

OurWalks.com Circular Walk ③ - Stelling Minnis to Elham and return

Approx mileage : 9.5 miles

Terrain : Flat to start with then gradually downhill to Ottinge then uphill before descending into Elham then gentle gradient uphill and finishing on the flat.

Paths : Some footpaths but mostly quiet country lanes - ideal for winter or early spring walking when footpaths can be heavy going.

Parking : Plenty of roadside parking in Stelling Minnis.

Pub : Kings Arms, Elham

- 1 Leave **Stelling Minnis** by looking for the fingerpost sign for the windmill. This is not a nationally recognised footpath but there are numerous paths across the Minnis all for use by members of the public. **Stop awhile to admire the windmill** - recently restored - and then proceed in a south easterly direction until you reach the main Stelling Minnis to Rhodes Minnis road.
- 2 Turn right down this road until you arrive at a lane on the left-hand side signposted to Wheelbarrow Town. Take this lane passed Hawes Farm to a T-junction.
- 3 Turn right here and follow the lane to another road junction. Turn left and proceed passed Mount Farm until you reach another junction. Turn right to another T-junction and turn left into Boyke Lane.
- 4 Continue down this lane (taking in the **wonderful views across open farmland** to Lyminge in the distance) to Ottinge where the lane meets the main Lyminge to Elham road.

5 Cross over this road and continue uphill to another lane on the left. Take this turning and then turn right at the next junction. Here the road climbs steeply but at the top there are more **spectacular views** back towards Ottinge and the Elham Valley.

6 At the top of the hill continue along the lane for approx 50 yards to a stile on the left hand side which is right opposite a lane on the other side of the road. Cross the stile and walk straight ahead across a pasture field to a Y road junction. Here take the right hand lane and continue passed a private road on the left until reaching a stile on the left.

7 Cross the stile and descend a fairly steep hill into **Elham** admiring the **spectacular view of Elham Village** and the surrounding area.

There are two main public houses in Elham namely the Kings Arms in the Square and The Rose and Crown in the High Street. Both are worth a visit and both do good food and drink. Also worth a visit is the Abbots Fireside again in the High Street but if the walking boots are muddy then the other two may be better!

8 When leaving the village walk up the High Street in the direction of Canterbury until you reach the first exit on the left hand side. Take this road which goes round the side of the playing field to a crossroad junction - ignore the left and right roads but go straight across and up the lane until you reach Upper Park Gate Farm having passed Little Gate Farm on the right.

9 Here there is a Y junction - take the left hand lane and continue on the lane through Elham Park Wood past Farthingsole Farm on your right to another road junction.

10 Turn left and then left again on a road which will lead you back to Boormanhatch Farm on the outskirts of **Stelling Minnis**.



HAPPY WALKING

From the Ourwalks.com team

OurWalks.com Circular Walk ④ - Elham to Stelling Minnis and return

Approx mileage : 9.5 miles

Terrain : Uphill to start with then down to Ottinge then gradual uphill walking, flattening out through Wheelbarrow Town to Stelling Minnis, continuing on the flat and then downhill back to Elham.

Paths : Some footpaths but mostly quiet country lanes - ideal for winter or early spring walking when footpaths can be heavy going.

Parking : Usually plenty of parking in the square at Elham but if not the High Street.

Pub : Rose and Crown, Stelling Minnis

This the same walk as **OurWalks.com Circular Walk ③ - Stelling Minnis to Elham and return** only in reverse starting at Elham proceeding to Ottinge on to Wheelbarrow Town and then the Stelling Minnis and eventually back to Elham via Farthingsole Farm and Upper Park Gate Farm.

If you require refreshments on the walk do try the Rose and Crown at Stelling Minnis. This is a most welcoming pub where the food and drink are superb. There are real ales on draught - usually Shepherd and Neame's Masterbrew and Courage Directors and a good selection of lagers and wines. The food is second to none with a vast menu and quantities to suit the heartiest appetite.

