



Cowden

Distance 5.3 km=3.3 miles, easy walking

Region: Kent

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Refreshments: Cowden

Map: Explorer 147 (Sevenoaks)

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Village, woodland, water, green meadows

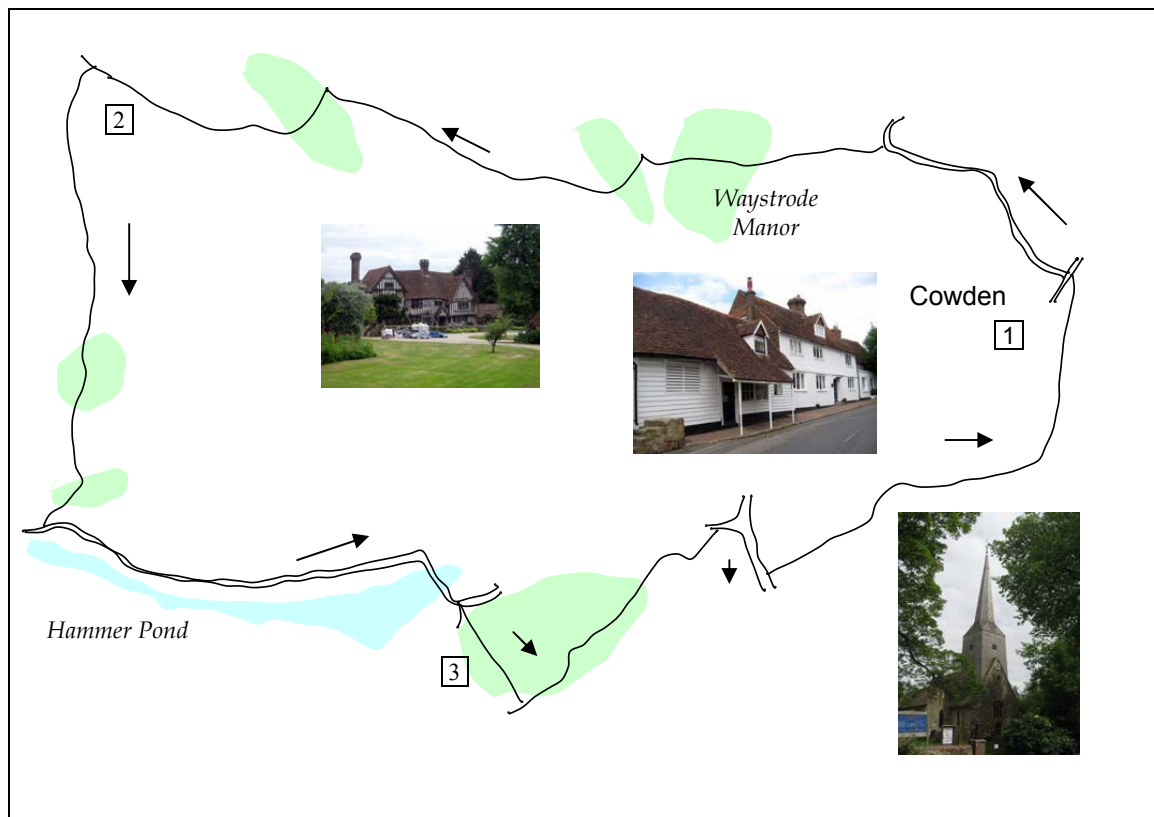
In Brief



This easy short circular walk takes you from Cowden round some of the gentle pastures and back alongside the Hammer Pond and woodland.



The walk begins in the centre of **Cowden** (postcode TN8 7JE grid ref 465404). For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



The Walk

- 1 Coming from the church down the main street, turn **right** into North Street which soon becomes Spode Lane. Where the lane bends right, keep straight ahead over a cattle grid on the drive to Waystrode Manor, passing this historic building on your left. (*For further details, see another walk 'Hever and Cowden' in this series.*) Where the drive bends left, go through the right-hand of two wooden gates ahead, down steps and onto a woodland path. At a junction with a post and yellow arrows, take the **left** fork on a long bridge over a stream. *Note that you are on the Sussex Border Path (SBP), a long-distance path round all the land borders of both Sussexes.* On entering a meadow, keep ahead across the grass, through a gap in trees and straight across the next meadow. In a patch of woodland, turn **left** as indicated. Go along the right-hand side of the next meadow, over a stile or through a metal gate and along the left-hand side of the next meadow. Half way along, go **left** over a stile and keep ahead on the left-hand side of a meadow, thus leaving the SBP.
- 2 Go along the centre of the next meadow, through a band of trees, over a stile and keep tightly to the right-hand side of the next meadow. You pass a clump of trees on your left, where you may see is some hanging sculpture. Go across the centre of a much smaller meadow with a house on the left, through a swing-gate, down steps and **right** on a driveway. At the bottom, turn **left** on a lane. For some distance, on your right, is the Furnace Pond, a very elongated affair indicating the importance of the iron industry in past times. The lane eventually bends right over a sluice by *Furnace Mill*. Where the lane bends left, go ahead through a wooden barrier into the woodland of Holtye Common.
- 3 Immediately take the **left** fork, slightly uphill, crossing from Kent into part of East Sussex. There is a small patch of mud, but it quickly clears. At the top, go watchfully over a strip of grass used by golfers and turn **left** on a wide sandy bridleway, keeping close to the trees on the right. The path runs downhill through woodland and reaches a lane. Turn **right** on the lane and in a few metres, at a road junction, turn **right**. In 80m, turn **left** on a footpath. The path goes through a metal gate, along the bottom of a meadow and past a wooden gate at the corner of some trees. Veer **left** here across the green, go over a golfers' bridge, **right** before a fence in the direction of the yellow arrow, and past by another small tee. At a 3-way fingerpost, turn **left** through a wooden gate and go ahead on an enclosed path, over a tarmac drive, up through allotments, past a wooden gate, up a grassy path and into the village by the church.

For more information about Cowden and its church, see another walk in this series: 'Hever and Cowden'.

For refreshments, *The Fountain* (Harveys) a friendly pub-restaurant with a big garden is on the right.

Getting there

By car: park prettily in a side road of Cowden. The village is signposted from the B2026 south of Edenbridge.

By bus: route 234 from Tunbridge Wells or Edenbridge (check times).

By train: note that Cowden Station is 2km (1½ miles) from the village.