

WALKS AROUND HEADCORN VILLAGE

Walk No2 – From Headcorn Village to Headcorn Aerodrome (one way)

Just under 1 hour at a leisurely pace

Please follow the countryside code and check your route before you set off. The author takes no responsibility for any path changes or inaccuracies, or you getting lost! This is just a personal description of a walk taken in April 2021.

Walking to Headcorn Aerodrome from Headcorn Village isn't entirely straightforward, but there is a way. This route takes you from the station to the Aerodrome. You could re-trace your steps to return, or, if you are extremely careful and responsible you could take an alternative route back along a byway to the Smarden Road which is referred to at the end.

Start at Headcorn Railway Station, going over the footbridge to the far side.



Railway Footbridge



Disused Railway

This is footpath KH602. According to the footpath map the path follows the line of the railway, passing through a gate before veering off to the right through a field. Clearly an informal route through the wooded disused railway is more popular and well-trodden. Using that route you simply re-join the path in the middle of the field to your left, crossing over the footbridge shown below:



Footbridge in the middle of the field

Continue ahead where you will see the industrial estate. The footpath takes you along the fence line of the industrial estate. You then reach this bridge:



*Footbridge over the
Beult*

Continue straight ahead through a field of crops, through a gate and to a stile at the far end. This next section is not clearly marked.



The stile before you need to concentrate!

Continue ahead and then you might see the path veer off to your left, and an entrance to a another field straight ahead. Take the path veering off to the left. Continue and you'll see some barns on the left and a gate which looks like private property. It is, but the footpath runs through it. Look carefully at the large gate and you should see there is a stile attached to the gate on the left. Cross over it, staying on the drive, then you'll see a gate to your right to exit the property. This is now footpath KH603.



You can see the path veering off to the left



The gate which has a stile attached to it on the left.



The second gate where you exit this property.

You then take the lane to your left, taking you to Waterman Quarter. Continue along this lane (Bletchenden Road) towards the A274 and then CAREFULLY cross to Shenley Road. Continue to the main Aerodrome entrance which is roughly 500m on your left, passing the Veterinary practice on your left.

Retrace your steps to return to the Village. Alternatively there is another route back on a Byway which is described overleaf.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE BACK TO HEADCORN VILLAGE FROM HEADCORN AERODROME

Please be warned, this route uses a Byway which crosses the aerodrome runway and the mainline railway and then requires you to walk back along a section of the Smarden Road. Thus you must be very careful and responsible. Please check your route before you set off. The author takes no responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies, or if you get lost!

After leaving Headcorn Aerodrome, head back along Shenley Road to the Veterinary practice. You should see in the entrance to the vet's there is a byway sign and a gate ahead with a warning. This is the start of the byway.



Byway sign



Gate and warning sign, with stile to your right

Please read the sign.

If you are happy that you understand then you can carefully proceed ahead, checking all is clear before you cross the runway.

At the other side you will see another sign facing the other way. The path and stile are obstructed by what looks like electric fencing. The alternative is to take the gate through the field to the left and continue ahead to an old bridge.



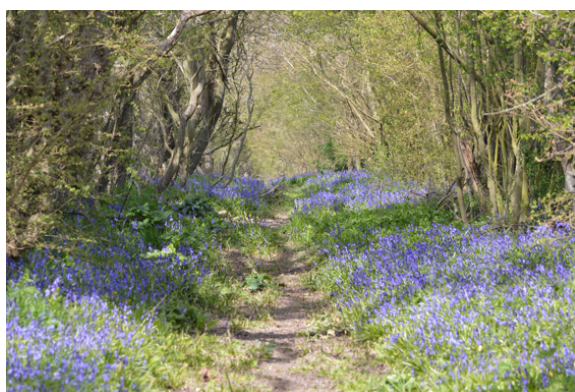
Blocked stile



Old bridge after walking through the field

This section is lovely (well, it was in April) with an avenue of bluebells along much of the byway. It doesn't look well-trodden. Towards the end it might get muddy as there is some standing water.

Right at the end is the railway line. Take care and cross. You are then on the Smarden Road and can turn left to return to the Village.



Avenue of bluebells



Railway crossing

For more walks and general information about Headcorn Village, check the website:
headcornvillage.org.uk