. At the far end of this stretch, carefully cross Sutton Baron Road into the field opposite until you reach the M2, where the path turns left. Upon reaching the waymarking post in the field, bear right and follow the path to Wrens Road and the motorway bridge.

7. Turn right and cross over the bridge, staying on the narrow footway which ends at the entrance to the paddocks on your right. With caution continue along the lane until you spot the footpath finger-post on your left. Cross over here and follow the path into the field edged by trees and a mature hedgerow.

8. Upon reaching the field edge follow the slope until you emerge at the junction with Primrose lane. Taking great care as you emerge turn right and continue along the lane into Bredgar village. Again, taking care as there is no footway along this section of the route.

Why not take a break in this lovely village centre?



Bredgar farm shop and tea house



Artist's impression of Bredgar Village (Sally Barton)

9. Upon reaching the large village pond, turn right into Gore Road. Continue along the road until you reach Silver Street. Turn left into Silver Street and look out for the finger post on your right at the end of the row of houses.

10. Turn right here up the steps and onto the footpath into an area of grassland and scrub. The route then takes you out across open farmland. Continue to head west across the field until you reach a footpath junction.



Rough grassland and scrub at Silver Street (looking back toward the houses)

11. Take the left hand path which heads south-west to the corner of the field. Emerging from the field, turn left into Deans Hill Road.

12. At Deans Hill Road, taking care, cross immediately over the road up onto the adjacent footpath and follow it across across the field. There are some steep steps and a handrail at the far end, which take you down onto Bicknor Lane.



Steps onto Bicknor Lane

13. Head straight across and into the valley below. Here the land becomes more undulating, as you wander down into a dry valley, typical of the dipslope of the Kent Downs AONB. Pass through the small area of woodland, through the gate and into the grassland at the valley bottom. Walk down then left, alongside the woodland at the bottom of the slope. Please be mindful of the grazing animals and keep dogs under control.





14. Reaching the far end of this valley there is a stile into Church Woods. The ground is more natural and uneven here, possibly boggy and slippery in places. Follow the path through the woods to the next small lane, Ballingdane.

15. Cross the lane carefully to the interpretation panel at Gorham and Admiral Community Woodlands. Pass through the pedestrian gate into the meadow to the field gate at the far end, following the path deeper into the woodland itself. The ground in the meadow is rough and tussocky and the path through the woodland may be rutted and uneven from forestry operations.



16. After about a mile you will reach another interpretation panel at the far end of the woodland. Go through the kissing gate and turn right heading up the side of the grassland valley, see picture below. Take the field gate mid way up the slope, then the pedestrian gates that follow the hedgeline.



17. After one more kissing gate you will cross another small lane, Hazel St Rd. Follow the footpath immediately opposite the road into the wooded area, part of the Hucking Estate, owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. Coming out of the trees onto some grazed grassland, come through the kissing gate and turn left, up the slope toward another kissing gate, next to a field gate.

18. Cross the road carefully, into the Woodland Trust carpark. From the carpark, walk straight on toward the mature woodland area, then at the first junction in the wood, turn left and follow the bridleway until you reach another junction of woodland tracks.



From the Woodland Trust carpark, into The Hucking Estate

19. Take a right turn onto the wider track, which will eventually lead you to the North Downs Way. Please be aware that this track is a byway, meaning that there may be vehicles. The surface is rough and stony.



From this end of the walk, you can continue to follow the byway down to the Pilgrims Way, or you can turn left on to the North Downs Way down to Hollingbourne village, where you can catch either a bus or train back to Sittingbourne.

