Hucking Estate

4½, 6½ OR 7½ MILES
2, 3½ OR 4 HOURS
MODERATE WITH STEEP SECTIONS

START
From Woodland Trust car park, follow red waymarks through kissing gate and cross grassland to second gate. Cross next field to third gate. Follow path through plantation and on to fourth gate. Turn L, keeping mature woodland on R. After 100 metres turn R through squeeze gap and follow path through wood. After 80 metres turn L on to wide path. At end, turn L on to another grassy path. Pass through squeeze gap and after 30 metres turn R on to surfaced track known as the Droveway.

1 MILE
For shorter route, continue along the Droveway, passing chalk well on L. Turn R through wooden kissing gate to join main route again at point 4. As track reaches edge of wood and bends to R, depart from red waymarked trail and take narrow footpath to L, pass through fence and across arable field. Turn L on to track leading to houses. As track bends to L, turn R. After 30 metres, pass through gate (next to dilapidated stile) and, after passing through next gate on to road, turn R. Cross road before Hollingbourne House to maximise visibility on bend. After 120 metres, take public footpath to L, go through kissing gate and follow path with marvellous views across the Weald of Kent. Keep to path, following blue arrows and take care along gently undulating path. Turn L at waymark to go up to gate on edge of wood. Once through, turn L and follow path as it bends to R after 40 metres to run parallel with road. Pass through gate and cut diagonally across field, heading for gate by Hook & Hatchett Inn. Head back up side of field and pass through gate at top. Take route across field, continuing straight on at waymark post to brow of hill. Bear R, sticking close to plantation fence on R, and follow blue arrows round to muddy field entrance. Leaving blue trail, take kissing gate ahead of you (not to R) and, after 20 metres, turn L at point 5 to join red route. For shortcut, follow red arrow to R. At crossings turn L along path and pass under barrier at top of woodland. Follow red arrows through squeeze gap and into open field. Turn L at kissing gate to head back to car park.

4 MILES
Cross grass field, sticking close to fence on L. At waymark continue across field with stunning views on L. Follow arrows as mature woodland on R becomes plantation, and pass through kissing gate, then bear R across field. Follow path between oak tree and woodland, then turn R to follow wood edge to gate adjacent to large beech. Follow grassy path and after 300 metres turn L. At edge of wood, bear R, keeping wood on R and stock fence on L.

5¼ MILES
For longer route incorporating Hook & Hatchett Inn, continue on to pass through kissing gate. Cross muddy field entrance and turn L to go through second gate and up woodland-edge path. Turn R at corner (following blue arrows) and take care along gently undulating path. Turn L at waymark to go up to gate on edge of wood. Once through, turn L and follow path as it bends to R after 40 metres to run parallel with road. Pass through gate and cut diagonally across field, heading for gate by Hook & Hatchett Inn. Head back up side of field and pass through gate at top. Take route across field, continuing straight on at waymark post to brow of hill. Bear R, sticking close to plantation fence on R, and follow blue arrows round to muddy field entrance. Leaving blue trail, take kissing gate ahead of you (not to R) and, after 20 metres, turn L at point 5 to join red route. For shortcut, follow red arrow to R. At crossings turn L along path and pass under barrier at top of woodland. Follow red arrows through squeeze gap and into open field. Turn L at kissing gate to head back to car park.

All routes are on well-defined wide grassy paths or tracks. The longer route has two short road sections (care is needed) and it climbs down and then up the North Downs scar slope above Hollingbourne.

PARKING

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
Trains and buses travel to Hollingbourne. For information on train and bus services call Traveline on 0870 608 2608 (www.traveline.org.uk).

ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION
Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone ME14 1TF (grid reference TQ760057; telephone 01622 601169).

REFRESHMENTS

For details of coach services contact National Express on 0870 580 8080 (www.nationalexpress.com).

TERRAIN
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