



Location Map




Location Symbols

-  Bus stop/Request stop
-  Walk Location

Essential Information

Distance:
2 miles/3 kms

Walk grade:
 Easy, generally level walking with some steps, gates and a stile.

Maps:
OS Explorer 123
OS Landranger 199

Start/Finish:
Cuckoo Trail Car Park TQ 584121

Public Transport:
Buses: A regular bus service operates between Tunbridge Wells and Eastbourne stopping at Hellingly.
Trains: Polegate station approx. 6 miles, accessible via the Cuckoo Trail.

Parking:
Parking is available at the Cuckoo Trail Car Park, Station Road, Hellingly.



Hellingly Walk



Paths to Prosperity

East Sussex is a welcome haven for walkers in the busy south-east of England, with over two thirds of the County covered by the High Weald and Sussex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There is also a wealth of picturesque villages, country houses and parkland hidden within its rolling landscape, waiting to be discovered.

Please come and enjoy the unique splendours of our countryside, but please also support the local businesses that help make the countryside the vibrant place that it is today.

The Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Guard against all risk of fire.

Leave gates as you find them.

Keep your dog under close control in the presence of animals.

Keep to public rights of way.

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.

Take your litter home.

Help to keep all water clean.

Protect wildlife, plants and trees.

Take special care on country roads.

Make no unnecessary noise.

Refreshments and Local Services

(see map for location)

- 1 The White Hart**
Public House, Restaurant and Live Music - Lower Horsebridge, 01323 842221
- 2 The Kings Head**
Public House, Restaurant and Bed and Breakfast Accommodation - Lower Horsebridge, 01323 843712
- 3 Horsebridge Post Office**
Post Office and Convenience Store - Lower Horsebridge, 01323 844259
- 4 Provenders Lodge**
Grocer, Mini-supermarket & Baker - Upper Horsebridge, 01323 842085
- 5 Holmbush House**
Georgian Country House Bed & Breakfast Accommodation and Wedding Venue - North Street, Hellingly, 01435 813078
- 6 Wellshurst Golf & Country Club**
Golf Course, Gym, Health Spa and Restaurant - North Street, Hellingly, 01435 813456

Nearby Places of Interest:

Whilst in the area, why not visit **Park Wood**. The site covers 60 hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland and is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. There is a small car park off Grove Hill, Hellingly on the western side of the wood.

We hope that you enjoy the walk in this leaflet, which is one of a series produced by East Sussex County Council.

Copies of the leaflets for other walks in the series are available from Tourist Information Centres and libraries or direct from East Sussex County Council, by contacting the Rights of Way Team:-

By phone on:-
01273 482250 / 482354 / 482324

By post at:-
Transport and Environment Department
County Hall
St. Anne's Crescent
Lewes BN7 1UE

By e-mail at:-
rightsofway@eastsussex.gov.uk

By downloading from the website at:-
www.eastsussex.gov.uk

If any problems are encountered on the walk please report them to the above contact points.

Please note that inclusion of business details in this leaflet does not constitute an endorsement of the business by East Sussex County Council or its agents.

