

Enjoy the panoramic views of Snodland and the valley below from here all the way around this section of the walk.

7 Once the gradient has levelled off, you will reach a split in the footpath where woodland continues on your left with an open field on your right. Take the left hand fork and follow this path all the way through Hanginghill Wood until it eventually emerges into the open again.

The woodland you pass through along this section of the walk is rare beech-yew woodland, found along the top of the Downs in the Medway Gap, thanks to the underlying chalk below.

8 Cross over the open field still continuing uphill. After you reach a line of trees, take the path left heading downhill into a wooded valley. Take care at this point as the path heads downhill very steeply.

This open area, with single and clumps of mature trees, is characteristic of 18th century parkland where deer and other animals would have grazed.

9 At the bottom of the valley turn left and then immediately right and follow this footpath through the woodland (Crookhorn Wood) back to the crossroads with Crookhorn Bungalow on your left.

10 At the crossroads go straight on following this path (Whitedyke Road) all the way back to Snodland keeping the disused quarry on your left all the way.

11 As you enter back into Snodland, you will pass the cemetery on your right. Follow Cemetery Road down to the junction with the main road and turn left into Constitution Hill. Follow this road back into Snodland.

12 You will reach a crossroads with the Bull public house on your left. Follow the road straight ahead (High Street) to the end then take the path on your right. Turn left over the main road below then follow the road to the left back to Snodland train station.

Distance: 4.5 miles / 7.2km can be extended by 2.6 miles / 4.2km around Ladd's Farm.

Time: 2 - 3 hours approximately (3 - 4 hours with optional loop around Ladd's Farm).

Terrain: Some paths can become muddy. Parts of the walk particularly the Ladd's Farm optional loop are quite challenging due to steep uphill walking. Three stiles and one set of steps.

Start/end point: Snodland train station.

OS Explorer Map: 148.

Farms & Downs

Snodland

A 4.5 mile / 7.2km circular route (with optional 2.6 mile / 4.2km extension) from Snodland train station through farmland and woodland with stunning views across the valley below.



Downs landscape (johnmillerphotography.com)



Valley of Visions and the Kent Community Rail Partnership gratefully acknowledge funding or other assistance received for this project from the Heritage Lottery Fund, ACORP, Network Rail, Department for Transport, Interreg IVa, Kent County Council Members Local Engagement and Highways fund grants, the Halling Association, Southeastern, Explore Kent and the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

This walk is endorsed by Explore Kent.

Photo credits cover: Sheep grazing and Yew Berries (Andy Vidler www.andyvidler.co.uk) All Saints Church and Snodland Clocktower (johnmillerphotography.com)



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This walk takes you from the centre of historic Snodland, west into the heart of rural surroundings, alongside farmland and old quarries up to the Kent Downs. The fantastic views from the top of the Downs back to Snodland and the valley below are stunning and well worth the short uphill walk!

At the end of this footpath turn right and head north towards Paddlesworth Farm keeping a large oak tree on your right.

No matter what the season is, the majestic oak trees along this footpath are a beautiful sight to stop and admire.



Oak leaves (Andy Vidler)

Pheasant (Andy Vidler)

Paddlesworth Church (John Miller)

1 Come out of Snodland train station and turn right onto Mill Street. Follow the road over the main road then take the footpath on your right. Follow this and at the end turn left onto the High Street and follow this into Snodland.

Admire the mix of buildings found along the High Street, many dating back to before the 1900s.

2 At the crossroads with Malling Road turn left and follow the road for about 500 metres. After passing St Katherine's Lane on your right just before you get to Christ Church on the left hand side, turn right along a footpath just before Holmesdale Technology College. Follow this along the length of the college and turn left at the end into Tom Joyce Close and almost immediately, turn right into Hollow Lane.

3 At the end of this road, turn left into Snodland Road (signposted towards Birling). You will now leave the built up area of Snodland. Take extra care here as there is no pavement along this stretch. Towards the end of the first field after 100 metres turn right up a set of steps and then left along a public footpath. (If you get to Sandy Lane on your left you have missed the footpath).

