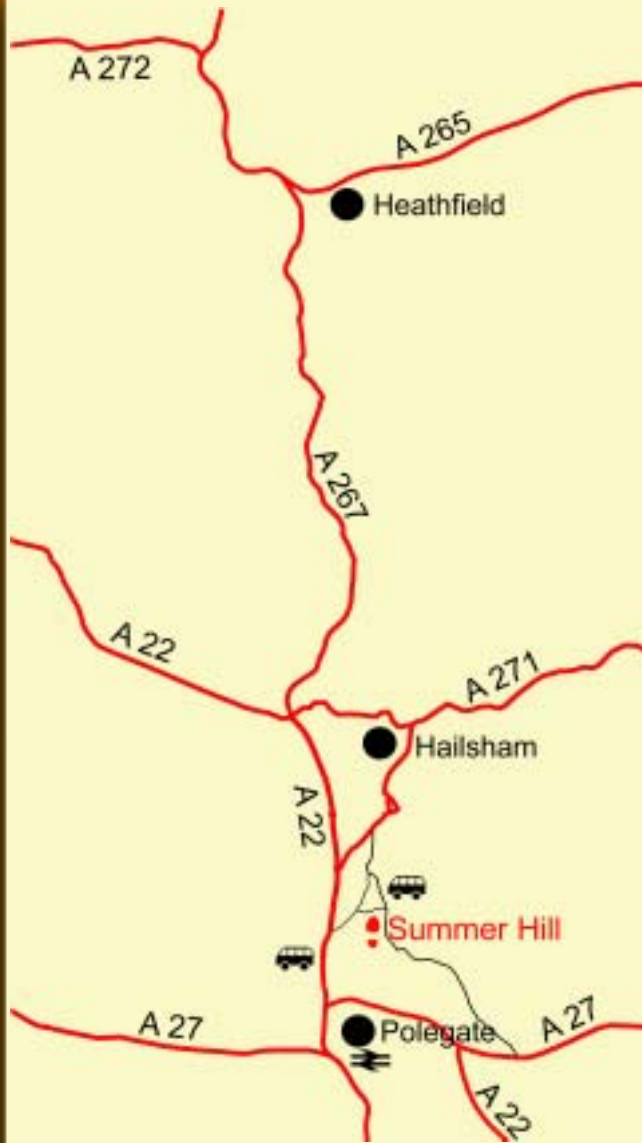





Location Map




Location Symbols

-  Bus stop/Request stop
-  Railway Station
-  Walk Location

Essential Information

Distance:
2.5 miles/4 kms

Walk grade:
 Easy, generally level walking with stiles and some steps.

Maps:
OS Explorer 123
OS Landranger 199

Start/Finish:
Cuckoo Trail parking area TQ 588075

Public Transport:
Buses: Bus services operate between Eastbourne and Hailsham/Tunbridge Wells stopping on the A22, and between Eastbourne and Battle via Hailsham with a request stop on Ersham Road
Trains: Polegate station approx. 1 mile, accessible via the Cuckoo Trail.

Parking:
A small parking area is located at the start of the walk on Summer Hill Lane.



Summer Hill Walk



Paths to Prosperity

East Sussex is a welcome haven for walkers in the busy south-east of England, with over two thirds of the County covered by the High Weald and Sussex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There is also a wealth of picturesque villages, country houses and parkland hidden within its rolling landscape, waiting to be discovered.

Please come and enjoy the unique splendours of our countryside, but please also support the local businesses that help make the countryside the vibrant place that it is today.

The Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Guard against all risk of fire.

Leave gates as you find them.

Keep your dog under close control in the presence of animals.

Keep to public rights of way.

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.

Take your litter home.

Help to keep all water clean.

Protect wildlife, plants and trees.

Take special care on country roads.

Make no unnecessary noise.

