

**NORTH DOWNS WAY RAIL TRAIL No. 3**

**BOROUGH GREEN  
to OTFORD**

**7.5 MILES (12KM) ALLOW 4 HOURS**



A 7.5 mile hike almost entirely along the North Downs Way with far reaching, panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The walk includes the two historic villages of Wrotham and Otford as well as rare chalk grassland meadows, woodland and farmland.

**ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND POINTS OF INTEREST**

**WROTHAM:** Located on the Pilgrims' Way, the historic village of Wrotham is characterised by its 13th century church and numerous notable buildings. It was at Wrotham, in May 1536, that Henry VIII learned of the execution of Anne Boleyn, allowing him to marry Jane Seymour.



Malic McDonald, CC BY-SA 2.0

- Continue uphill, passing the church to the right and the village hall to the left, bearing left onto Old London Road. Continue along this road until reaching a turning for Pilgrims' Way on the left just past a primary school.
- Continue along Pilgrims' Way, keeping straight when the road becomes a track. Follow this track for about one mile until reaching another road.
- Cross the road with care and continue along the track (North Downs Way) for another mile or so. Just before reaching another road, turn right into a field and cross to a gate on the other side. Continue uphill to reach a second gate at the top.
- Go through the gate and up a flight of steps, turning right at the top onto a road. After about 20m, take the footpath on the left marked North Downs Way.
- Continue along this path through woods until reaching a field. Keep ahead until reaching a waymarked sign and bear to the left, continuing with the tree line to the right. Notice the North Downs Way milestone about halfway along this field. This is part of the St Clere Estate.

**HOW TO GET THERE -**

By car: Borough Green and Wrotham Station is located just off the A227, easily reached from the M26 and M20 motorways.



Parking: Parking, including accessible parking is available at Borough Green & Wrotham Station and at Otford Station.

Train: Nearest stations: Borough Green and Wrotham, Otford.

National Rail Enquiries: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Bus: 58 Maidstone, 221 Tunbridge Wells, 308 Gravesend/Sevenoaks

Traveline: [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

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<b>F</b>	Finish	Otford Station
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	Gates	20
	Steps	4 flights, 90 + steps in total
	Terrain	Mainly fields and tracks with some steep slopes. Woodland, farmland and grassland.
	Views	Fine views from the top of the Downs to the Greensand Ridge can be enjoyed for most of the walk.
	Refreshments	There are numerous pubs and cafes in Borough Green, Wrotham and Otford.
	Toilets	Toilets, including accessible facilities, are available at Borough Green and Otford Stations

- Starting at Borough Green and Wrotham station, walk up to the main road (Wrotham Road). Cross with care and turn left. Continue on this road passing a school on the right.
- Shortly after crossing the motorway, turn left into Borough Green Road and enter Wrotham village. Continue along Borough Green Road, which soon becomes High Street. Just after passing the Rose and Crown on the right and before reaching The Bull, turn left to stay on High Street.

## NORTH DOWNS WAY MILESTONE:

The milestone is almost at the halfway point along the North Downs Way with Farnham 60 miles to the west and Dover 65 miles to the east.

8. At a footpath junction, turn left, keeping on the North Downs Way and continue ahead when reaching a gap in the trees. Follow the path through the woods. On reaching a gate on the left, continue through a field keeping the tree line to the right until reaching another gate.
9. Go through this gate and cross the field, heading for the barn opposite. Go through another gate, walk down the track and exit onto Cotmans Ash Lane through a scissor gate.
10. Turn left onto the road, walking a short distance until reaching the NDW footpath sign on the right. Continue following the North Downs Way going through another gate and up three steps to another gate and into a field.
11. Continue through the field with the tree line to the left and go through another gate. Continue through three more gates and just before reaching the end of the path, go through the gate on the left, still following the North Downs Way through another gate into a field.
12. Cross the field, heading towards the top left hand corner towards yet another gate. Turn right after this gate and continue along the top of the hill. There are fine views

towards Sevenoaks and the Greensand Ridge to the left.

13. Walk across the top of a field with views to the left then down a short flight of steps and through a gate to the right. Go down some steps crossing a track and up some more steps and through a gate into Kemsing Down Nature Reserve.
14. Exit the reserve at Whiteleaf Down, going through a gate and climbing a flight of steps leading to the fence at the top. From here, take a well earned rest to admire the fine views below. Continue along the



**KEMSING DOWN:** A 16 hectare reserve managed by Kent Wildlife Trust, which boasts excellent panoramic views south to Sevenoaks, west to Leith Hill in Surrey and east to Detling. The chalk downland benefits from a wide variety of wildflowers, making the slopes especially beautiful in early summer – common rock-rose, fairy flax cowslip and several species of orchid can be found here.

path with the fence to the right and trees to the left. Turn right at the end, keeping the fence to the right the whole time until reaching a gate onto a lane.

15. Turn left onto the lane and follow it around to the right, passing a thatched cottage on the right. Just past the cottage, take the North Downs Way on the left and enter a field through a gate. Go through two more fields and two more gates, following the path all the time until reaching a road.
16. Turn left here and at the road junction, keep ahead crossing two roads and go through a gate into a field, still on the North Downs Way. Walk through this field, noticing the Otford Mount trig point on the right.
17. Continue along the path, which soon enters woodland and starts to gradually descend until emerging from the trees with a bench on the right and fine views across the Darent Valley beyond.
18. Continue down steps, which eventually turn into a driveway, finally reaching the road below. Take care crossing the road and turn right following the road to a junction. Turn left here and continue until reaching some steps on the left which lead down to Otford Station.

**OTFORD:** The village boasts a wealth of heritage to explore including the Archbishop's Palace, Otford Heritage Trail and even a listed duck pond! Look out for the 10 heritage panels around the village along the Otford Heritage Trail.