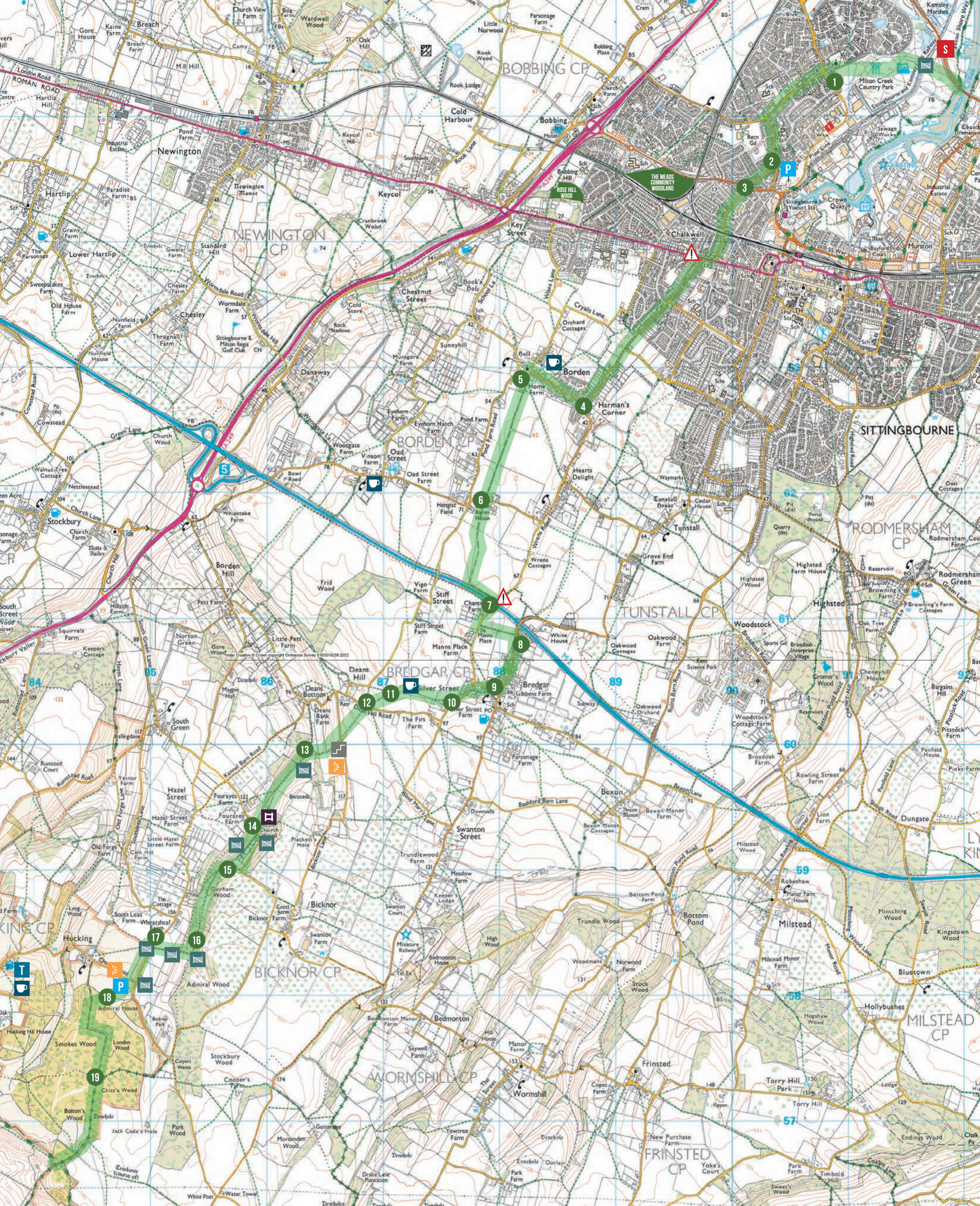
Please remember the countryside code, when walking in rural areas:

- The Countryside Code
- RESPECT- PROTECT- ENJOY
- 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
- Consider other people
- Remember to always follow the Highway Code Further information: [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)



Artist's impression of Gorham and Admiral's Wood (Sally Barton)





Newington

BOBBING CP

NEWINGTON CP

BORDEN CP

BREDGAR CP

BICKNOR CP

WORMSHILL CP

FRINSTED CP

SITTINGBOURNE

RODMERSHAM CP

TUNSTALL CP

MILSTEAD CP

ROMAN ROAD

Stockbury

Hucking

Admiral House

Chitt's Wood

Wormdale Road

Green Lane

Church Lane

South Green

Hazel Street

South Leas Farm

Admiral House

White Post

Chestnut Street

Woodgate Lane

Whipsnade Farm

Deans Hill

Fourways Farm

Bicknor

Bedmorton

Mordenden Wood

Sunnyhill

Wooledge Farm

Stiff Street

Deans Bottom

Swanton Street

Bicknor

Bedmorton

Yewtree Farm

Orchard Cottages

Wrens Cottages

White House

Bredgar

Bexon

Trundle Wood

Wormshill

Densholt

Chalkwell

Tunstall

Grove End Farm

Woodstock

Milstead

Bottom Pond

Frinsted

Yoke's Court

Milton Creek Country Park

Highsted

Woodstock

Woodstock Cottage Farm

Milstead

Bluetown

Hollybushes

Endings Wood

Parsonage Farm

Lower Hartlip

Old House Farm

Cowstead

Church Lane

South Green

Wheatshat

Admiral House

White Post

Church View Farm

Newington Manor

Chesley Farm

Church Wood

South Green

Wheatshat

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Admiral House

White Post

Wardwell Wood

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Church Wood

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Admiral House

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Little Norwood

Key Street

Chesley Farm

Church Wood

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Admiral House

White Post

Parsonage Farm

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Chesley Farm

Church Wood

South Green

Wheatshat

Wheatshat

Admiral House

White Post

Blue Houses

Chalkwell

Chesley Farm

Church Wood

South Green

Wheatshat

Wheatshat

Admiral House

White Post

Kensley Marshes

Milton Creek Country Park

Chesley Farm

Church Wood

South Green

Wheatshat

Wheatshat

Admiral House

White Post