

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Wye to Westenhanger via North Downs	Walk No.	363
Area	Kent	Type	Linear
Date	Thursday, 26 May 2022		
Distance	11 miles (18km).		
Timing	4½ hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow 8 hours in total to and from St Pancras. Should be back at St Pancras by about 6.00pm.		
Meeting up & travel	<p>Meet at St Pancras by platforms 11-13 by 10.00am latest to catch 10.11, changing at Ashford to get 11.05 to Wye, arr 11.11. where you will meet the walk leader (Jan) who arrives 6 minutes after your arrival.</p> <p>Buy a Super off-peak day return to Wye. With Senior Railcard cost is £21.80. Unless anyone knows different, you will also need a single from Westenhanger to Ashford as Wye is on a different line. This will cost 4.15 with Senior Railcard, making a grand total of £25.95.</p> <p>I expect us to get to Westenhanger some time between 4.00 and 5.00pm Trains leave at 4.21 (Arr 5.21), 4.49 (6.00) or, most pessimistically, 5.21 (6.21).</p>		
Route	<p>We leave Wye and quickly start a longish, steady climb onto the top of the North Downs to reach the Wye Crown, an extremely large, spectacular even, crown, cut out of the Downs, hopefully visible as we rise. We now walk along the North Downs Way for about 5 miles with magnificent views pretty well all the way, down to the south and west. Next is a short descent to the small and pretty village of Brabourne, where, well over half way through our walk, we find our lunch pub. After lunch, the walk is gentle, through meadows, fields and the odd small wood, with the Downs always in reasonably close sight above us on our left. Close to the end we pass through the village of Stanford to reach Westenhanger station and train home.</p>		
Lunch	Food is available at the Five Bells Inn, Brabourne. If the weather is ok, it has plenty of outside garden seating.		
Dropping out	No obvious drop out.		
Suitability	<p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. A fairly easy walk with one longish, but steady and not too steep climb early on to get on to the Downs.</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain.</p>		
Facilities	There are toilets on the train and at the pub.		
Walk source	Leader's creation		
Maps	OS Explorers 137 and 138		
Leader & contact details	<p><u>Walk Leader:</u> Jan Filochowski <u>Phone:</u> 07879 698 902 <u>e-mail:</u> jan@filochowski.net</p>		