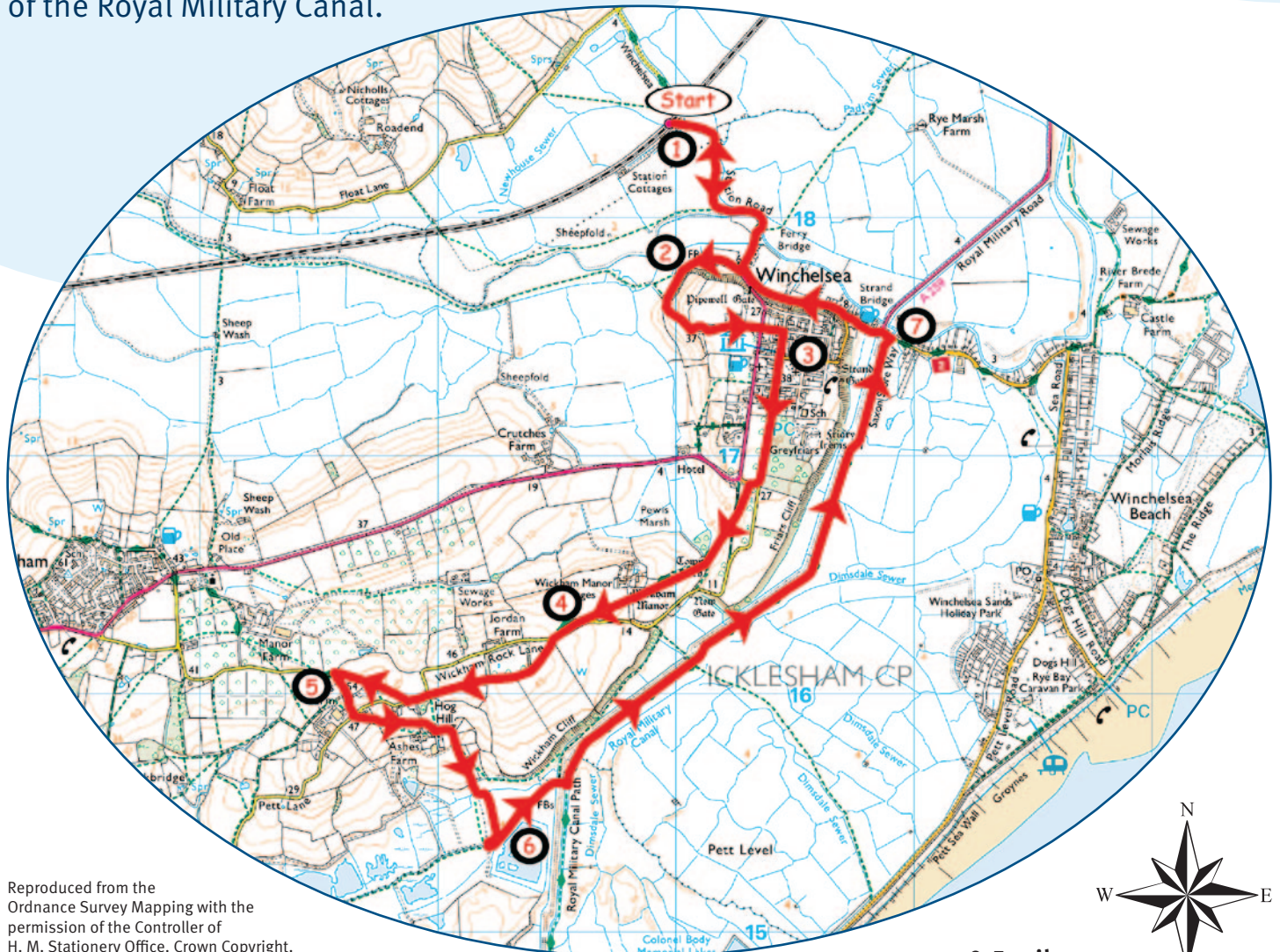


Winchelsea Walk

A walk from historic Winchelsea passing through a nature reserve, and along the banks of the Royal Military Canal.



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Local Information

Built as a Napoleonic Defence, the Royal Military Canal runs for a distance of 30 miles between Hythe and Cliff End, Pett, enclosing the area of Romney Marsh and Dungeness, an area of land thought vulnerable to French invasion. The straight lines of the canal, with occasional double defence bends, are clearly visible on this walk.

Essential Information

Distance: 6.5 miles/10.5km
Walk grade: Average
Maps: OS Explorer 125
 OS Landranger 189

Start/Finish: Winchelsea Railway Station
Post Code: TN36 4JX
Grid Ref: TQ 900184

Route Description

- 1) Starting from Winchelsea Station, turn right and follow the road for approximately 900 metres (990 yards) to the junction with the A259. At the main road, turn immediately right using the roadside verge, and then right again onto the signed footpath. Follow the surfaced track passing the Southern Water entrance, and continue to follow the fenceline to reach a stile and then footbridge.
- 2) After crossing the bridge, turn left and follow the field edge path. Ignoring the two footpaths to the right, continue to follow the path climbing the hill towards Winchelsea. At the top of the hill bear left to follow the path to the gate and then onto the lane. Follow the lane into Winchelsea, crossing the main A259, to join Mill Road. Turn right at the next junction into Hiham Green, and follow this road through Winchelsea.
- 3) From the centre of Winchelsea, continue to follow the road to reach a sharp right hand turn. Follow the road round the bend, and then cross to the stile on the opposite side. Follow the signposted path, crossing the bridleway, and then across the next field heading to the left of the small patch of woodland, to reach a stile beside a field gate. Continue to follow the waymarked path heading for a stile immediately to the left of the barn ahead. Cross the drive of Wickham Manor Farm and continue along the waymarked path across the next two fields to reach the lane.
- 4) Cross the lane and, using the handgate, follow the footpath towards the end of the line of trees. Bear right and follow the tree line, at the end of which, cross the stile and using the well defined path, cross the field in the direction of the windmill. On reaching the lane turn left and follow for a short distance, passing the cottage, before turning right to follow the footpath over the hill, passing the windmill, to reach Windmill Lane.
- 5) Turn left onto the lane and follow to the road junction. Cross the junction and follow the path around the field edge. Continue on the waymarked route behind Ashes Farm to join a track heading down to the Pannel Valley Nature Reserve. The well defined path heads through the Nature Reserve to reach a footbridge. After crossing the bridge turn left and follow the path beside the Pannel Sewer to a gate, immediately before which, the entrance to a bird hide can be found on your right.
- 6) After the bird hide, continue along the path crossing two more footbridges. After the second bridge, turn left to follow the path along the banks of the Royal Military Canal for approximately 2.5 km (1.5 miles) to reach the road.
- 7) To complete the walk, turn left at the road and then left again at the junction with the A259. Follow this road for a distance of approximately 650 metres (710 yards) turning right at the junction into Station Road. Retrace the route back to the starting point at Winchelsea Station.



View along the Royal Military Canal