



B2 Hernhill is clustered around a green, with its picturesque village of Hernhill. Continue along the track that passes Mount Ephraim's car parks, walking downhill past orchards on your right. When you reach the road turn right, following the road uphill towards the

B1 Continue along the track that passes Mount Ephraim standing high above the orchards below. Follow this track until you reach the road. On your right are farm buildings, a former east house and more orchards - loaded in summer with apples, cherries and pears.

Mount Ephraim to Hernhill

Use the tearoom without a garden visit. It offers a wide selection of light meals, with locally sourced ingredients and hot and cold drinks, including Kentish wine and local ales. Mount Ephraim's homegrown cherries, strawberries, plums, apples, pears and cobnuts will be on the menu in season and can also be bought in the farm shop. The Three Horseshoes at Staplestreet - just a short detour from your route, downhill from the gates to Mount Ephraim - provides another opportunity to relax and enjoy the region's local food and drink.

A3 When you reach the T-junction with Staplestreet Road at the end of the track, turn left and then immediately right and pass through the gates opposite into Mount Ephraim - home to the Daves family since the 17th century. Follow the surfaced track towards the car parks. On your right is a fine view of the gardens, which cover 10 acres. A fountain stands in front of the cottages to your left. If you can, take time to explore the beautiful grounds at Mount Ephraim, or relax for a while at its West Wing Tea Room in the Edwardian Tea Garden. For a small charge walkers are free to

Mount Ephraim standing high above the orchards below. Follow this track until you reach the road. On your right are farm buildings, a former east house and more orchards - loaded in summer with apples, cherries and pears.



A2 Continue along The Street, passing St. Barnabas' Church on your left and turn left into Bounds Lane. Walk up the slope past the last house on the left, where the path splits three ways. Take the middle path with the orchard on your right. You have your first views across the valley to

A1 Starting from the car park at the White Horse Inn in Boughton, with the pub behind you turn left into The Street, walking uphill with fine old buildings on either side of you - the parish of Boughton has more listed buildings than any other in the Faversham area. You're walking on the old Roman road of Watling Street, which runs from Dover to London and was used by the pilgrims made famous by Geoffrey Chaucer.

Boughton to Mount Ephraim

Planning your walk
 Feel free to start your walk at any point: as this is a circular walk you'll always return to where you began. Many sections of the walk end at a spot where you'll find a pub, restaurant or tearoom to help fortify you or provide a welcome treat once you've finished the whole route. There are several places to leave your vehicle if you are arriving by car, including The White Horse Inn in Boughton and Mount Ephraim, and you can park in The Street, Boughton, as appropriate. If not driving, you can take a train to Faversham. There are public toilets in Boughton and you can also use those at the various 'pub stops' en route.



A walk through Kent's history

Walk through some of Kent's most bountiful and beautiful countryside and pass by the scene of the last armed uprising on English soil when you follow the trail of the Peasants' Last Revolt.

From gently rolling fertile countryside, alive with a wealth of birds, wild flowers and industrious bees, to the woodland depths of the county's largest forest, the hurly burly of modern day life will seem far behind you as you follow historic paths through the heart of Kent's hop growing traditions.

This area is part of the North Kent Fruit Belt, where both the soil and the climate are ideal for growing top-fruit. Although the Romans and the Normans planted here, fruit growing had fallen into decline by the 16th century - but was revived by one Richard Harris, who planted 105 acres with cherries and apples in Teynham, just a few miles away. Others followed suit and you still see throughout the area extensive orchards today. It is also ideal for growing hops, as evidenced by the number of oast houses still standing. Both crops required armies of fruit pickers - many were Romany Gypsies, while tens of thousands from London's East End also came "hopping down in Kent".

Wherever you choose to stop in this charming corner of the Garden of England, your time will, indeed, be fruitful.



The Countryside Code



RESPECT - PROTECT - ENJOY

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you will enjoy walking in Kent and help protect the countryside now and for future generations.

