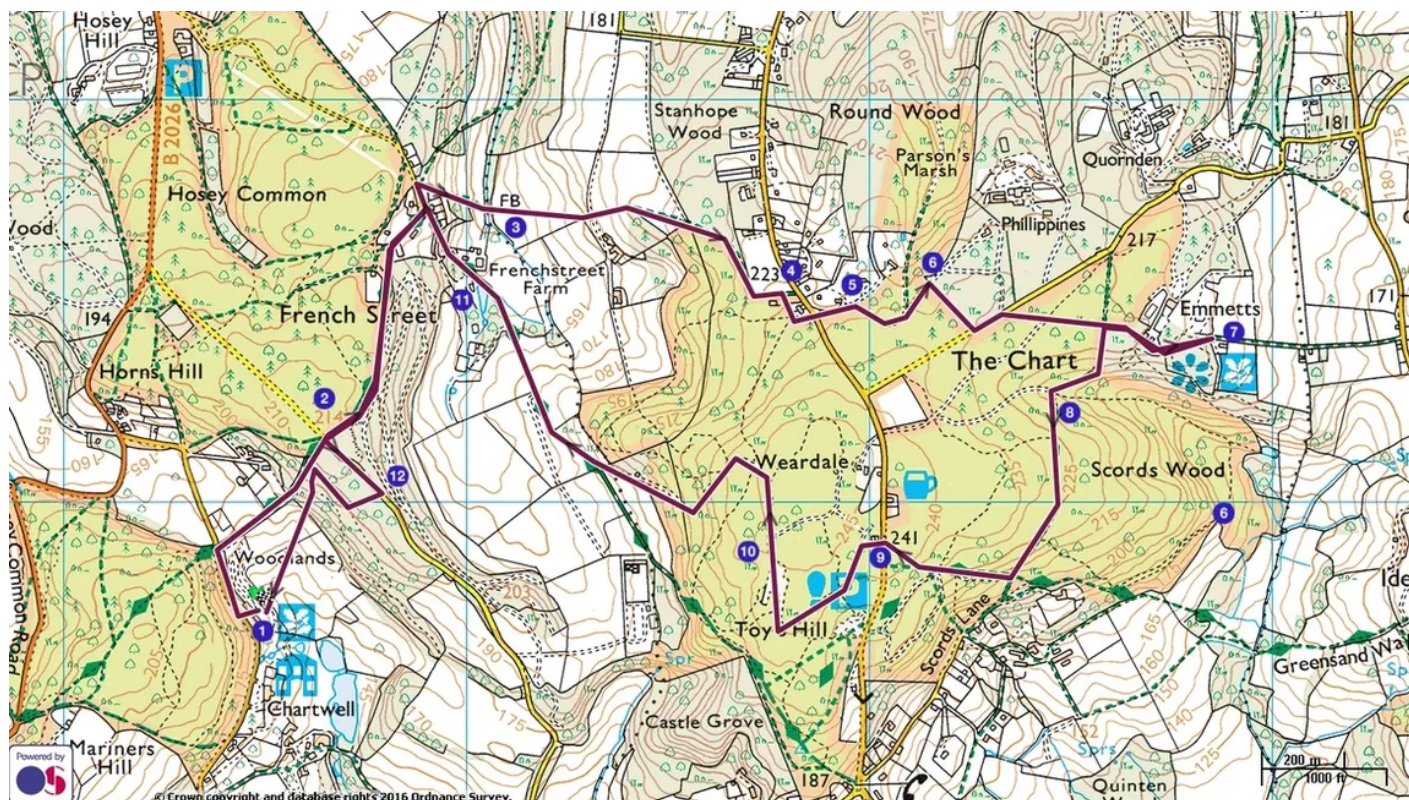


KENT

Weardale circular walk from Chartwell

This beautiful circular walk links Chartwell and Emmetts Garden; passing through the woodland areas of Toys Hill and Hosey Common, as well as the pretty hamlet of French Street.



Information

Address: Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS

OS map: Explorer 147; Landranger 188

Activity: Walking

Easy: Gentle slopes and occasional uneven terrain. For further details, see section marked Terrain.

Dog friendly: Dogs are welcome. Please keep dogs on leads when in fields with livestock.

Full trail: Miles: 5 (km: 8)

Duration: 3 hours

Terrain

This walk has steep slopes, steps and occasional rough terrain.

Total steps: 12

Start point: Chartwell, grid ref: TQ454513

1. With your back to the café, go left until reaching the main entrance gate to the car park. Exit and turn immediately right onto an enclosed path. Follow uphill until reaching Hosey Common Lane. Cross the road to the bridleway opposite.
2. Remain on this track keeping to the right whenever it forks. At the road (French Street hamlet) turn left. Shortly opposite a 'GR' red post box in the hedge, turn right onto a footpath taking the right fork. This enclosed path descends via steps and a couple of stiles to a footbridge.
3. Continue straight ahead uphill to a pedestrian kissing gate in the top-right-hand corner of the field. Once through the kissing gate, cross the track and take the path opposite. Over the next pedestrian kissing gate bear diagonally right heading towards a further kissing gate in the corner of the field.
4. Walk through the pedestrian kissing gate and continue straight on with the fence on your left. Where the fence ends, bear right and follow this path for a short way to a crossing track. Turn left, soon ignoring a path to the right and continue to a road - Chart Lane.
5. Cross the road and take the path opposite. Follow it through the glade for some distance to emerge by a fence on to Emmetts Lane. Turn left ignoring the bridleway opposite.
6. Opposite the entrance to Ide Hill House turn right onto a footpath. Eventually come to a crossing track and waymark post.
7. Leave Emmetts by the footpath by which you entered the garden (immediately next to the tea-room). Go over the stile, ignoring a minor path to the left continue on to a crossroads of paths. Turn left downhill, over crossroads then uphill on a sunken path through Scords Wood.

8. At the next crossroads of paths, go straight ahead and continue on this path for some distance. At the next crossroads, turn right and go steadily uphill. On reaching a junction of 5 paths, maintain direction uphill. At the top, go straight over a crossing track to Chart Lane.
 9. Cross the road and take the path opposite to the left of the house. At a T-junction turn left onto a wide path. Shortly go over a crossing track and continue on this path, ignoring two paths to the left, until you reach the site of Weardale Manor on the left. There is an information panel about the history of the house and its demise.
 10. Maintain direction on the wide stony track between the information panel and the monument, later pass two paths on the right and go through a wooden barrier. Go straight over a crossing track, ignore two paths on the right and continue downhill to exit Toys Hill through posts by a gate. Continue down the lane for some distance - this is usually a quiet lane.
 11. Pass a farm and continue uphill to French Street hamlet. After passing the first few cottages turn left on a sign-posted bridleway and keep left whenever the path forks until reaching a road - Hosey Common Lane.
 12. Turn left onto the road and after a short distance turn right by a National Trust sign for Chartwell. Almost immediately turn right at a T-junction. Follow this wide path down to a gate leading back to the car park. From here you have magnificent views over the estate and the Weald of Kent.
- End point: Chartwell, grid ref: TQ454513
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