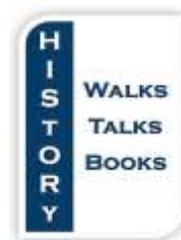




History Walks

Walking 1066 Harold's Way: Path Amendments



1066 Harold's Way has been re-walked and revised in preparation for an updated publication, later in 2019. The route remains the same but over the last six years new bridges have been built, housing estates developed on green fields and pubs closed - mores the pity for The Woodcock at Iden Green.

In addition, there are a few temporary diversions that you will need to be aware of, are listed separately and will not be included in the new Guide.

Details of the diversions can be found at:

www.1066haroldsway.co.uk/information

This *addendum* lists all the minor additions and amendments that will update the 2013 Guidebook (published by Bretwalda Books) and will be included in the new 2019 Guidebook.

New

Guidebook to Walking 1066 Harold's Way

To meet the needs of walkers and for the runners competing in 1066.run, prior to the publication of the new Guidebook, a spiral bound guidebook will be available from History Walks in January 2018.

This updated version will include all the updated walking notes, maps, links to Ordnance Survey routes and information needed to complete 1066 Harold's Way and the background to that tumultuous year 1066.

The route amendments are all reflected in the OS routes for 1066 Harold's Way.

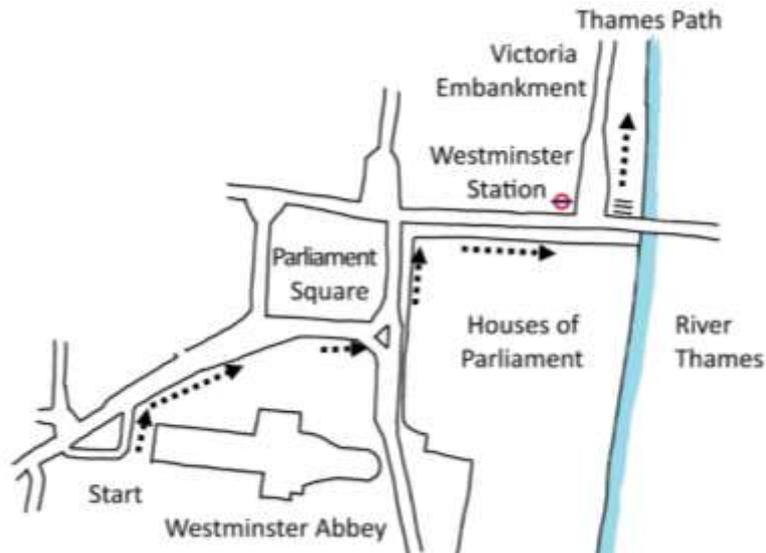
These notes and the new guide have been written to ensure that you are able to continue to enjoy walking 1066 Harold's Way in 2019, inspired by King Harold's epic march to the Battle of Hastings.



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Page 21: The start at Westminster Abbey

Meet at the West Entrance to Westminster Abbey, the door furthest away from the Houses of Parliament, where there is space away from the crowds at the North Door entrance.



Facing the West Door, turn left to walk along the footpath around then Abbey towards the Houses of Parliament.

Page 25: Approach to London Bridge

Left and then right, underneath Cannon Street Railway Bridge, into Hanseatic Walk. Continue under London Bridge and climb the shiny new spiral staircase up to the bridge, to cross the River and join the Thames Path on the south side.

Page 31: Approaching Greenwich



At the end of Borthwick Street follow the waymarks left back to the river and its statuary of Tsar Peter the Great.

Take the bridge on the left across Deptford Creek, creating a far more pleasant short cut to Greenwich along Greenwich Reach, past the Sail Loft, a modern gleaming kitchen style bar, and the former Wood Wharf which in a past life were studios that seem to have been at their zenith around 1986 recording artists such as Mark Knopfler, Iron Maiden and Dire Straits and I am assured Kate Bush



