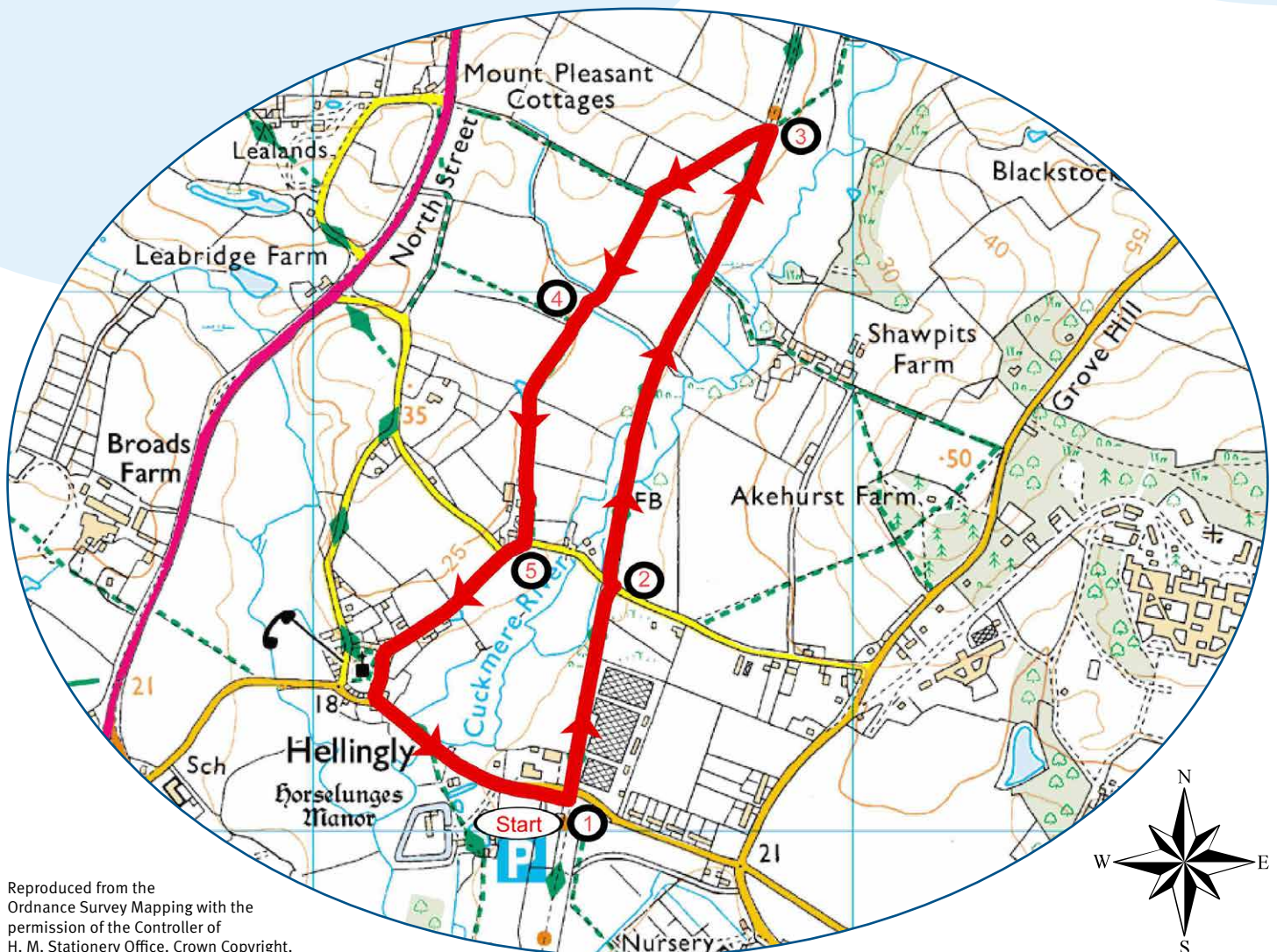


Hellingly Walk

A Cuckoo Trail based walk across farmland and through the village of Hellingly.



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Local Information

This walk takes you along a section of the Cuckoo Trail following the route of the old Cuckoo Line railway that used to link Heathfield with Tunbridge Wells and the coast. The 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.

Essential Information

Distance: 2 miles/3 kms
Walk grade: Easy
Maps: OS Explorer 123
 OS Landranger 199
Start/Finish: Cuckoo Trail Car Park
Post Code: BN27 4EU
Grid Ref: TQ 584121

Route Description

- 1) Starting from the Cuckoo Trail car park, use the path at the end of the car park to join the Cuckoo Trail beside the old Hellingly Station (now a private house). Opposite the station is Hellingly Millennium Arboretum, planted on the site of the old goods sidings that served the station. Turn left and follow the Cuckoo Trail under the bridge and on for a distance of approximately 370 metres (400 yds.) to reach Mill Lane.
- 2) Cross the lane and continue to follow the Cuckoo Trail. The route passes the old Watermill, and then over the River Cuckmere and beside wetland areas on each side of the path. After passing under the next bridge, continue to follow the Cuckoo Trail for a further 280 metres (305 yds.) to a point where a footpath crosses.
- 3) Turn left onto the footpath and follow up the steps to a stile. Cross the field in the direction indicated to reach a gate, then continue to follow the route across the next field to a second gate. At the next gate, follow the signposted route ahead, and then follow the field edge path, keeping the hedge on your right.
- 4) On reaching the short track between fields, cross, to reach a footbridge and then beyond the bridge the path follows the next field, with the hedge again on the right. After another gate the path runs along the edge of another field, this time keep the hedge on your left. Follow the path to a field gate on the left hand side of the farm buildings. Cross the surfaced yard using the two small handgates, and follow the route along the edge of the short section of field to another handgate, and then on along the enclosed path to reach Mill Lane again.
- 5) Turn right and follow the lane, passing the first junction on the right. Continue to follow the lane into Hellingly village, passing the Church, to the junction with Station Road. Hellingly Church is built on the only remaining, undamaged ciric in Sussex. A ciric is a circular Celtic burial ground, raised to keep the dead dry. The Hellingly ciric, although once round, is now oval as the church acquired more land in the 12th century. Turn left and follow Station Road back to the Cuckoo Trail car park and the start of the walk.



The Churchyard, Hellingly