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control and on a lead around livestock
- Consider other people
- Remember to always follow the Highway Code

For more information about how to safely enjoy the countryside, visit the following website or scan the QR code https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/countrysidecode/



Other Nature Trails in this Series



Faversham Town Council
 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE
 T: 01795 503286 www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk



The Peasants' Last Revolt

Walk through some of Kent's most bountiful, beautiful and fertile countryside, following historic paths through the heart of Kent's hop growing traditions



A walk through Kent's history

5 miles INTERMEDIATE WALKERS



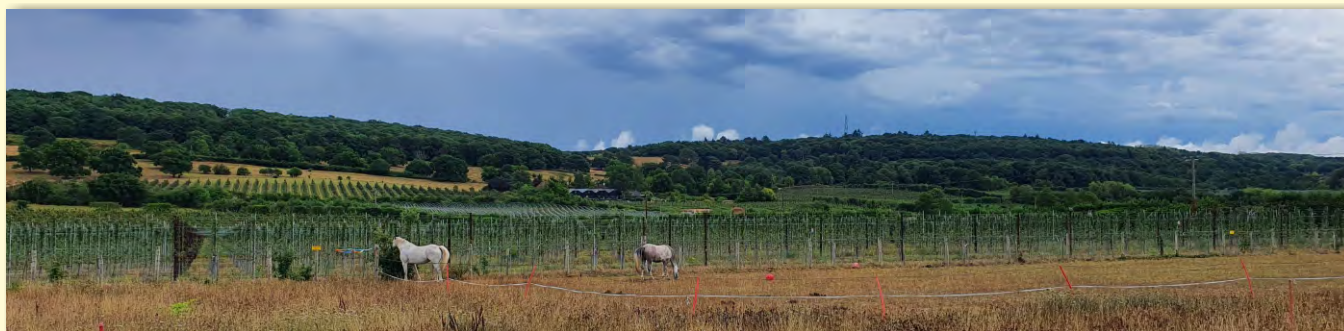
local labourers were soundly defeated by soldiers from Canterbury in May, 1838. Across the green is the beautiful 14th century Red Lion. The ancient Wealden Hall house, with its medieval rafters, provides another opportunity to enjoy a drink and a restoring meal.



Hernhill to Dargate

C1 Pass the village green at Hernhill, keeping the Red Lion on your right and continue until you reach the end of the row of houses on your right. Then take the footpath between the end of the houses and the playing field.

C2 This footpath takes you through more orchards. Cross over a road and continue again along the footpath; you'll shortly be passing orchards once again on your right.



C3 When you reach the next road turn left and walk along the road for 200 yards, then turn left again down a path you'll see next to a house. Walk along this path, then follow it as it turns to the right and becomes a tarmac road. Continue until you reach Plumpudding Lane and a cluster of buildings.

C4 Turn right here and follow the road into the hamlet of Dargate; you may just see the 'big'



house, Dargate House, a Regency villa, in the distance. On your left as you enter Dargate is The Dove Inn. Look out for the old pub sign carved above the door. If you are ready for a break, the Dove is a quaint Victorian country pub renowned for its excellent food and warm welcome. A short detour from here, high-quality cheese is produced at Lamberhurst Farm.

Dargate to Boughton

D1 Turn right at the Dove Inn and then bear left into the bridleway that runs to the right-hand side of the white weather-boarded house on your left.