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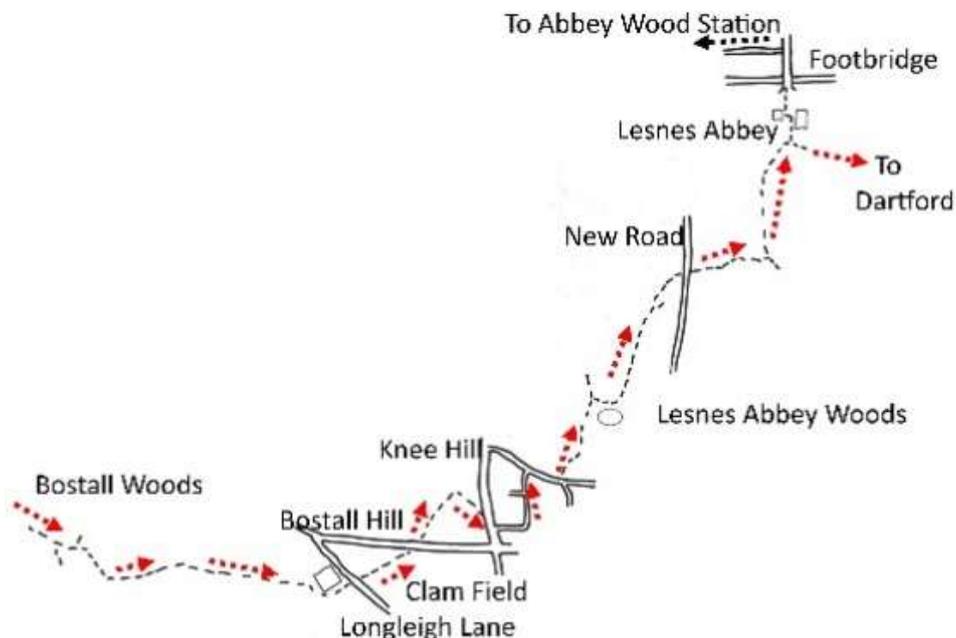
Walking 1066 Harold's Way: Path Amendments



Page 43 Approaching Lesnes Abbey

Down the hill and, through the trees on the right can be seen the railings that guard a dark pond. At the cross paths, turn right to follow the GCW waymark right around the pond and then bear left to follow the GCW down the hill along the clear and well-maintained path.

Near Knee Hill, take the left-hand fork, cross the road and continue the footpath, up through the trees towards Lesnes Abbey, following the GCW waymarks.



Down and turn sharp left and the green of the Abbey grounds can be seen through the trees. The gardens are beautifully kept and the ruins well maintained and they still give off an air of solitude. Head for the Information Office where there are toilets, but no refreshments, and the sound of a distant ice cream van is almost too much to bear.

Page 79 Change of Route - Robin Hood PH - Byway Path 21 deleted

Continue along the NDW, Common Road, for another half mile, past Fair View on the right and, as the road levels out after No 136, look for the waymark on the right that may be hidden in the hedge - there is an upright granite marker stone at its foot.

Through the opening and bear left down the hill, along the wide green path, and bear left to follow the waymarks, through a kissing gate, to Blue Bell Hill.



Page 83 Cobtree Manor Park – path clarification

Although the path is straight ahead across the course, I chose to avoid the errant golf balls driven by wayward golfers and turned right to follow the Horse Ride Trail, a wide, clear and well-maintained path/ track that runs around the outside of the golf course through the trees.

Keep following the path round to the left with its occasional glimpses of Blue Bell Hill to the path junction that links to the path across the golf course.

Bear right up the hill at the new waymark post (2018) and follow the simply named 'Wonderful Wordicular Wildlife Walk' (a Kent Wildlife Trust word trail - by children for children) and at the top of the hill, bear right again - *do not go through the opening in the trees - it will lead you on a false trail.*

Follow the broad bridleway, keeping the wire fence to the right and, after around 220 metres, as the 'Bridleway' turns left, continue straight ahead, down the slope left and through the trees for 40 metres.

Turn right along the hard path 'Woodland Walk' that leads to a magnificent 'play fort', the car park and the Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake Visitor Centre and café.

Page 86 Approaching Maidstone

The White Rabbit has been deleted. It is now a steakhouse without the option of real ale although there is accommodation.

P 95 To Brishing Road

Cross the road at the end and continue east, along the public bridleway, over the next road and follow the path, by the side of a stream, rising through the trees. The path levels out and then descends and at the bottom, turn left up the clear dedicated path. At the top, turn right and bear right and exit onto Brishing Road and turn right again.

