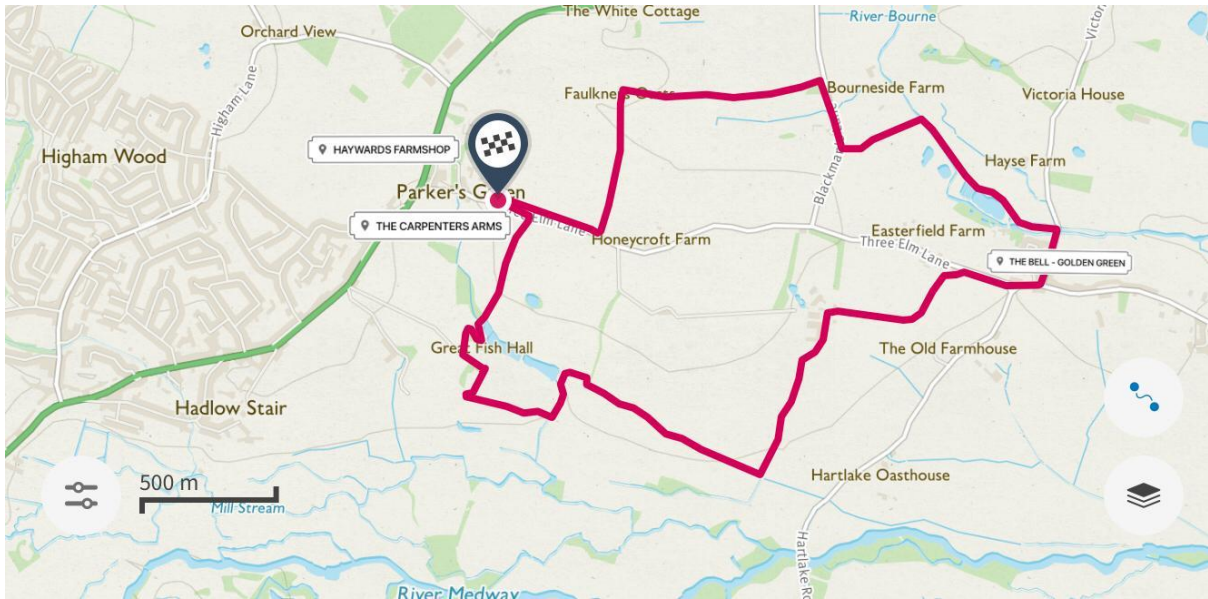


Walk 6 – The ‘Darling buds’

www.walktonbridge.co.uk



Pic: Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020

Description: A circular walk starting from The Carpenters Arms featuring gentle countryside, a working fruit farm and a lovely village pub en-route.

Length: 4 miles / 4.75 miles from St Andrews

(approximately 2-3 hours, longer if stopping at the Bell Inn en-route)

Grade: Leisurely

Good for: A Kentish walk

Directions from the Carpenters Arms

1. Beginning your walk at the Carpenters Arms, turn left out of the pub, heading towards Golden Green. Walk down the road with care for 50 metres until you see a concrete footpath marker and metal gate on your right. Pass through the gate and trace the edge of the field heading South West. Keep going under the oak trees, (there will be a pond hidden to your left) and continue along the edge of the field.

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2. Once you reach the end the path crosses a track. Walk straight ahead, through the bushes and across the narrow bridge. There will be another pond to your left and a little stream to your right. Walk past the wall and the broken stile and the path leads you into a field overgrown with brambles.
3. Pass through the rusty kissing gate and at the end of this path you will reach a newer wooden gate. At this point turn left down the driveway walking past Great Fish Hall. At the end of the drive turn right along the concrete path and pass through another kissing gate. Turn right again, walking past the pile of manure until you meet a farm track. It's at this point that you will meet the path from St Andrews.
4. Turn left passing alongside the hedge. Continue past the hollow tree and then turn left at the end of the track. Walk uphill and you will see a large fishing lake through the trees on your left. Follow the track round until it reaches the hedgerow. At this point take the path branching off to the right.
5. Stay on this path with the hedge to your left and the field to your right. Walk straight for 200 metres and then continue into the orchard, before crossing the little bridge into another larger one.
6. At the end of the trees the path meets a track. Turn left at the white oil drum and walk up towards the farm. Just before the track reaches the barns, take a diagonal right between the silver birch trees and the farm, following this path until you see a path running beside the static caravans.
7. Turn right, following the path past the caravans and then continue round to the left walking through the gap in the hedge. Continue past the house and then along the top of the orchard.
8. Follow the hedge until you see a large hole. Walk through this and cross the road with the care, the Bell Inn will be on your left.

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9. When ready to continue your walk, turn left after the pub into Victoria road and walk for 200 metres until you reach the stream. Just before the bridge, take the path to your left and follow this until you come to a small footbridge. Cross over into the field and then turn left, tracking the river westwards.

10. Once you reach the fence at the end of the field, cross back over the river using the large wooden bridge and follow the path uphill between the field and the paddock. Keep going until you see a chain gate on your right. Pass through this and then turn left, walking up the driveway before turning right into Blackmans Lane.

11. Continue along the road until you see a footpath on your left. Take this path and walk along the edge of the field heading towards the oast houses in the distance. Keep looking back for more impressive views of Hadlow Tower.

12. Once you reach the oast houses turn left and follow the path through more canola fields until you reach Three Elm Lane. Turn right and walk up the road with care for 400 metres, the Carpenters will be on your right, ending your walk.

If you've enjoyed this walk then please tag your photos #walktonbridge on Instagram or share with a friend. Visit my website for more beautiful walks in and around Tonbridge.

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When enjoying this walk, please remember to follow the countryside code:

Respect other people

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors

Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear

Leave gates and property as you find them

Stay on footpaths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

Leave no trace of your visit - take all your litter home

Don't have BBQs or fires

Keep dogs under effective control

Bag and bin your dog poo.

Enjoy the outdoors

Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared

Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures