

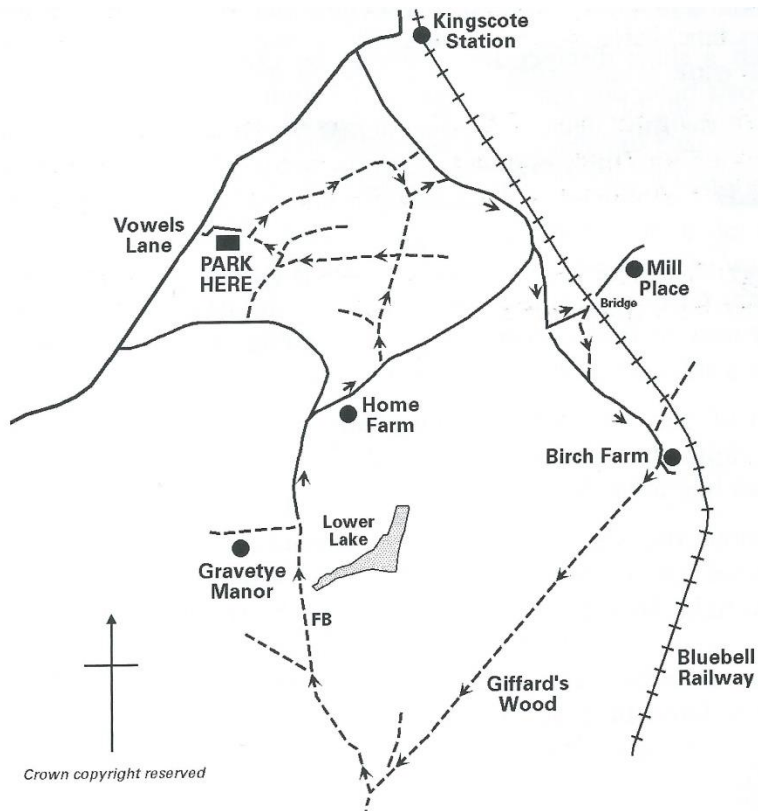
GRAVETYE

This is an easy, pleasant walk mainly through the Forestry Commission woods at Vowels Lane and Gravetye. The walk described here climbs up to Giffard's Wood where there are panoramic views northwards across the Gravetye estate to the North Downs beyond. Unfortunately, Giffard's Wood can be very muddy after rain. The paths at the end of the walk follow the High Weald Landscape Trail. There is an attractive lake at Gravetye where the public is permitted to walk in the summer months.

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometres)

Map reference: O.S. Explorer 135, 362350

Parking: Gravetye Wood car park, on Vowels Lane.



Directions:

1. Follow the path to the left from the far end of the parking area. Follow this winding path until you reach a footbridge on the right, with a prominent wooden hand rail.
2. Do not cross the bridge but continue straight on along a flat grassy path out onto a narrow road. Turn right and walk a good half mile along the road with the Bluebell Railway line on your left.
3. Ignore turnings off to the right and continue straight on downhill to a gate across the road where the road turns sharply to the left. There is a stile and way-marks on the gate but keep to the right of way and turn left.
4. Just before the imposing railway bridge take the footpath sharply off right. Keep straight on, climbing gradually until you meet a narrow road. Go forward slightly left, downhill. At the

bottom, look to the hedge on your right for a stile and cross it. Follow the narrow, faintly marked path across the field to reach a stile at the top, into Giffard's Wood.

5. After about half a mile the footpath curves right and joins a forest track. Turn left a short distance to a clearing on the right. There are three fingerposts here. Follow the post by the trees, across the clearing pointing to the path leading into the woodland. In wet weather this path can be muddy.
6. Follow this straight path for about a quarter of a mile, looking up to the right for the boundary of the wood with a field. Pass a small pond and carry on to pass a larger pond close to the path, on the right. Take the steep narrow path, going up very sharply to the right to a stile, with lovely views at the top.
7. In front of you is Gravetye Manor (16th century) among the trees and to the right you are looking towards East Grinstead and across the Meridian line towards the Greensand Ridge in the far distance.
8. To continue the walk, go on downhill towards a clump of trees in the foreground where there is a finger post directing you through into the adjacent field. Now turn left to continue in the same direction, with the hedge on your left, to a stile down the bank, on the left.
9. Cross over the stile, into woodland and keep straight on ignoring the path off to the left and so into a field. Keep straight on with a hedge on your left. Watch out for an iron gate also on the left
10. Go through the gate into an enclosed path with a parallel path on the other side of the fence on your right. The other path circles right round the lake – which makes a very pleasant loop of about half a mile and is open to the public in the summer months.
11. To continue the walk, go forward up the path ahead which is alongside the gardens of Gravetye on your left. On reaching the drive and main entrance to the manor, turn right and soon you will come to a turning off right leading to the Home Farm. Turn right.
12. Go on beyond the farm buildings and take the left-hand fork at the fingerpost. At the second fingerpost turn right as directed and walk to the bottom of this track where you will meet a junction of tracks.
13. You are now aiming for the car park. There is an information board here which includes the direction to the car park, which is to the left before crossing the bridge. The path becomes narrow and turns to mount a flight of steps up to meet a wider grassy track. Turn left and walk to the end where a sign to the car park points to the right (300 yards). At the next junction turn left and finally right to pass through a wide single bar gate where the picnic area and car park are ahead via a narrow path to the right