

TOWARDS EAST STOUR | 6 MILES

This walk takes in many different farms and types of farmland between Gillingham and East Stour. Hunger Hill Farm is at the foot of Hunger Hill, a north facing slope, so called as it would be more difficult to grow crops there.

1. Leave the station by the footpath at the signal box end of Platform 2. Turn left along Brickyard Lane to the B3092, New Road. Cross and take the residential road/footpath almost opposite. After 150 metres take second path on right. Cross Addison Close (north), continue on footpath, cross Addison Close (south) into The Meadows. Take next left into Lodden View and follow to the end of the cul-de-sac. Take blue bridge over the River Lodden to Ham Farm Estate.
2. Turn right onto grass walk between avenue of young trees, up the slope to the end of the green space, and through the kissing gate. Head to far left-hand corner of the field (the official footpath goes diagonally but trodden path follows edges). Turn right and go straight ahead for about 500 metres, staying on the right-hand path at the dogleg across three fields. This area will shortly become the new southern housing extension. Pass through the hedge and cross stream by footbridge, emerging by Cole Street Farm.
3. Turn right then shortly take footpath on the left. Go diagonally across the field, going right of the pond. This field has unusual boundaries with bank and ditches and large oak trees. Go through gateway, then almost immediately through next gateway on the right. Follow your diagonal route, passing electricity pole, to reach Lintern Lane. Go straight ahead and before reaching Cowslip Farm, take footpath on right.
4. After second stile, go straight ahead with hedge on your left. At the angle of the hedge strike out towards the far-right hand corner by turning to your right across the field, then at field edge, to your left. Cross small bridge, and through gate into small wood. Continue through this wood and, shortly after emerging, take gate on right.
5. Turn right, cut across field corner to next stile. In next field, keep hedge on your right and head towards High Grove Farm. Before reaching it, go left following the field edge to a stile, then pass a cottage on right. Cross stream by stiles and small bridge then turn right to the foot of the cottage drive. Turn left up the drive until you reach the B3092. Opposite is Primrose Farm.
6. With great care, turn right on the main road for about 100 metres, crossing when safe to do so to take footpath on the left into a field.
7. Turn right, crossing the field, past the large oak tree, downhill to a farm gate. Through this, cross the next field bearing right to a stile in the right-hand corner. Off to the right is Hunger Hill Farm. Go diagonally to the right, crossing the field to a stile. Go straight ahead, through a broken hedge line, to a gate. Footpath leads down the right hand side of a high wall to join the road at Madjeston.
8. Cross the road and take the footpath up a steep step to the right of Madjeston Farm House. This narrow footpath leads to the Irish Ford. Go through the farm gate and turn left. Follow the river and field boundary clockwise for about 800 metres to a gap on your left. Go through to Millennium Wood. Keep the river on your left and follow the path until you see Tinctnell's fuel depot ahead. Bear right to follow the track around the depot and back towards the station, with the railway line on your left.
9. Just past the day nursery turn left on footpath to return to the station.

