

- 9 Turn right onto the lane and continue to the end of the path. Turn left along North End Lane to footpath 228, 100m on the right and enter High Elms estate. You will pass through woodland then cross the golf course until you reach High Elms Road.
- 10 To continue on the walk turn right at High Elms Road and immediately left past Clockhouse and the unusual octagonal granary onto bridleway 228. Continue up the hill following the bridleway for 400m to the woodland.
- 11 Turn right into the woodland and follow the waymarkers through the wood until you leave the estate up a steep climb to a kissing gate leading onto Cudham Lane North.
- 12 Carry on up Snag Lane facing you and at the bend take bridleway 254, this will eventually lead to Mace Farm.
- 13 Continue up Mace Lane for approx. 300m and take the footpath on your left, with views up to Foxburrow Wood. Crossing two final fields you will come to the entrance to Angas Home, a building of Victorian/Gothic design and once a sailors' convalescent home.
- 14 Walk across the recreation ground back to the starting point.



How to get there...

BUSES:

R5 Orpington to Green Street Green (hail and ride to Cudham)

TRAIN:

Nearest station: Chelsfield

CAR:

Turn onto Cudham Lane North, off the main A21 at Green St Green. Head south until road turns into Cudham Lane South.

PARKING:

Cudham Recreation ground car park, Cudham Lane South, Cudham.

Please check: www.tfl.gov.uk for further details or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

All details correct at time of printing (2013).

Additional Information...

A 7.5 mile walk taking in woodlands and passing Medieval Churches and country estates including the home of Charles Darwin.

Short cut from Point 7:

From Downe Village walk along Cudham Road and take the footpath parallel to the road. At the end cross over to Downe Bank. This is a rare chalk grassland and a protected Kent Wildlife Trust Reserve. Follow down the bank and up to the bridlepath. Here turn left to Cudham Lane North. Turn left again onto the lane and take the footpath on the right just past the 18th century Hostye Lodge. Continue through fields leading eventually to Mace Lane. Turn left and in 100m you will rejoin the main route at Point 13.

Cudham or Cuda's-ham Settlement lies 800ft above sea level close to the Pilgrim's Way. Reference to Cudham is made in the Domesday Book and records show that Odo, Bishop of Bayeaux was granted land here at the time of the Norman Conquest.