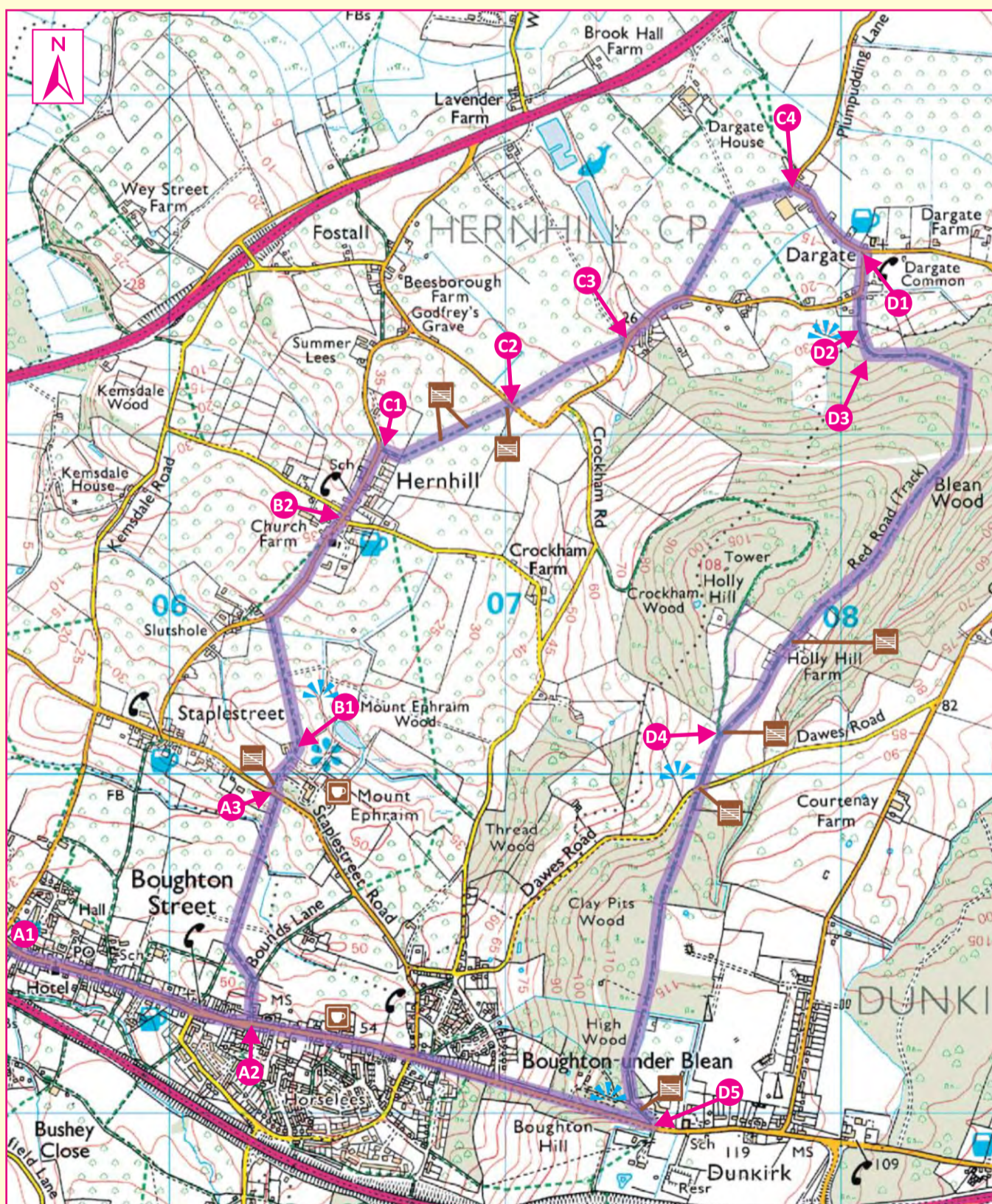
D2 Make your way up the hill and while you're getting your breath look back and enjoy the magnificent view across open countryside to the sea.

D3 You now enter The Blean, or Blean Wood - once a Royal Forest and still the largest wood in Kent. Continue to follow this track uphill without deviating left or right, passing through Holly Hill Farm.

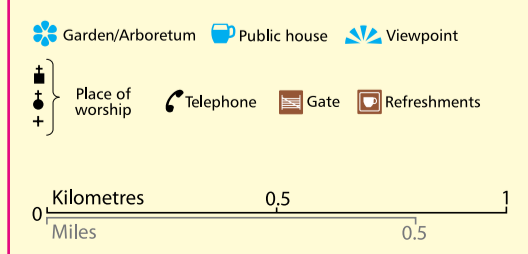


D4 Continue along the main track you have been following to Dawes Road; as you approach the road there is a magnificent view to your right across the fertile countryside towards The Swale and the Isle of Sheppey beyond. Cross over Dawes Road and continue on the bridleway through Clay Pits and High Woods, again not deviating to the left or right. At the end turn left by Woodland Cottage and within 50 yards you will find yourself on Boughton Hill.

D5 Turn right down Boughton Hill, stopping, perhaps, at The Dairy restaurant or The Queen's Head, an alehouse since 1682 offering good local food and also a warm welcome for dogs, and make your way back into The Street at Boughton. The White Horse Inn not only stands on the route Chaucer's pilgrims would have taken, it is actually mentioned in The Canterbury Tales and provides the perfect place to rest and dine as those medieval travellers would have done.



© Crown copyright reserved. Kent County Council licence number 100019238. October 2007



Walk Overview

Distance: 5.25 miles (8.5km)
Fitness level: Suitable for all fitness levels - there are steep slopes to the top of Boughton Hill from both directions
Refreshments: Restaurants & pubs en route
Transport: Main railway station at Faversham www.thetrainline.com
Pay phones: Boughton, Hernhill and Dargate
Parking: The White Horse Inn, Boughton Mount Ephraim
Toilets: Next to post office in Boughton
Map: OS Explorer 149