

# Walk 3 - Godmersham - Land of Godmaer

**Difficulty:-** 5.1 miles (8.25 kms) 1 steep path uphill, 1 steep path downhill, 2 stiles, 3 gates.

**Time:-** 2.5 hrs (no stops).

**Bus:-** 652 Monday to Saturday (Ashford/Canterbury).

**Start and parking:-** Next to the church.

**Food stop:-** Chilham or Perry Court Farm Shop (TN25 4ES).

**Key:-** L = Left; NDW = North Downs Way; R = Right.

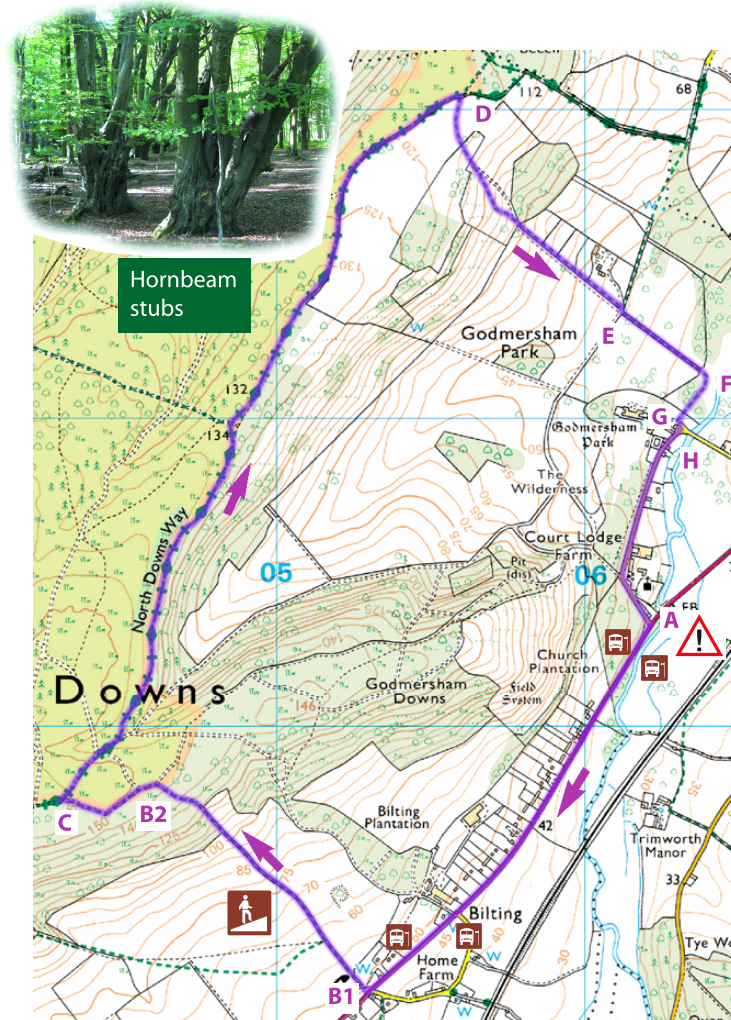
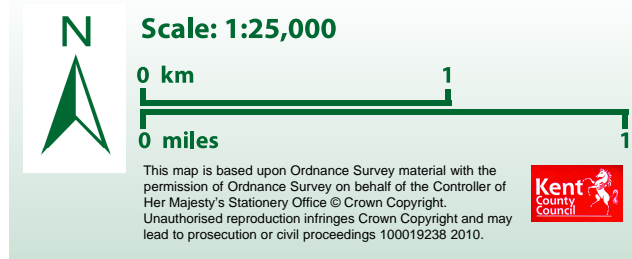
**Start with Godmersham Church (at your back) L to main road A28 Bilting A. R with great care towards Ashford using pavement (1 mile) B1. R at last house (opposite Home Farm) onto ancient track up escarpment to King's Wood (KW).** This hedged ancient drove road to the Downs has over 30 trees, shrubs, and climbers lining it.

**L at top of footpath to point where paths cross B2 and go R onto North Downs Way (NDW) C.** The pits on the left are probably old chalk pits used for making lime. Most of the woodland along the path is either sweet chestnut coppice or beech. On the right-hand side is a secret valley once used for Airships. On the left, after a public footpath to the left, are some magical hornbeam stubbs, originally used as boundary markers.


**R at stile alongside deer leap D.** The wall prevented deer from returning to the Forest. **Footpath diagonally R across field to stile and in second field follow yellow markers downhill.** You now come to a fantastic view of the Stour Valley. For a description of Godmersham Park see Countryside around King's Wood (overleaf). Across the valley, on Temple Hill is a white folly, said to be a place where Jane Austen enjoyed writing. **Through gate and farm track down hill to point where farm tracks meet E.**

**Go straight ahead on track between hedges to gate F. R diagonally across field to arched gateway and gate for walkers G.** In late summer/early autumn look out for fairy ring champignon mushrooms on the grassy path. **L to river Stour to admire views H.** The River Stour, from its source in Lenham to its mouth in Sandwich, is 58 miles. In the clear water cushions of the white flowered river water crowfoot can be seen. Nearby, women felons were drowned, in the river's Ordeal Pit.

**R retrace steps back towards arched gateway I. Bear L alongside Godmersham Park wall. L to Godmersham Church.** The parish of Godmersham originates from a Saxon farmstead belonging to 'Godmaer'. Jane Austen's brother, Edward Knight lived at Godmersham Park and the east window of St Lawrence Church is dedicated to him. His old nurse, who looked after all his children, lies under the ancient yews in the churchyard of St Lawrence Church.



## Key

-  Walk 3
-  Steep incline
-  Bus stop
-  Hazard
-  North Downs Way
-  Public footpath
-  Public bridleway
-  Restricted byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic
-  Access land

## Countryside Code

### RESPECT, PROTECT, ENJOY

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under control
- Consider other people
- Inform others where you are going