Page 97 Option 2 to avoid the Roman road - Deleted

Pages 99 & 103 Staplehurst

Regrettably, The Railway Tavern is now closed and with building on the car park, it is unlikely to re-open

Page 103 Starting at Staplehurst

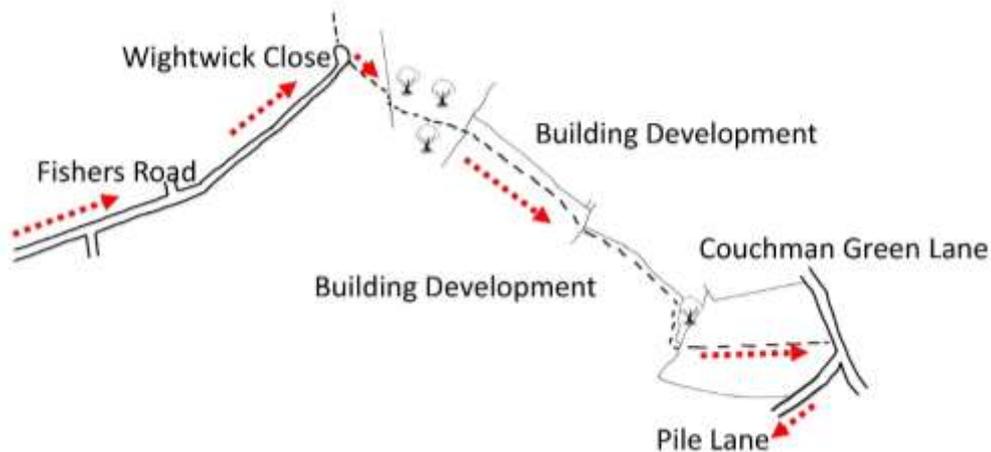
Leaving the former Railway Tavern, walk south along the A229 for a few metres and take the first road left, Fishers Road and continue to the end and into Wightwick Close.

Follow the waymarks and turn right at the fingerpost along the designated path between the houses.



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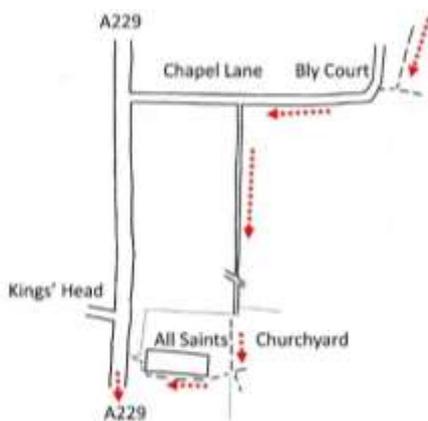


Over the stile and turn right into a path that can be overgrown. After 3 metres bear left onto a clear winding but narrowing path between the ponds to a bridge (*with the odd broken slat*) and a kissing gate.

Where there was once open fields, there is now a building site but the right of way in 2018 is guarded by metal fencing. Past a gate post with the original waymark and follow the fence on the right to a kissing gate and bear left, on a diagonal across a paddock that is normally is home to a couple of horses. Head just to the left of the gate to a kissing gate into Couchman Greens Lane and turn immediately right into Pile Lane.

(I would imagine that it will be a couple of years before this new estate is complete and the path may become diverted as building progresses)

Page 105 Old Staplehurst, Chapel Road and All Saint's Church



Through the kissing gate and turn right to follow the path into Chapel Lane that leads towards Old Staplehurst and is a mixture of old and new buildings.

On the right is Bly Court Manor that dates from the 16th century and was Staplehurst's original Manor House, collecting duties and rents from the men of the parish but by 1754 it had become the village Poor House



Further down is the 17th century Providence Strict Baptist Chapel, a style of non-conformism that began in the 1630s during the reign of King Charles I. Once a barn it became their place of worship in 1751

Opposite the green hanging sign, that promotes John Harris & Sons and their curious mix of wheelwrights and undertakers, is the footpath left that leads to the back of the churchyard (Victoria Works was the Parish School from 1832, teaching reading, writing and arithmetic but no Latin!)

Up into the graveyard and continue to the main path and turn right along the southern side of 11th century All Saints Church).

There is evidence of Saxon brickwork and a South Door, that dates to 1050, and tells the story of Ragnarok, the Norse Day of Judgement - definitely an omen for the superstitious Saxons as they marched by to battle. The later additions include the West Tower but despite its outside stature, its interior is plain and more Victorian than Medieval when stained glass windows would have spread light on the earliest recorded Rector, a T Capill, in 1245.

Down to the main road, past the sign just inside the entrance to the church that says 'you should not loiter' but I am sure that a few minutes won't matter.

