

## Walk 4 - Boughton Lees/ Challock - The Long One

**Difficulty:-** 8 miles (12.8 kms) 1 very steep path uphill, 1 very steep lane downhill, 8 stiles, 6 kissing gates, 1 gate.

**Time:-** 4 hrs (no stops).

**Bus:-** 666 Monday to Saturday (Ashford/Faversham).

**Start and parking:-** Around the village green, Boughton Lees. Please park considerately.

**Food stop:-** Picnic in King's Wood – no toilets. Challock Lees. Halfway House – play area. The Chequers.

**Key:-** L = Left; NDW = North Downs Way; R = Right; Ride = Forest Road; RoW = Right of Way/Footpath.

**Start by walking along Pilgrims Way to right of Flying Horse, Boughton Lees A.** The shelterbelts (rows of poplar and alder trees) and hazel hedges protect orchards from adverse weather but most of the orchards have now gone. **Continue past Malthouse Cottages and lane on left, and as road curves to right go L between high hedges and iron T shaped barrier onto North Downs Way (NDW) B.** There is now more variety in the hedgerows with field maple, spindle, dog rose, and wayfaring tree. Look for plums that were often planted among hedges to provide fruit. The KSCP have helped to plant many new hedges in this area.

**Pass through kissing gate straight ahead in field alongside All Saints Church C. Through gate and across lane to second stile (gate also opens). Go over third stile/gate and straight ahead on footpath across field to other side of valley. Straight ahead to path between ancient hedgerows. Kissing gate to White Hill Road. Straight across with care to Soakham Farm Road D.** Soakham originates from Anglo-Saxon meaning "Dispute Valley".

**Through Soakham Farm gate/stile to path, up the escarpment Soakham Downs, into King's Wood.** Look and listen for the skylark. They have declined in recent years but they are still noticeable, especially from February to June, when they spiral upwards from arable fields, hover, and then spiral down, singing all the time. Typical chalk downland plants on the bank, are marjoram, wild basil, salad burnet and rock rose. Whitebeam, a tree found naturally on mainly chalky soils, shades the path. The underside of the leaves is where the tree gets its name from. Primroses and cowslips are seen in the Spring. After taking a sharp left turn, and towards the top, you will find a seat, almost hidden, on your right, sculptured into the chalk. This is a great place for a rest and snack.

On reaching the summit and entering the wood enjoy carpets of bluebells from mid April to early May. **L at crossing in paths over stile into very large field and go straight across E.** Enjoy the great views across the Stour Valley to the sea on your left. **Continue on this path into the next smaller Jackets**

**Field following the yellow RoW signs.** A Bronze Age (2000-600 BC) long barrow is situated in the woodland to your left. **Half way across take R hand footpath across Jackets Field to kissing gate back into King's Wood F.**

**Follow the winding path through densely planted fir trees. Straight across ride (forest road) to RoW sign through deciduous woodland to next ride. R then immediately L at RoW sign onto ride G. Left at slightly staggered crossing of rides RoW sign H.**

Work took place in 2008 to widen this ride, removing coniferous trees but leaving some splendid Scots pine further along the ride. Widening rides allows more light into the wood so encouraging more wildflowers and invertebrates such as butterflies.

**Continue straight ahead on main ride to where 4 rides meet at a staggered cross ride (ie R then immediately L) I. When fields are on your R and at a sharp bend to the L go straight across to yellow RoW sign and a footpath into woodland J. Emerge into field K. Keep to L side until you see a stile beside a bungalow diagonally opposite L. Footpath to A251 cross road with great care to pavement. R to Halfway House. Return to Blind Lane M. Or L then R to footpath and go diagonally R across cricket field to Blind Lane and L passing The Chequers M. Take L in to Church Lane N.**

**At end of Church Lane either go straight ahead to farm road O or L into Churchyard.** The 13th century church of St Cosmas & Damian on the site of the old village of Challock, is nearly a mile from the centre of the present village. The most likely explanation for the shift of the village is the 1589 grant of power to the Eastwell Estate to 'empark'. This closed the road from Eastwell to Challock diverting traffic to what is now the A251. The church has some lovely murals from the 1950s and a new one from a celebration of the Millennium, with many villagers depicted. The church is normally kept locked. To arrange entry see the Challock Parish Council website. **Opposite the south entrance to the Church turn R take path over stile into field and walk straight ahead to join farm road on brow O.** For a description of the Eastwell Manor Park Estate, which you are now walking through, see Countryside around King's Wood (overleaf). Looking back, towards the Downs, notice the old lime kilns in the hillside.