Walks



around the Borough

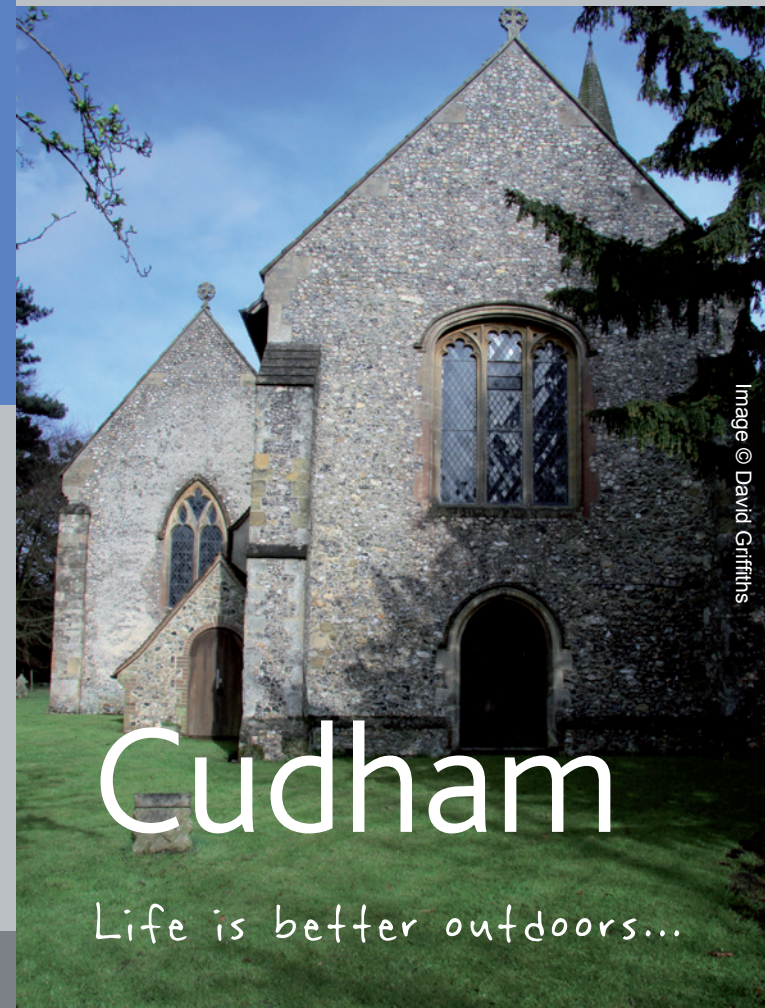


Image © David Griffiths

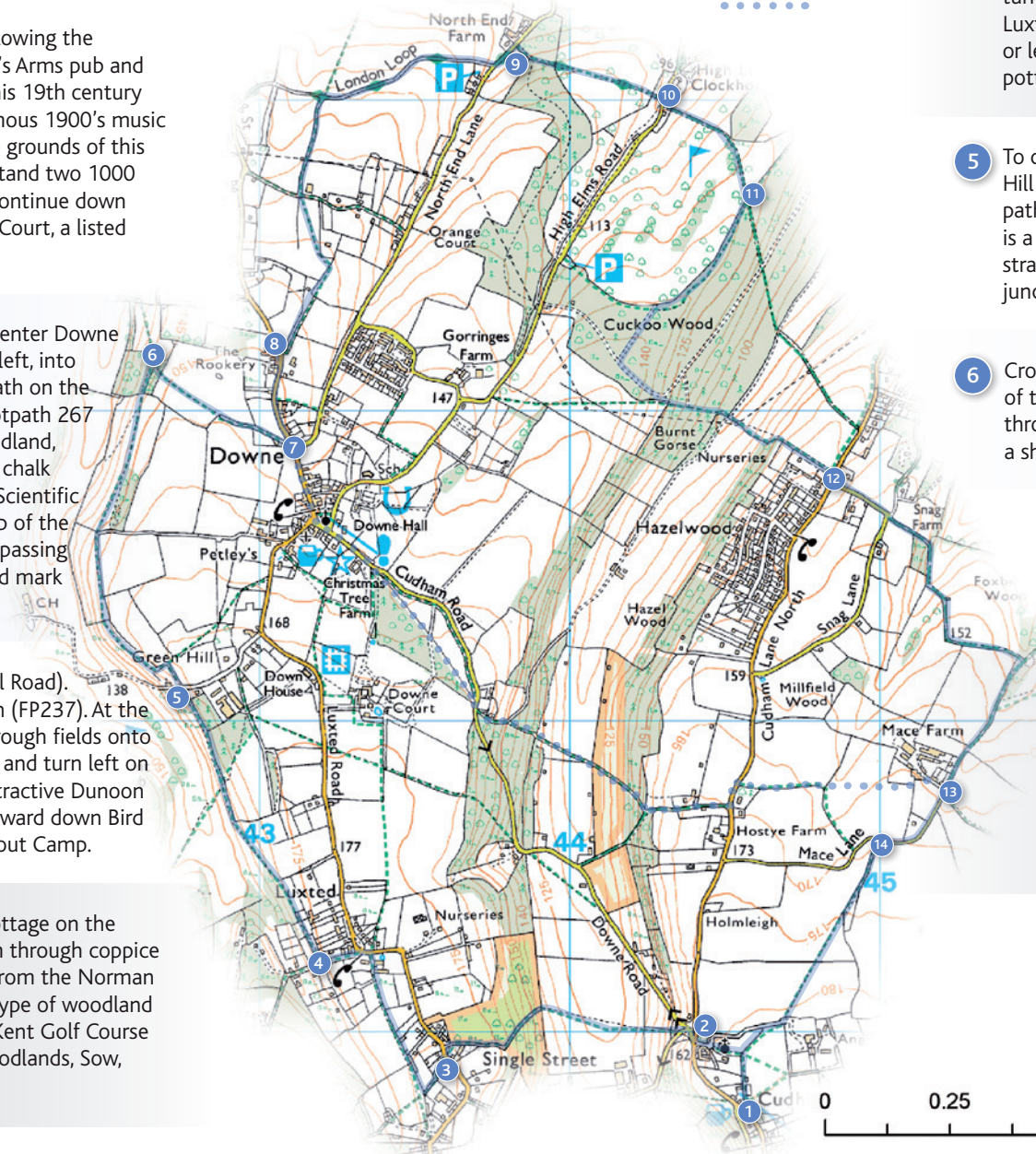
- Starting point:** Cudham Recreation Ground car park, Cudham Lane South, Cudham
- Distance:** 7.5 miles
- Duration:** 4½ hours
- Short cut route:** Point 7 to Point 13