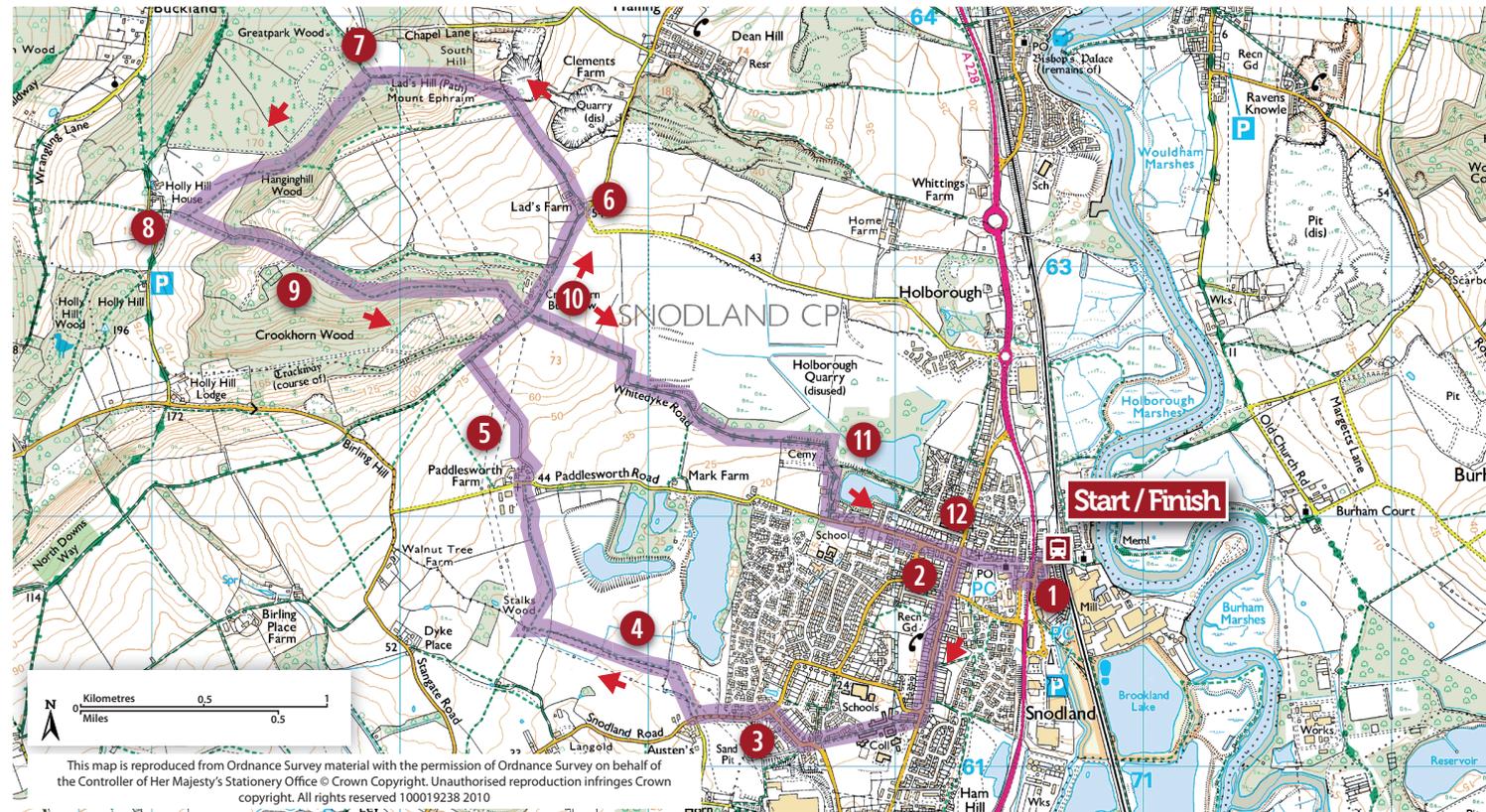
The transformation from urban to rural Snodland within such a short distance is remarkable. Fields of crops, thick hedgerows and large open areas cover this whole area west of Snodland.

4 Follow the footpath along the field boundary until the hedge line opens. Turn left here keeping the hedgerow to your left just after going under the power lines.

5 When you reach Paddlesworth Road go over the stile turn right and then immediately left along the footpath that runs alongside the group of buildings and up the hill towards the North Downs. Take care here as you will be on a road with no pavement for 50 metres. At the end of the footpath go through the gate and turn right. You are now on the North Downs Way. You will soon come to a crossroads of paths where you need to carry on straight ahead passing Crookhorn Bungalow on your left.

Alternatively you can return to Snodland here by turning right and following Whitedyke Road all the way back to Snodland, passing both the cemetery and Community Centre.

6 Continue along the byway (which becomes a surfaced path) until you reach a junction with a road with a house on the left hand side – Ladd's Farm. Turn left along a path that runs alongside this farmhouse and follow it up the steep hill into the wooded area.



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