

NORTH DOWNS WAY RAIL TRAIL No. 1

**KNOCKHOLT to
DUNTON GREEN**

6.5 MILES (10KM) ALLOW 3 HOURS

A 6 mile walk exploring the stunning landscape situated just outside the London Borough of Bromley, most of which lies within the M25. The walk includes traditional Kentish villages and farmland as well as some panoramic vistas from the Downs towards Westerham and Sevenoaks.



HOW TO GET THERE -

By car: Knockholt Station is situated on the Old London Road, just off the A21 and junction 4 of the M25

Parking: Parking, including accessible parking, available at Knockholt station and Dunton Green station.

Train: Nearest stations: Knockholt and Dunton Green.

National Rail Enquiries: www.nationalrail.co.uk

Bus: 3 (Sevenoaks to Orpington) Mon-Fri, 2 journeys per day

Traveline: www.traveline.info

	Start	Knockholt Station
	what3words	/// tinsel.sits.port
	Finish	Dunton Green Station
	what3words	///mining.last.help
	Stiles	5
	Gates	11
	Steps	1 set of 10 steps
	Terrain	Mainly fields and tracks with some steep slopes. Some road walking.
	Views	Fine views down to Chevening House and across to Sevenoaks
	Refreshments	Numerous pubs and cafes in Knockholt and Dunton Green
	Toilets	Customer toilets at the Three Horseshoes in Knockholt, and the Rose and Crown and Dukes Head in Dunton Green

ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND POINTS OF INTEREST

KNOCKHOLT CHURCH: The church of St Katharine the Virgin at Knockholt dates back to 1281. It is thought that much of the original building still exists with a spire, steeple and clock tower being added later. In March 1944, during the Blitz, a bomb fell on the church's rectory, severely damaging the building and killing the unfortunate rector, Charles Hobley. There is a memorial tablet to him in the church.



Photo: Marathon, CC BY-SA 2.0

1. Starting at Knockholt Station, exit onto the main road and turn left.
2. After a short distance, cross the road and go through a gate onto a public footpath. The path climbs initially before levelling off. Bear right at a junction with another path keeping the tree line to the

left and continue following until reaching a gate.

3. Go through this gate and continue ahead following the path to the left hand side of a field. On reaching the end, bear left, crossing the track and into a second field, continuing ahead with the hedge to the right.
4. On reaching a road, turn left and after a short while go through a gate on the right into Halstead Place. (A slight detour is available by continuing a little further along the road into Halstead village). Turn left through the gate.
5. On reaching a stile, bear right, following the path to Rushmore Hill. Keep straight ahead, crossing the grass and continuing along the footpath keeping ahead at a track. The path now descends into a valley.

HALSTEAD: Situated within the M25 and just a few miles from Greater London, Halstead has a surprisingly rural feel thanks to its history of fruit picking. The author Edith Nesbit, spent some of her time here in the 1870s and her book, *The Railway Children*, is thought to be based on her time living at Halstead Hall, whose garden is close to the railway line.

6. At the bottom of the valley, bear slightly right and continue up the hill, making for a lone pine tree at the top and taking the path to the right of the clearing through the trees. Continue past a plant nursery on the left until reaching a road (Rushmore Hill).
7. Turn left along this road crossing into Randles Lane when it starts to bend around to the right, then take the footpath on the left after the gates of a house. Climb the stile and continue along the path passing through a gate, 3 more stiles and another gate.
8. On reaching this gate, bear right and cross the field diagonally, making for a gap in the trees on the opposite side. The path runs alongside a driveway before emerging onto a road (Pound Lane). Turn left and continue until reaching a roundabout and the Three Horseshoes pub.
9. Cross carefully here, continuing ahead along Chevening Lane and passing several cottages and an old Police House before reaching the signpost for the North Downs Way. Ignore the first signpost (on the right) and continue for a very

short distance until arriving at a second signpost on the left.

10. Go through a gate onto the North Downs Way and continue along a field with the hedge on the left. Aim for a gap in the far corner. Continue following the signs for the North Downs Way along a field edge until emerging into open countryside with fine views ahead.
11. Continue straight through the gate onto the top of the hill. Chevening House and St Botolph's Church can be seen below. Descend carefully, keeping the fence line to the left.
12. Continue following the North Downs Way admiring the view towards Otford and Sevenoaks to the east. This is also a great place to spot red kites, which like to fly low over the slopes of the hill.
13. On reaching a gate on the left, go through, then take the path on the right, rather than going straight up the hill, to another gate, leaving the North Downs Way for a while. Follow the ridge of the hill straight until reaching a hedge at the end.

CHEVENING HOUSE: Chevening House is a Grade I listed Palladian mansion, thought to have been designed by Inigo Jones. It is now used as a country retreat by Foreign Secretaries. Its Grade II listed gardens and parklands are open to the public on selected days during the summer.



RED KITES: Red kites are increasingly common in this part of Kent having made a significant comeback from near extinction thanks to conservation and reintroduction programs. They can often be seen soaring over the Downs, their distinctive forked tails and reddish brown wings making them easily identifiable.

14. Go through a scissor gate and down some steps. Follow the path downhill towards some buildings with the hedge line to the right.
15. On reaching the road, cross with care and turn left. You have now rejoined the North Downs Way. Continue straight then turn right at a roundabout and continue to a bridge over the motorway. Continue straight along this road for just over a mile.
16. Shortly after a parade of shops, turn left into Station Road. Follow this as well as signs for Dunton Green Station, where the walk ends.