Cudham

- 1 Leave the recreation ground car park, following the footpath past the rear of The Blacksmith's Arms pub and onto the Church of St Peter & St Paul. This 19th century pub is the birthplace of 'Little Tich', a famous 1900's music hall artist. Turn left and walk through the grounds of this 12th century church. In the churchyard stand two 1000 year old yews. Exit the churchyard, and continue down Church Approach (to the left is Cudham Court, a listed early Victorian flint-faced building).
- 2 Carefully cross Cudham Lane North and enter Downe Road. Almost immediately, take the first left, into Church Hill. Shortly after, take the footpath on the right through the kissing gate. Follow footpath 267 down the valley and up towards the woodland, Twenty Acre Shaw. This area of herb-rich chalk grassland and woods is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Climb the steps to the top of the wood and continue along to a sharp left passing a sycamore tree which was used as a land mark for aircraft in World War II.
- 3 Continue on to Single Street (Luxted Hall Road). Cross the road to a narrow enclosed path (FP237). At the stile turn right and proceed for 500m through fields onto Luxted Hall farm. Walk through the farm and turn left on to Luxted Road and head towards the attractive Dunoon Cottages dating from 1905. Continue forward down Bird House Lane towards Downe National Scout Camp.
- 4 Take footpath 232 just before the first cottage on the right. The path meanders for about 400m through coppice woodland - the term coppice is derived from the Norman word couper, to cut, and is a traditional type of woodland management. The path now skirts West Kent Golf Course for 250m. To the left are four ancient woodlands, Sow, Snotsdale, Ladies and Leasons Woods.

Main route

Short cut



Carry on for 400m on to Green Hill/West Hill (you can take a detour to see Down House and Petleys House by turning right up West Hill to Luxted Road. Turn right at Luxted Road for Down House the home of Charles Darwin, or left for Petleys House the home of the Wedgwood pottery family. Emma Wedgwood married Charles Darwin).

- 5 To continue on the circular walk cross Green Hill/ West Hill to the footpath opposite turn left at the T-junction of paths and follow through a series of fields. In the last field is a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate and continue straight on for 100m, and then sharp right at the path junction.
- 6 Cross two stiles, go straight ahead for 200m to the corner of the hedgerow. Then follow the hedgerow on the right through a field to Downe. At Downe Village, you can take a short cut - see additional information.
- 7 Turn left onto Rookery Road; you will pass Rookery Cottages on the left. Keep on the road until you reach footpath 222C on the right opposite the Coach House.
- 8 The route crosses over a stile and down the left side of the field to a gap in the hedge, turn left across the next field and then cross Orange Court Lane. Carry straight on and use the stile/one-bar gate to the right, keep to the left field boundary for 750m. At the end of the path steps lead down to Bogey Lane.