

6 After 350 metres you'll meet the byway. Turn right and continue uphill until reaching the lane (Shingle Barn Road) then turn left onto it. Immediately on your left are the backs of the Hoppers Huts.

These were constructed in 1880 to provide accommodation for the annual hop pickers. Although the row was designed for around 24 seasonal workers, these houses were often overcrowded. Previously accommodation had not even been provided.

7 At the junction after the huts cross the road then turn left (Yalding Hill). After 200 metres turn right onto Small Profits. Follow this country lane for about 2km. From here you'll have some lovely views down across the Medway Valley.

8 When you meet the next lane (Hunt Street) cross over it and go straight into the field going downhill. After 250 metres the path turns left in front of the trees. Follow it for another 250 metres before turning right when opposite the houses. Walk across the field to the houses then onto a track which cuts to the left and diagonally downhill into Wateringbury. At the end of the track turn right and walk across Bow Bridge.

From here you'll have some nice views of the River Medway and the boats moored at the marina on your left.

9 The end point of Wateringbury train station is just ahead on the right. Alternatively to return to Yalding train station, turn left and follow the lower Medway Valley Path past the marina then follow this for 5km back to Yalding. Turn right at Hampstead Marina in Yalding onto the road to head for the train station.

Distance: 6.2 miles / 10km. Can be extended by another 3.1 miles / 5km.

Time: 2½ hours approximately (3½ hours with extension).

Terrain: Parts of the walk are quite challenging due to uphill walking. Some paths can become muddy. Five stiles in Yalding Fen and a train line crossing.

Start point: Yalding train station.

End point: Wateringbury train station.

OS Explorer Map: 148.

Hills & Hoppers

Yalding

A 6.2 mile / 10km walk (with optional 3.1 mile / 5km extension) from Yalding train station to Wateringbury train station through stunning farmland and woodland.



Moored boats (MVCP)



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This walk is endorsed by Explore Kent.

Photo credits cover: Robin (Andy Vidler www.andyvidler.co.uk)
Twyford Bridge, Buston Manor and Hoppers Huts (Medway Valley Countryside Partnership – MVCP)



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This walk goes through the picturesque village of Yalding and up hills across farmland. There are some long climbs but the views from the top make the uphill sections more than worth it. The walk passes some interesting features before descending down towards the village of Watlingbury and the train station there.

1 Turn right out of Yalding train station onto the road and across the tracks. After 100 metres turn left onto a narrow footpath. Follow this path over a field and into woodland with the train line on your left. After 400 metres turn left and cross the stile. Carefully cross the train tracks.

You are now at Yalding Fen which contains fen habitats (a type of wetland), woodland, willow carr (wet woodland), ponds and a traditional orchard. This variety of habitats is home to a range of wildlife. When walking through the site keep your eyes and ears open for a variety of birdlife or a grass snake swimming across one of the ponds. To manage the site for wildlife and conservation purposes, there are often cattle and sheep grazing here so please keep your dog on a lead.

2 Follow the footpath through the site which takes you to the left of and around the pond. Turn left over a stile and through the orchard then out past the houses. At the road, turn right and walk over Twyford Bridge. Just after the bridge turn left and follow the footpath across the flood meadows known as The Lees. At Lees Road turn left and after approximately 150 metres turn left again and walking on the road, cross Yalding Bridge.

This 15th century bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and at 150 yards (137 metres) it is the longest medieval bridge in Kent.

Crossing the bridge you'll be able to view part of the River Beult. This river flows over Wealden Clay and much of its associated flora and fauna remains meaning the river has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

3 Continue straight on through the village, past the church and up to Yalding Tea Rooms. At the War Memorial turn right onto Vicarage Road. Turn immediately left onto the footpath which goes diagonally past the houses. At the road bear left then straight onto Manor Avenue. Follow the avenue around to the right and take the footpath at the end through woodland and follow it around to the left.



