

## Kipling Country circular walk

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. This walk starts from the attractive ridge top village of Burwash. Buses from Heathfield and Etchingam Rail Station; alight at The Bear Inn. You will pass 'Batemans' the home of Rudyard Kipling. There are a couple of pubs in Burwash which provide a location for refreshments after your walk.

<b>Distance and duration</b>	A 5 mile walk, taking about 2½ hours. There is a shorter 3½ mile option
<b>Level</b>	Moderate
<b>Start point / Post code</b>	The central car park in Burwash, adjacent to the Bear Inn. TN19 7EU. Park in the 9 hour bays
<b>OS map reference</b> <b>What-3-Words</b>	Explorer 136, TQ673246 <a href="https://what3words.com/labels.baguette.battling">https://what3words.com/labels.baguette.battling</a>
<b>Other information</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> to download a GPX file of the route

### I-Spy - Something to look out for in the landscape



This walk was kindly provided by John Harmer of [Battle Ramblers](#)

This walk starts from the main car park in Burwash, OS Explorer 136, TQ673246.

Facing the toilet block in the car park, go to the right-hand (south-east) corner where a fingerpost points into a field. Follow the footpath down the field edge, observing the view across the Dudwell valley, to another fingerpost.

Turn right over a footbridge and through a gate. Continue across the field, through a gate; following the right-hand edge, and through another gate. Now bear diagonally left across the field to a fingerpost in the bottom right-hand corner. Go into the next field and along the left-hand edge to cross a stile onto Bateman's Lane.

Turn right, and soon a large house comes into view. This is Bateman's, the former home of the famous author and poet, Rudyard Kipling, from 1902 until his death in 1936. A gate on the right may bear a sign Quarry Garden, and if unlocked, access is permitted. This contains Kipling's summerhouse; look in and up to see an inscription in memory of Elsie, the only one of his three children to survive him.

Continue towards the house, and where the road turns sharply right, turn left on a bridleway, indicated by a fingerpost, following around the left-hand side of Bateman's grounds. Cross a bridge over the River Dudwell; then turn right immediately past The Oast House on a footpath between the mill house and pond.

The mill house with waterwheel attached and the gardens on the right are of interest; however, access is permitted only to National Trust members and those who have purchased a ticket at the main entrance. The retaining wall of the mill pond was completely rebuilt several years ago as the previous one had deteriorated and became dangerous. Seating provides a good spot for a rest or picnic.

Follow the footpath around to the left, close to the mill pond, and continue along a track. Ignore a footpath on the right, leading to a substantial footbridge, but continue for a further 350 yards, passing through a gate on the way.

On coming to a bridge on the left, go over and through a field gate; then turn right to follow the footpath on the other side of the river. Continue along the valley and through another gate. On coming to a fingerpost, turn right across a footbridge and turn left.

Go through a kissing-gate into Bog Wood and follow the path uphill. Leave the wood through another kissing-gate and follow the right-hand field edge uphill. At the top, for the **shorter option**, go over the stile on the right and follow instructions after the italicised section

*For the **longer option**, turn left along the top field edge to go through a kissing-gate; then bear right to go through another. Ignore a waymark indicating right and head across the field to go through a gate in the farther corner. Bear right to pass a waymark on the left; then go over a stile halfway along the farther field edge.*

*Follow the enclosed path which may be muddy when wet but there are plenty of wild flowers to admire; also brambles, but blackberries to pick in September. Immediately past a fingerpost, go down a slope to Willingford Lane.*

*Turn right, climbing uphill on the lane for about 600 yards passing a white-painted cottage (Hedge Nest) on the right. Note the sun motif on the wall if not too overgrown. Shortly after going past Frogheath Nursery, cross the main road to the Wheel Inn.*

*Turn right along the footway for 350 yards. Where the path ends, cross the road with care, continuing direction on the road for a further 90 yards. Turn right by Weald House; go past concrete bollards and down the drive to Burnt House Farm. Immediately past an Old Dairy sign, go through a field-gate, down the left-hand field edge and through a kissing-gate, retracing the route taken earlier but in the opposite direction.*

Go over the stile ahead and continue direction through fields and a gate. Cross the next field and a stile to go through a small wood. Cross the middle of another field, through a gate (permanently open) to turn right on a tarmac drive. Continue downhill to the left of Rye Green Farm and follow the track ahead.

On coming to a field gate, go through a hand-gate on the left, bearing right uphill by a waymark post and on through a gap into the next field. Continue uphill towards oak trees and enter a wood through a gate and leave through another. Bear left uphill to go through a gate and, in a short distance cross a stile; then go along the left-hand field edge, to cross another stile and down stone steps to the road (A265).

Turn right along the roadside footway, observing extensive views across the Rother valley to the left. Continue for half a mile, crossing the end of Bateman's Lane, back to the village. Take time to look at some of the house names giving clues to the occupations of former residents.

On reaching The Bear there is a further option to continue along the footway. Observe the village map made of ceramic tiles and the seated statue of Rudyard Kipling.

Continue to the war memorial on which there is an inscription in memory of Kipling's son, John, who was killed in the First World War Just beyond is the Parish Church originating from 1090 but extensively restored in 1856. If open, take a look inside to see amongst other things a plaque, near the south door, in memory of Kipling's son.

Retrace the route to The Bear for the bus stops or car park.

#### At all times please follow the Countryside Code



##### **Respect everyone**

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

##### **Protect the environment**

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have barbeques where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

##### **Enjoy the outdoors**

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



