

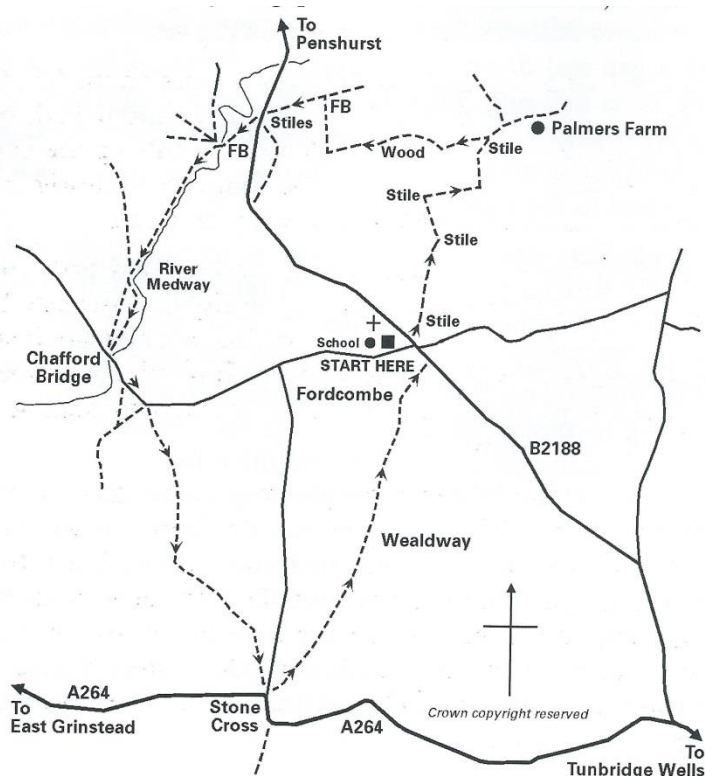
FORDCOMBE AND THE RIVER MEDWAY

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: 4.5 miles (7 kilometres)

Map reference: O.S. Explorer 147, 526403

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



Directions:

1. The footpath starts opposite the school between some houses. At the end of the path you face a wide open field with views to the north. Cross this field diagonally through the crop, if necessary, to a stile in the opposite corner. Cross this and turn left down the side of another field to a second stile. Now turn right keeping alongside the hedge. When almost at the end bear left to pass through a gap in the trees to an adjacent field.
2. Bear diagonally left now in the direction of a red tiled cottage and go through another gap in the hedge. Bear right until you find a gap between some blackberries which leads to a stile. Cross this stile which drops you down into a lane with several houses opposite.
3. Turn right and then left beyond the last cottage on your left. Go through a gate and bear to the left of a stand of trees and bear left again skirting a small stream on your left. Keep going to the far corner of the field where you pass over a stream.
4. The path continues to the left with the River Medway to your right. You will come to a gate with a notice to fishermen. Go through the gate and then turn left to skirt a large

field, at the far corner of which is a stile leading to a small enclosed field. Cross this field and then go over the high stile onto the road.

5. Cross over the road to another stile slightly to the left and cross over it. This path, in turn, comes to a conspicuous footbridge over the River Medway. Cross over and turn left with the river to your left and follow an unmarked path all the way to Chafford Bridge at the far end. Cross the stile by the field gate.
6. Turn left to cross the bridge and pass a few houses on the left. Go up the slight hill and pass by the track leading to Chafford Park on your 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.
7. You keep to the right of the fields along the headland path crossing stiles and keeping close to small woods on your right. Keep a sharp eye out for a yellow way marker at the start of an incline and continue up the hill until the path enters a larger wood 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 at Stone Cross at a bend on the A264.
8. 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 to your left you will notice a stile in a fence to your left. This is the start of another longish path which is clearly visible and keeps to the hedges on your right until it becomes enclosed and finally brings you out onto the recreation ground at Fordcombe. Skirt the recreation ground and go to the right of the pavilion where you will exit opposite the school.