

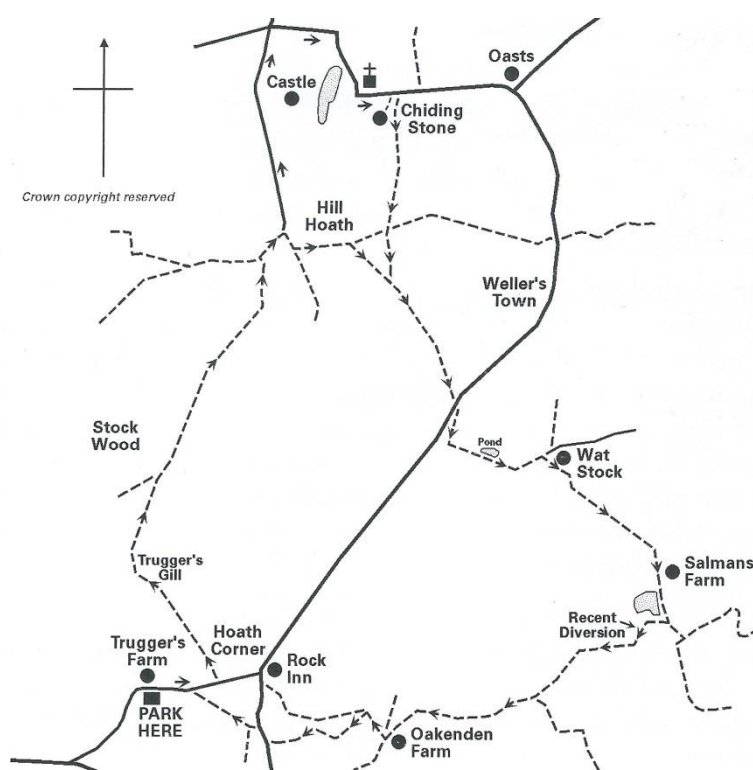
HOATH CORNER, HILL HOATH AND CHIDDINGSTONE

This 4-mile walk could be linked with the “Hoath Corner to Bassetts Mill” walk to form a very pleasant figure of eight walk with the Rock Inn as a lunch stop. As an alternative extra, a visit to Chiddingstone is included. This is an attractive village with a row of 16/17th century Kentish houses, the Castle and the famous Castle Inn. The Chiding Stone was traditionally used as a seat of judgement. To include this extension increases the length of the walk to 5.5 miles.

Distance: 4 or 5.5 miles (64 and 8.8 Kilometres)

Map reference: O.S Explorer 147, 492430

Parking: on a wide grass verge near the entrance to Trugger’s Farm.



Directions:

1. From Trugger’s Farm walk towards the Rock Inn and turn left by a fingerpost. This is a straight forward path at first between hedges, then alongside a hedge, through a copse with a rather uneven patch caused by a fallen tree where it crosses a dried-up stream and then out into a field. Here turn right to follow the edge of the wood on your right. There is a way-mark post on the corner pointing to a narrow path across the field and into the wood opposite. The woodland path winds through young trees to join a wider bridleway where you turn right.
2. The bridleway continues straight ahead for a good half mile until you come within sight of the hamlet of Hill Hoath. Go through a small gate and into the broad track which passes between lovely cottages with cottage gardens. It is here you decide

whether to take the **4-mile walk (go to point 6)** or the **5.5 mile walk (follow points 3 to 5, joining 4 mile walk at point 7)**

3. ****Directions to extend the walk to Chiddingstone.** From the cottages at Hill Hoath (point 2) bear left. This narrow country road passes the entrance to the Castle, originally a manor house, which was rebuilt in 1679 in pseudo medieval style. This is open to the public at various times from April to September.
4. Continue to the cross roads and turn right along the road. After about a quarter mile pass the lake with the Castle now on your right. When you turn the next corner, you will find yourself in the village with the Castle Inn, a tea shop and the old houses in front of you. These are all leased from the National Trust. The church of St. Mary's has unusual features.
5. Go along the road to a small green on the right and the sign to the Chiding Stone which you may wish to visit. A little further on, also on the right, is the main footpath with its fingerpost. Take this path which passes a sports field on the left. Cross the field straight ahead and at the bottom of the field bear left. Turn left and meet a path coming from the right (Eden Valley Walk), joining the 4 mile walk at **.
6. **Directions for the 4-mile walk**, after point 2, turn up sharp right just beyond the cottages. There are way-marks on a post here (Eden Valley Walk). Go up the gravel track and turn left by the entrance to a house on the left. Continue past new bungalow on the right, keeping straight on. There is a glimpse of the castle if you look to the left. Keep forward to where paths fork and join the Eden Valley Walk. This is a pleasant grassy track. It is joined soon by the path from the village coming in from the left. **(** Chiddingstone extension joins here)**
7. Continue straight on keeping to the left until you reach the road. Cross the road and look right for the entrance to a field opposite. When in the field, follow the grassy path to a field gate by a pond and so out to a tarmac bridleway. Turn left and keep to the bridleway until you reach Wat Stock Farm where you turn right into another bridleway.
8. This bridleway continues until the surface changes and you go down to a large pond where there are a few houses. Just after the pond, when the road bends left, take the kissing gate on the right.
9. Having passed through the first kissing gate go on to another two gates on your left with a short flight of steps. The path leads towards trees and another two kissing gates. Go through them and turn right, keeping the fence on your right. After another kissing-gate, go through a small copse and across a footbridge.
10. Turn right for a short distance and go round to the left to continue in the same direction until you come to another stile. Go over this and follow the fence and enclosed path, up to a stile in the hedge at the top. From there go past Oakenden Farm House on the left.
11. Opposite Oakenden there is a shallow flight of steps on the right, to a stile and a footpath going straight ahead. Look right for a glimpse of Penshurst Place in the distance. Where the hedge on the left comes to an end, cross the stile on the left, follow the hedge on the left. This route passes a rocky outcrop on the way to meet the road at Hoath Corner.
12. Go right a few yards then turn left onto a track in a field. Follow track to a kissing-gate in a hedge. Go through gate and veering to the right, head downhill to follow a path towards the roofs of houses opposite and a stile onto the road. Turn left and back to the entrance to Trugger's Farm.