

NORTH DOWNS WAY

NATIONAL TRAIL 

NORTH DOWNS WAY RAIL TRAIL No. 4

CUXTON LOOP

6.6 MILES (10.6KM) ALLOW 3 HOURS

A varied route through the Medway Valley and North Kent Woods and Downs National Nature Reserve (NNR). You will find small villages, woodland, farmland and vineyards. In the summer months, the fields around Cuxton transform into colourful wildflower meadows, the perfect habitat for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. With fabulous views across dry valleys and across the Medway towards Rochester, this family friendly route packs in a lot.



ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND POINTS OF INTEREST

1. From Cuxton Station follow Station Road to the junction with the main road (Rochester Road). Cross over the road at the traffic lights turning left into Bush Road.
2. Follow Bush Road, passing a sports ground on the right and continue until reaching a footpath on the right opposite a post box, and between two houses.
3. Follow this narrow path between fences uphill over the railway line bearing right down steps into a field. This is part of Ranscombe Farm.
4. At a crossroads in the field, take the path to the left. Follow this path into the next field ignoring paths left and right passing through woodland.
5. On exiting the woods, pass through a gate and turn hard left uphill alongside a hedge to another gate.

KITCHEN FIELD: This field is known as Kitchen Field and is home to one of the largest assemblages of rare arable wildflowers including the corncockle, meadow clary and broad-leaved cudweed.

RANSCOMBE FARM: Ranscombe Farm is Plantlife's largest nature reserve in England, occupying a total area of 560 acres on the slopes of the Kent Downs. It is part of the larger and recently designated North Kent Woods and Downs National Nature Reserve and provides opportunities for quiet walks amongst attractive countryside with a fascinating and rare flora.



Photo: Richard Moyses

6. At the top of the hill, bear left along woodland edge to a field gate. Pass through gate bearing right alongside field edge.
7. At the edge of woodland, keep ahead ignoring the path on the right. Keep ahead to another field gate, passing through and heading downhill towards the railway line. In summer this field is a spectacular wild flower meadow.
8. Head downhill back towards the railway line with views over Lower Bush and the vineyards ahead. Pass under the railway line and follow the path to the road.

HOW TO GET THERE -

By Car: Cuxton Station is situated on Station Road, just off the A228, Rochester Road.








Parking: On street parking at Station Road, Cuxton.

Train: Nearest station: Cuxton.

National Rail Enquiries: www.nationalrail.co.uk

Bus: No. 151 Kings Hill to Snodland, Mon - Fri hourly journeys, Sat 7 journeys, Sun 6 journeys.

Traveline: www.traveline.info

	Start/finish	Cuxton Station
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	Gates	10
	Steps	5 flights, totalling 53 steps
	Terrain	Mainly fields and woodland paths which can become muddy in places. Some uphill walking.
	Warning	Use pedestrian crossing when crossing A228 Sundridge Hill at White Hart Pub
	Views	Views across dry valleys and across the Medway towards Rochester.
	Refreshments	White Hart Cuxton. Shops on Bush Road, Cuxton at the start of the walk.
	Toilets	Customer toilets at the White Hart pub, Rochester Rd, ME2 1AD.

9. Turn left onto the road, then right to follow a field edge with the Silverhand Estate Vineyard to the left and ahead.
10. Pick up the North Downs Way on exiting the field onto the road, heading towards Upper Bush.
11. Follow the NDW for a while through the houses, keeping left at the final cottage on a path between hedges and out into another field of vines heading towards woodland.
12. Carry on ahead on the NDW through North Wood, ignoring paths on either side before crossing another valley with Dean Farm to the left into more woodland.

SILVERHAND ESTATE: The Silverhand Estate is the largest single organic vineyard in Kent, spanning 900 acres of beautiful countryside. It is also the first UK vineyard to achieve carbon negative status thanks to its organic and regenerative farming practices.



Photo: Silverhand Estate

13. Follow the steps uphill to a T junction.
14. Leave the NDW at the T junction, turning left back towards Cuxton as the NDW turns right towards Halling. Follow this long path through the woods, ignoring the paths left and right. On coming to the edge of the woods at a Y junction, keep right towards a field gate.
15. Go through the gate to a path between paddocks with views of the Medway Crossing and Rochester ahead. Keep ahead through the gate, passing a beacon heading downhill through fields towards the church and main road.

16. Turn left through a gate then keep to the right path towards the churchyard.
17. Turning right through the gate into the churchyard, follow this path to a junction and turn left towards the Village Hall.
18. Follow this path down to the main road until reaching the traffic lights at the end of Station Road crossed at the start of the walk. Carefully cross the road and turn into Station Road, retracing route back to the station.

UPPER BUSH: Upper Bush is a medieval hamlet situated on the North Downs Way. Much of the hamlet was demolished by the council during the 1960s but a campaign mounted by local people, resulted in five historic houses being saved.



NORTH KENT WOODS AND DOWNS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE : Nestled within the rolling landscapes of the Kent Downs, the North Kent Woods and Downs National Nature Reserve is a network of protected sites managed for wildlife, conservation and people. Spanning from Gravesend to Medway, the reserve is home to ancient woodlands, chalk grasslands, and rare species and is the first NNR to include a vineyard.



