

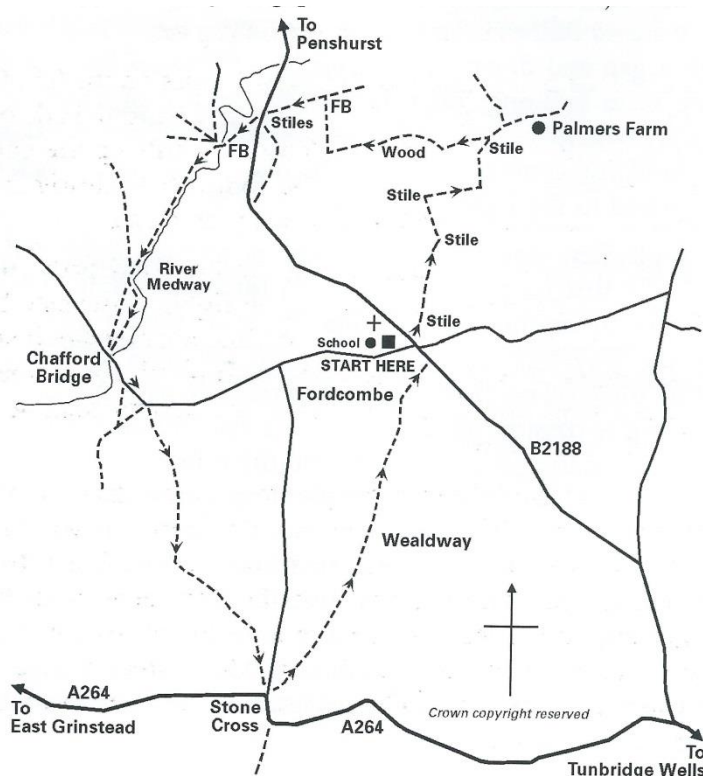
FORDCOMBE AND THE RIVER MEDWAY

The walk starts from Fordcombe a small village on the River Medway which here forms part of the county boundary between Kent and Sussex. It is an easy walk with several splendid viewing points and a good half mile along flat water meadows by the river. The Chafford Arms, on the green makes a good refreshment stop.

Distance: 4 miles (6.4 kilometres)

Map reference: O.S. Explorer 147, 526403

Parking: Limited parking on the village green opposite the school.



Directions:

1. The footpath starts along a track opposite the school between houses. At the stile you face a wide open field with views to the north and a path crossing the field to a stile in the corner of the hedge opposite. Cross this and turn left down the side of another field to a third stile. Cross the stile and turn right, to keep alongside the hedge. When almost at the end, turn left downhill to pass through a gap in the trees into the adjacent field.
2. Continue in the direction of a red tiled cottage. Go through another gap in the hedge and then straight on to a hidden stile in the hedge down in a dip. Drop down into a lane with a few houses opposite. Turn left to follow the lane into the next field, with builders' rubbish dumped on the side. When you have passed this look out for a narrow path going slightly uphill off left towards a small wood. At the entrance to the small wood is a footbridge and stile with a yellow marker.
3. The path through the wood soon brings you to an open field, with good views across the Medway Valley. Follow a narrow footpath round to the left until nearly at the far end, where the path turns sharply right and dips down to a stream, alongside a tall

hedge on your left. Once over the stream, turn left continue to the end, to a stile into a small enclosed field and a narrow path going ahead to a stile onto a minor road.

4. Cross over the road to another stile into the field opposite which in turn comes to a conspicuous footbridge over the Medway. Cross over and turn left alongside the river following the path all the way to Chafford Bridge at the far end. Cross the stile by the field gate.
5. Turn left to cross the bridge and pass by a few houses on the left. Go up the slight hill and pass by the track leading to Chafford Park on the right. Carry on uphill a little further looking for a stile up the bank on the right into a field. From this point the footpath is clearly marked straight ahead across several small fields usually of crops.
6. Keep to the right of the fields along the path crossing stiles and keeping close to small woods on your right. As the path begins to rise, look for a way-mark post leading you into a larger wood also on your right. Go into this wood and follow a path which curves round to the left between trees until it emerges onto the narrow road just before the junction with the A264, at Stone Cross.
7. Cross over the road slightly to the right to a stony drive leading to houses and a few sheds. This is part of the Wealdway. As you turn the corner, head towards the stile in a wire fence on the left. This is the start of another longish path which is clearly visible. Keeping the hedges on your right, follow this path until it becomes enclosed and brings you out onto the recreation ground at Fordcombe, with the village green opposite.