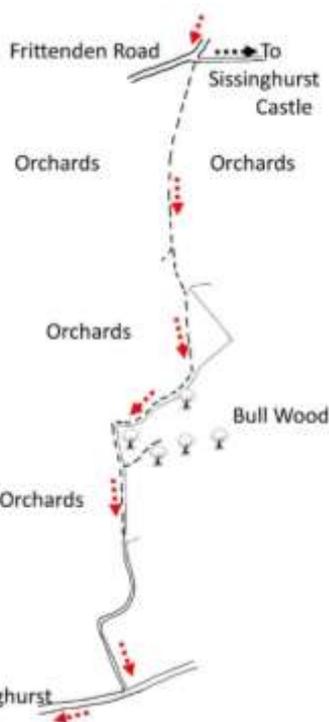
Page 107 Clarity of path

- look for the path on the right between the last two concrete outhouses.

The path is waymarked but, using the end of the fence on the right as a marker, walk SSW across the field to a gate and a foot bridge, often hidden in the hedge.

Page 108 Primary route to Sissinghurst Village

At the top of the hill, at the sharp right-hand bend on Frittenden Road, continue straight ahead, over the stile and walk down the broad track between the apple trees.



Silhouetted against the skyline can be seen Sissinghurst's church tower.

As the track bends round to the right continue straight ahead, due south, along one of the rows of trees to the bottom of the field and bear right.

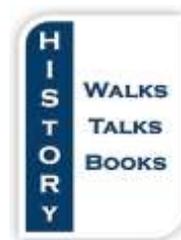
Follow the path along the bottom of the field with the fence on the left.

At the corner of the field, take the clear path left, through the trees down to and across a bridge to follow the path up towards a tarmac track on the left that leads to the main A262.



History Walks

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Turn right and walk along The Street to the centre of Sissinghurst village.

Page 108 Route to Sissinghurst Castle now secondary

Page 116 Iden Green

The Woodcock is no more. A great pub and one can only hope that it will fly again in the future

Page 116 Clarity - footpath re-routed after the fishing lakes

- walk down the hill on the right-hand side of the fishing lake and through the gate.

Now planted with hops, the path has been diverted from that shown on the OS map.

From the gate, continue straight ahead where a new bridge has been built that leads into a field planted with vines and the path is diagonally left up the hill.

Page 118 Footpath re-routed past Sandhurst School

Over the stile and here the footpath has been re-routed. The waymarks suggest a path round the outside of the field up to the edge of the school playing fields. For the more pragmatic, there is a clearish path diagonally left, roughly south-east, that has been walked many times and cuts the corner.

Originally, the path went straight up the hill and through the grounds of Sandhurst Primary School which was not ideal.

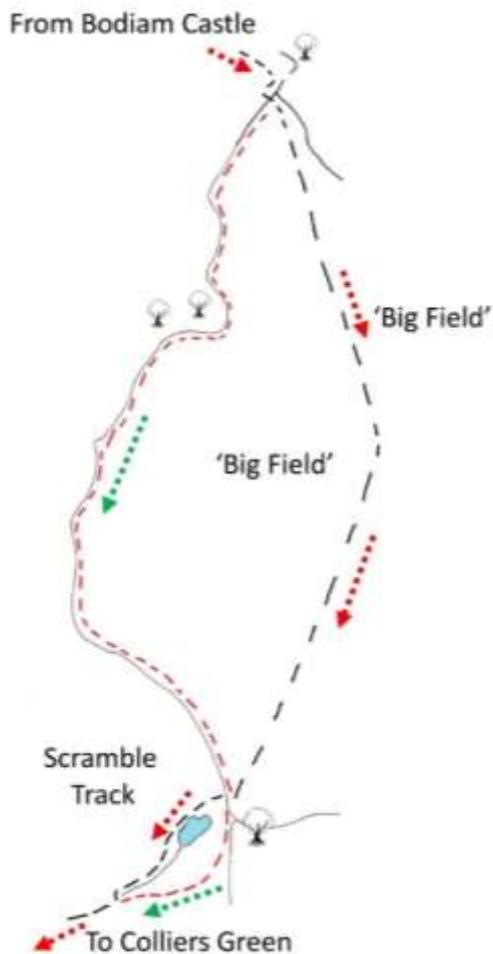
Through the gate at the top and follow the path around the school playing fields, through the car park and left down School Lane to Rye Road and opposite is a Petrol Station and Johnson's of Sandhurst General Store.

