

BUGLEY, HARTMOOR AND LANGHAM WALK | 8.5 MILES/6.5 MILES

This walk follows part of the White Hart Link route to explore hamlets in the area where the Royal Stud was formerly situated. Enjoy wonderful views and descend briefly into the Blackmore Vale. A shorter route avoids the steep hills .

1. Leave Gillingham Station from the end of Platform 2. At end of path turn right past Little Gems Nursery and follow way markers indicating Link to Stour Valley Way. This will take you through an industrial estate, across the river and left through Withywood. After passing under the railway, go up a lane to road junction at top. Halfway up the lane you should see your first White Hart Link marker.
2. Turn left and continue to the entrance to Thorngrove Garden Centre on the right. A short way up the drive go through the gate on the right and follow path through two more gates in a double hedge. The next field is being developed for housing, but the right of way will be preserved. Into third field, then left down to a gate onto a track then a lane.
3. Go straight over at the next junction and continue uphill along Harry Lodge's Lane. At the top turn left along a wooded track, then right onto a lane. Follow this downhill past Westbrook Cottage and look for a stile on the left.
4. Go over the stile and continue along the field to a footbridge. Uphill from the bridge, cross the railway with care and head for the right-hand corner of the field above. Three stiles in quick succession brings you to Bugley Stud. Follow the track, leaving paddocks and then a cottage on your right, to reach the next lane.
- 4a. *For a shorter walk continue along the lane to a junction. Cross over railway ahead and take next left. Follow this lane to junction at Hayhouse and follow these directions from 8 (see below).*
5. Turn right and shortly left over a stile. Follow the clearly marked path along the fence and continue straight to a lane. Cross over and continue in the same direction following the track. Look out for the right turn off this track and follow the enclosed path to a road junction.
6. Leaving the White Hart Link route here cross over and head down the steep hill. At the bottom take path on right beside a cottage. Cross the field and go up over the railway. On the other side turn right and then left along a hedge to a field gate. Go through and continue up to a second field gate. From here, cut diagonally left across the field to a stile. Cross the track and go over opposite stile. Go diagonally across this field then over two stiles and down steps into a lane.
7. Turn right along lane for 250metres and then right again. Follow lane steeply downhill and then steeply uphill to junction. Take bridleway opposite and continue uphill. At the top go straight ahead across a field and into a small wood. Follow the path around grounds of large house and out to a lane.
8. Turn right and continue past HayHouse. In 250metres look for gate and stile on right. Cross field down to bridge over a stream. Bear right and go up hill with hedge on your right. Go through gate at the top and come out to the top of Harry Lodge's Lane.
9. From here retrace your steps to the station.

