

OurWalks.com Circular Walk ② - Little Chart Forstal to Egerton and return

Approx mileage : 12 miles

Terrain : Mostly flat but with some hill walking mid way

Paths : Some road walking but mostly footpaths, including the **Stour Valley Walk**, with bridle ways and some quiet country lanes

Parking : Plenty of parking around the Green at Little Chart Forstal

Pub : The George, Egerton

- 1 Commence the walk by leaving **Little Chart Forstal** at the southern edge of the Green where a footpath takes you south across a pasture field, past a paddock with horses to the main Hothfield to Little Chart road. Turn right at the road for 10 - 15 yards until you find a permissive path that passes Rooting Street Farm; this leads onto a bridle way. Continue along the bridleway, across two fields and then turn right towards Rooting Manor.
- 2 At Rooting Manor turn left and, still on the bridleway, continue due south, past Knights Wood on your right hand side. Continue across another field until you reach Bernacre Wood but turn right before entering the wood and proceed in a westerly direction until you reach a lane.
- 3 Turn left here and walk due south down the lane until it forks left and right. Take the right-hand lane past Dowle Street Farm until the lane takes a sharp right hand bend. On the bend on the left-hand side of the road there is a

stile which leads to a footpath which will eventually lead through houses to Pluckley Station and the main road.

- 4 Turn left on to the main road, then cross the railway bridge and continue down the road for 20 - 30 yards until you reach a lane on the right-hand side. Walk along this lane until there is a crossroad of footpaths. Take a diagonal right path (not sharp right) past Newhouse Farm and continue on past Newhouse Hassocks on your left until you reach Maltmans Hill and then the Pluckley Road (the main road between Smarden and Pluckley).
- 5 Go in a westerly direction along the Pluckley road for 20 - 30 yards and then take the footpath on the right-hand side. This will eventually lead to Mainey Wood. Here the path splits left and right so take the left-hand path to Ash plantation where there is a crossroad of paths. Turn right here through the wood until you reach the railway line - **this is an unmanned footpath crossing so take care and look out for trains in both directions.**
- 6 Once over the railway continue on the footpath in a north westerly direction past Oaklands on your left-hand side and on to a road. Go straight across the road, through Park Farm and continue along the footpath in a northerly direction past Stace Wood and Wheeler Wood where there is another crossroad of paths.
- 7 Go straight on, ignoring footpaths joining from the left and right and continue on, passing Newlands Farm on the right, until you reach the Munday Bois road. Turn left here along the road past the junction on the right-hand side to a footpath almost opposite Forstal Road.
- 8 Turn right onto this footpath and continue along the footpath to Hill Road and into **Egerton**. Sometimes this final path to Egerton is not well maintained and if you unable to gain access to it continue along the Munday Bois road to Link Hill Lane which is usually quite quiet and walk along the lane ignoring the first footpath on the right but taking the second which will lead past a school on the left and into Egerton village.

The George at Egerton is a quaint old fashioned village pub usually frequented by local characters and selling

good food and drink - well worth a visit.

- 9 On leaving the pub (assuming the you have partaken of refreshments) continue up the road through the village, past the shops and the Church, until on the right-hand side you will see a finger post sign leading into a orchard. Follow the path through the orchard until you reach its north-eastern boundary then follow the path as it turns right. This will lead to a junction of footpaths. Take the diagonal footpath (the second exit) which is, in effect, an easterly direction past Iden Farm Cottage and follow it to Iden Lane as it becomes a byway.
- 10 Turn right into Iden Lane and continue along the byway, where it joins the Stour Valley Walk, and crosses over Pivington Lane. Continue following the Stour Valley Walk, along Nettlepole lane. Rather than continue on the byway, make sure you take a left-hand turn on the Stour Valley Walk, through Little Piper's Wood, and then on to the main Charing to Pluckley road.
- 11 Turn left on the road and follow it for no more that 20 yards, until you reach the remains of St Mary's Church. Here the Stour Valley Walk turns right and continues past the Mill Ponds on to Little Chart. Walk past the Swan public house on the left and the church on the right-hand side until you reach the continuation of the Stour Valley Walk on the left across a sheep field. This will lead you back to the Green at **Little Chart Forstal**.



HAPPY WALKING

From the Ourwalks.com team