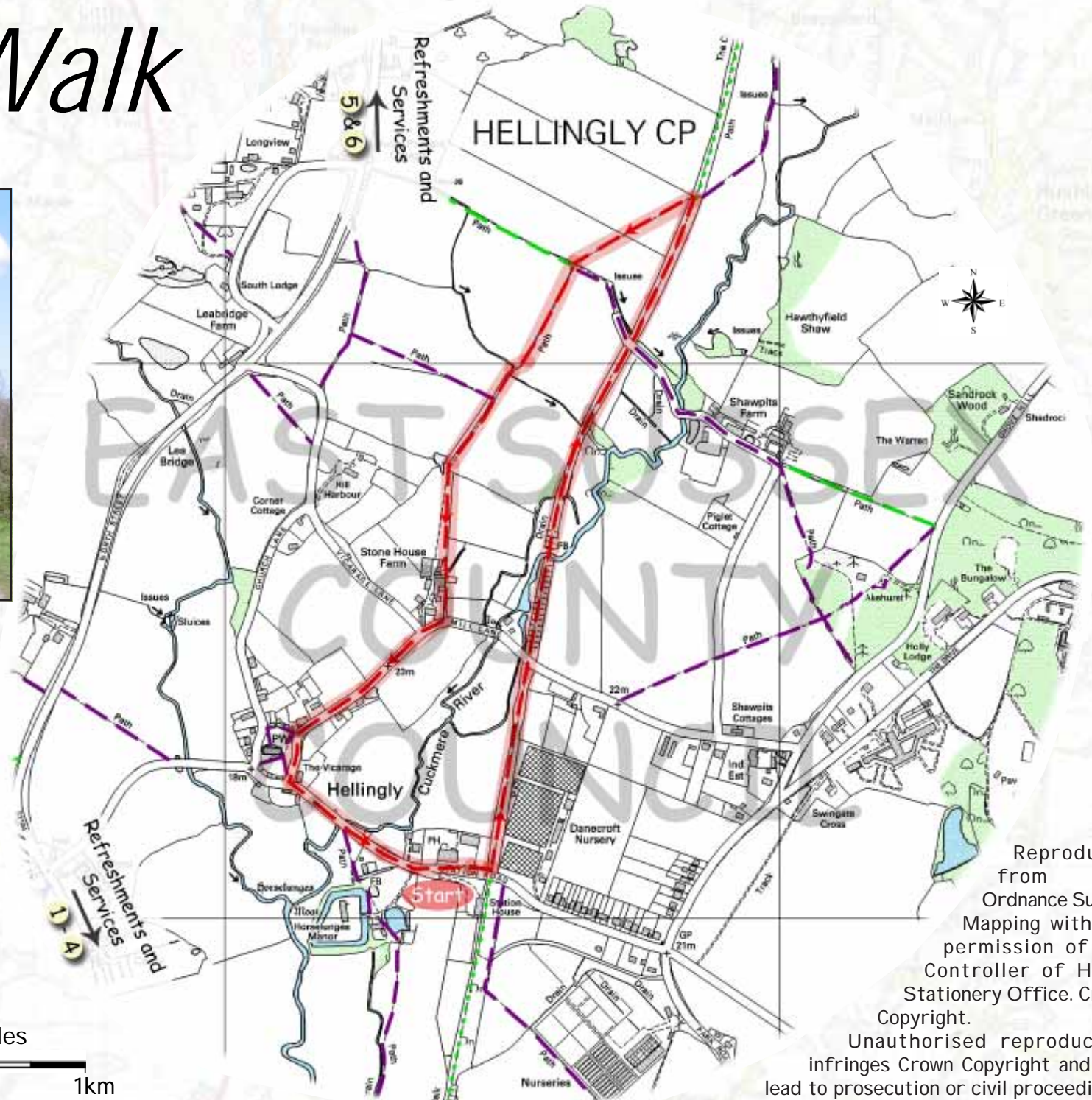
Hellingly Walk



The Cuckoo Trail and Old Railway Station

Map Legend

-  Refreshments & Local Services (see over for details)
-  Route
-  Other Public Footpaths
-  Other Public Bridleways
-  Cuckoo Trail



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Starting from the Cuckoo Trail car park, use the path at the end of the car park to join the Cuckoo Trail beside the old Hellingly Station (now a private house).

Opposite the station is Hellingly Millennium Arboretum, planted on the site of the old goods sidings that served the station.

Turn left and follow the Cuckoo Trail under the bridge and on for a distance of approximately 370 metres (400 yds.) to reach Mill Lane. Cross the lane and continue to follow the Cuckoo Trail. The route passes the old Watermill, and then over the River Cuckmere and beside wetland areas on each side of the path.

After passing under the next bridge, continue to follow the Cuckoo Trail for a further 280 metres (305 yds.) to a point where a footpath crosses. Turn left onto the footpath and follow up the steps to a stile. Cross the field in the direction indicated to reach a gate, then continue to follow the route across the next field to a second gate.

At the next gate, follow the signposted route ahead, and then follow the field edge path, keeping the hedge on your right. On reaching the short track between fields, cross, to reach a footbridge and then beyond the bridge the path follows the next field, with the hedge again on the right. After another gate the path runs along the edge of another field, this time keep the hedge on your left.

Follow the path to a field gate on the left hand side of the farm buildings. Cross the surfaced yard using the two small handgates, and follow the route along the edge of the short section of field to another handgate, and then on along the enclosed path to reach Mill Lane again.



Church of St Peter & St Paul, Hellingly

The single track railway opened between Eastbourne and Hailsham in 1849, with the extension from Hailsham to Eridge opening in 1880. The line fell victim to the Beeching cuts, with the last section being closed in 1968. The line was purchased by Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council with the first sections of the new route for walkers, cyclists and horseriders being opened in 1992.



The Churchyard, Hellingly

Turn right and follow the lane, passing the first junction on the right. Continue to follow the lane into Hellingly village, passing the Church, to the junction with Station Road.

Hellingly Church is built on the only remaining, undamaged ciric in Sussex. A ciric is a circular Celtic burial ground, raised to keep the dead dry. The Hellingly ciric, although once round, is now oval as the church acquired more land in the 12th century.

Turn left and follow Station Road back to the Cuckoo Trail car park and the start of the walk.

The Cuckoo Trail follows the route of the old Cuckoo Line railway that used to link Heathfield with Tunbridge Wells and the coast. The line derived its name from the tradition of releasing the first cuckoo of spring at the old cattle fair held annually in Heathfield on April 14th.