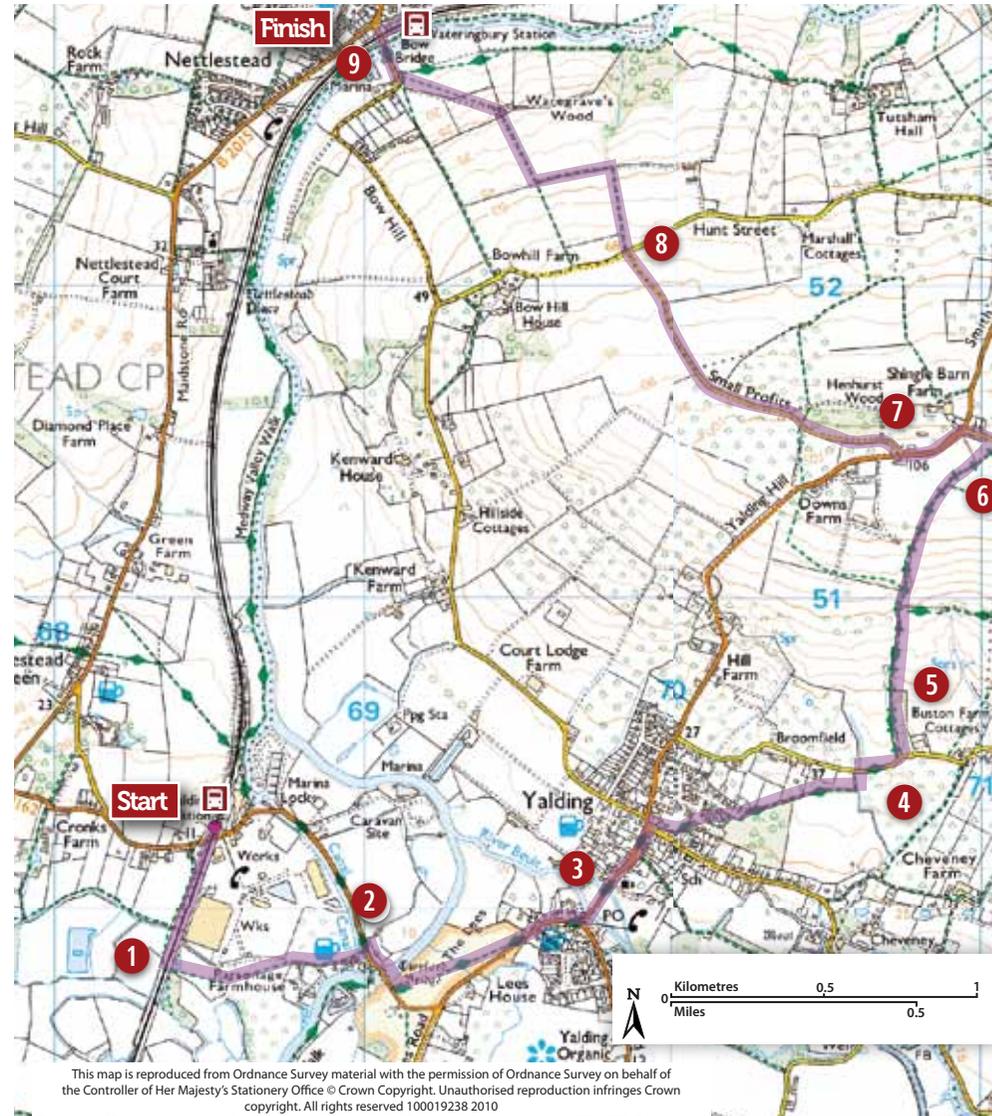
Sheep (Andy Vidler)



Orchard blossom (Explore Kent)



Twyford Bridge (MVCP)



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4 After 800 metres turn right onto Lughorse Road and follow the road uphill. Continue straight on then take the next footpath (not the byway) on the left next to the large oak tree. From here you'll start walking uphill through farmland leaving the village of Yalding behind you. At the tree line bear right and continue straight uphill through farmland.

Enjoy the views of Buston Manor which lies ahead of you to the right. Owned by the de Burston family between the 13th and 17th centuries, this is one of three ancient manor houses in Hunton.

5 When you reach the waymarker post half way up the hill, turn left onto the Greensand Way. This long distance path stretches across the sandstone ridge of Hampshire, Surrey and Kent for 108 miles.

Take in the stunning views back down across Yalding and the surrounding countryside.