Refreshments and Local Services

(see map for location)

- 1 **Five Oaks Nursery**
Garden Centre
- 2 **MP Cycle Hire**
Cycle Hire - 01323 449245
- 3 **Masterpiece**
Pottery Studio, Paint Your Own Ceramics - 01323 449245
- 4 **Old Loom Mill Art and Crafts Hall**
Arts and Crafts - 01323 848007
- 5 **Old Loom Mill Tea Room & Wool Shop**
Tea Room and Wool Shop - 01323 848007
- 6 **Peel House Farm Caravan Park**
Caravan Park - 01323 845629
- 7 **Sharnfold Farm**
Farm Shop, Pick your Own and Fishing Lake - 01323 768690
- 8 **K2 Indian Restaurant**
Indian Restaurant and Take Away - 01323 483844

Please note that inclusion of business details in this leaflet does not constitute an endorsement of the business by East Sussex County Council or its agents.

- 9 **Route 22**
Diner and Bar, Polegate Road,
Hailsham - 01323 848411

We hope that you enjoy the walk in this leaflet, which is one of a series produced by East Sussex County Council.

Copies of the leaflets for other walks in the series are available from Tourist Information Centres and libraries or direct from East Sussex County Council, by contacting the Rights of Way Team:-

By phone on:-
01273 482250 / 482354 / 482324

By post at:-
Transport and Environment Department
County Hall
St. Anne's Crescent
Lewes BN7 1UE

By e-mail at:-
rightsofway@eastsussex.gov.uk

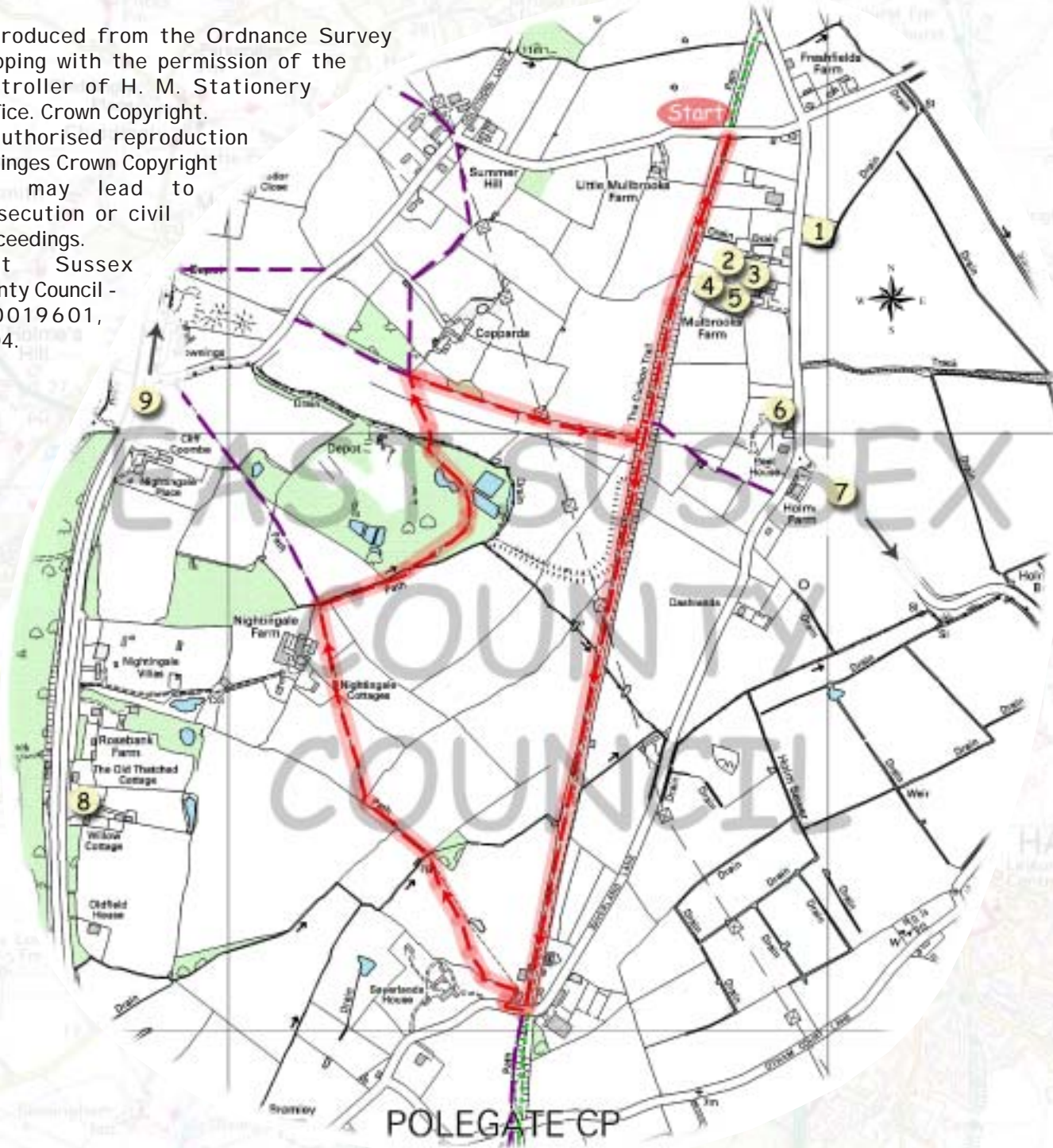
By downloading from the website at:-
www.eastsussex.gov.uk