**Straight ahead on footpath through fields to stile P. Go across estate road to opposite stile. Please do not walk down the estate road. Take footpath to top of field Q. Follow field edge to stile and NDW sign R. Go L diagonally down field to estate road and kissing gate S. Cross drive to R to another kissing gate. Head across field to barn shaped Church (St Christopher's) and kissing gate T. Cross A251 with great care to Boughton Lees.**

## Countryside Code

RESPECT,  
PROTECT, ENJOY

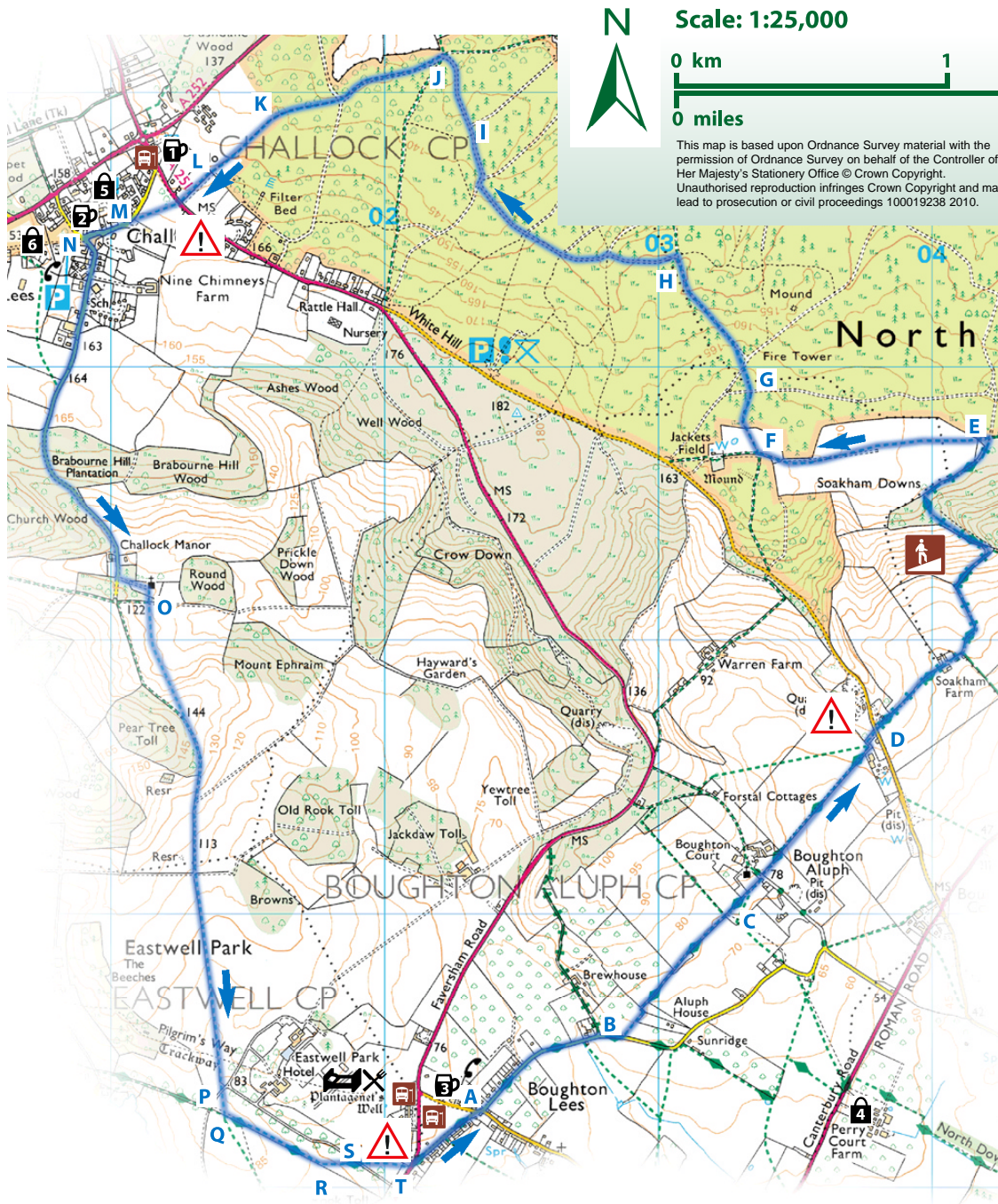
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under control
- Consider other people
- Inform others where you are going



Skylark







Scale: 1:25,000

0 km

0 miles



## Key



Walk 4



Selected bus stops



Steep incline



Hazard



Car park



Access land



North Downs Way



Public footpath



Public bridleway



Restricted byway



Byway Open to All Traffic



Permissive footpath



**PUBS**

1. Halfway House, Challock  
TN25 4BB ☎01233 740258

2. Chequers, Challock TN25 4BS  
☎01233 740672

3. Flying Horse, Boughton Lees  
TN25 4HH ☎01233 620914



**SHOPS**

4. Perry Court Farm Shop TN25 4ES  
☎01233 812302

5. Challock Barn Shop TN25 4BJ  
☎01233 740237

6. Challock Post Office TN25 4BP  
☎01233 740313



**HOTEL, BAR & RESTAURANT**

Eastwell Manor, Boughton Lees  
TN25 4HR ☎01233 213000

Lime kilns,  
Eastwell Park



Wide ride with  
Scots pine