Page 129 The big field and the scramble track

The horizon curves above and initially, you should aim for the top of the curve in the centre of the field.

At the brow of the hill, the immediate destination becomes easier to spot. Look ahead, south, to the next ridge and walk towards the gap in the trees on the horizon. If there are crops, it is difficult to keep your bearing unless the path is clearly marked by the farmer. As you climb look back and the white house should be directly in front of the brick house higher up the valley, if it is, you are on the right track (red arrows)





As a public right of way, there should be a clear path through the crops but in 2017 barley filled the field.

I resorted to walk up the verge on the right down into the dip to walk up to the trees along a tractor track - choose your track carefully (the right-hand ones are better) and it will take you almost to the gap in the trees ready for the next problem.

To the right of the top of the field is a stile into a scrambling track.

The path on the map is clear and there is a sign that exhorts you to keep to the footpath but the waymarks have disappeared and the track fenced off - no doubt for Health and Safety reasons but that does little to help walkers.

The proper path keeps the pond to your left to continue up the hill, next to the hedge until you reach a small bridge left. Cross, turn right and continue with the hedge on the right, across a ditch where there once were

waymarks that pointed diagonally across the field towards the houses in front and Colliers Green.

As an alternative, over the stile and turn left to walk around the fenced off area to re-join the path, with the hedge on the right, to Colliers Green (green arrows)

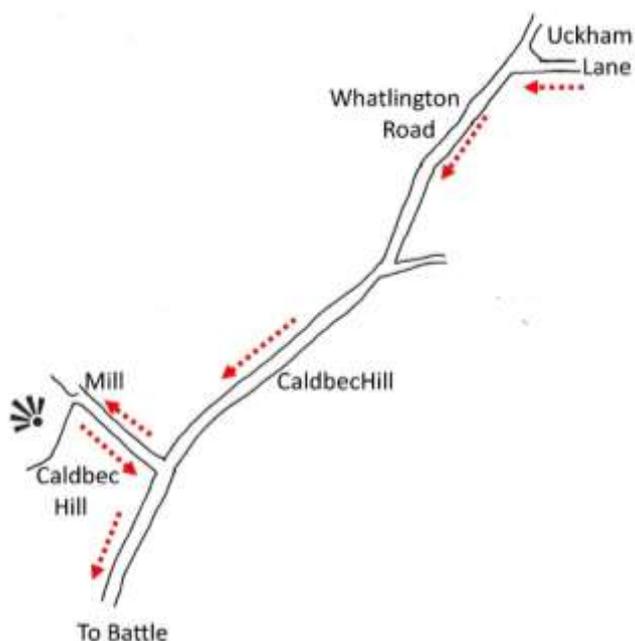
Page 135 Visiting Caldbec Hill and King Harold's Camp - revised route into Battle

Turn right along the Uckham Lane and over the railway bridge towards Battle.

As the lane opens up on the left-hand side, look over the valley to Battle Church and Battle Abbey and Harold's destination. To the left of the church stands Telham Hill where William's army camped prior to the battle.

Continue along Uckham Lane to Whatlington Road, cross the road and turn left to follow the path to Caldbec Hill, the meeting point for Harold's army.

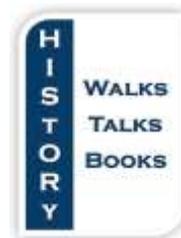
Past the green and over the brow of the hill and as the grass verge narrows and the road bears slightly to the left, turn right up a narrow lane that leads to Caldbec Hill and the windmill.





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There is a memorial board and an apple tree, planted on the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings and all hope that it will survive for the next 50 years to be centre stage at the 1000th celebrations in 2066. There are beautiful views across to Netherfield and it is a moment to just stop and reflect before the welcoming pint in the King's Head.

Back the same way to the road and turn right to Battle now straight ahead but for Harold, there would have been no time to savour the view, as Battle as a place did not exist. Past the entrance to the carpark, and The Kings Head, and at the junction, turn left and walk down High Street, past The Bull, to Battle Abbey and the official finishing line for 1066 Harold's Way.

As at December 2018, that is the sum of the Path Amendments.

Please let me know if you find any alterations to the above or in the route in the 1066 Harold's Way Walkers Guide.

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