If any problems are encountered on the walk please report them to the above contact points.

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Summer Hill Walk



View along the walk

Map Legend

- Refreshments & Local Services (see over for details)
- Route
- Other Public Footpaths
- Cuckoo Trail





View towards the South Downs

Starting from the parking area at Summer Hill, cross the road to join the Cuckoo Trail and follow this south for a distance of 1.5 kms (1 mile) to join Sayerland Lane.

The Cuckoo Trail follows the route of the old Cuckoo Line railway that used to link Heathfield with Tunbridge Wells and the coast. Look out for some reminders of the railway on this section, as there are a number of items of old railway furniture that can still be seen. This section of the Cuckoo Trail also has a number of points at which a rest can be enjoyed, with several benches and a picnic site.

On reaching Sayerland Lane, turn right and follow for a short distance before turning right onto the signposted footpath, beside the farmyard entrance. Follow the path around the edge of the garden and then, beyond the stile, cross the field in the direction waymarked, to reach a small bridge and stile.

Continue to follow the route along field edge path keeping the hedge on your right. At the field corner, cross the stile, and follow the edge of the next field, as waymarked, now keeping the hedge on your left.

After the stile in the next field corner, follow the cross field path as waymarked, heading towards another stile. Continue to follow the path in the same direction, crossing a further stile. After passing the farm buildings, a path junction is reached. Turn right and follow the edge of this field for a short distance. After crossing the stile at the field boundary, continue along the edge of the next field, keeping the hedge on your left.

Approximately half way along the field edge, turn left into the woodland and follow the waymarked path for a short distance, before joining a surfaced track. Continue to follow this track, passing some fishing lakes, before turning right at the footpath signpost.

After reaching the next stile, the path crosses the field in the direction indicated to some steps set in a small bank. Continue in the same direction across the next section of field. At the footpath junction on the far side of the field, turn right to follow the field edge path, keeping the hedge on your left.

At the far end of the field, follow the path down the steps, and turn left, crossing the stile. Follow the field edge for a short distance before turning right to cross another stile, before descending the steps to re-join the Cuckoo Trail.

Turn left and follow the Cuckoo Trail for approximately half km (third of a mile) back to the parking area and the start of the walk.

The Cuckoo Line derived its name from the tradition of releasing the first cuckoo of spring at the old cattle fair held annually in Heathfield on April 14th.

The single track railway opened between Eastbourne and Hailsham in 1849, with the extension from Hailsham to Eridge opening in 1880. The line fell victim to the Beeching cuts, with the last section being closed in 1968. The line was purchased by Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council with the first sections of the new route for walkers, cyclists and horseriders being opened in 1992.



The Cuckoo Trail