



Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NT

TRAIL
Walking

GRADE
Moderate

DISTANCE
Approximately 5.5 miles (8.9km)

TIME
Approximately 3.5 hours

OS MAP
Explorer 147; grid ref: TQ584535

Contact

01732 810378

ighthammote@nationaltrust.org.uk

Facilities

National Trust

nationaltrust.org.uk/walks

Ightham Motes circular walk to Oldbury Hill

Follow this circular walk from Ightham Mote to the site of Oldbury Hill. This is an area of mixed woodland as well as the site of an Iron Age hill fort with substantial earth ramparts dating from between 150 and 50 BC. Oldbury Hill is owned by us and managed by Kent County Council. Along the route you will see fine views of the Kentish countryside, along with an old quarry (which supplied the ragstone for Ightham Mote) and fish ponds possibly dating to the Roman period. Please note: there are a number of footpaths to explore Oldbury Hill, but these directions climb the main rampart mid-way in the western section to follow a peripheral route around the site.

Terrain

A mixture of footpaths, bridleways, fields and woodlands. Paths climb and descend throughout the walk. Please note: there are some busy roads to cross. Dogs are welcome on the estate, but please keep them on leads when near livestock.

Things to see



Ightham Mote

Ightham Mote is a 14th-century medieval moated manor house that has seen many changes over its 700-year history. It has been home to medieval knights, courtiers to Henry VIII and high-society Victorians.



Anglo-Saxon hill fort

The summit of Oldbury Hill provided a powerfully defensive position. With 2 miles of defensive earth ramparts, Oldbury Hill is one of the finest Iron Age hill forts in the area.



Fishponds

The fishponds are a series of man-made ponds, which are now nearly dry. They possibly date back to Roman times, when they were used for the provision of fresh fish.



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Start/end

Start: Ightham Mote visitor reception; grid ref: TQ584535
End: Ightham Mote visitor reception; grid ref: TQ584535

How to get there

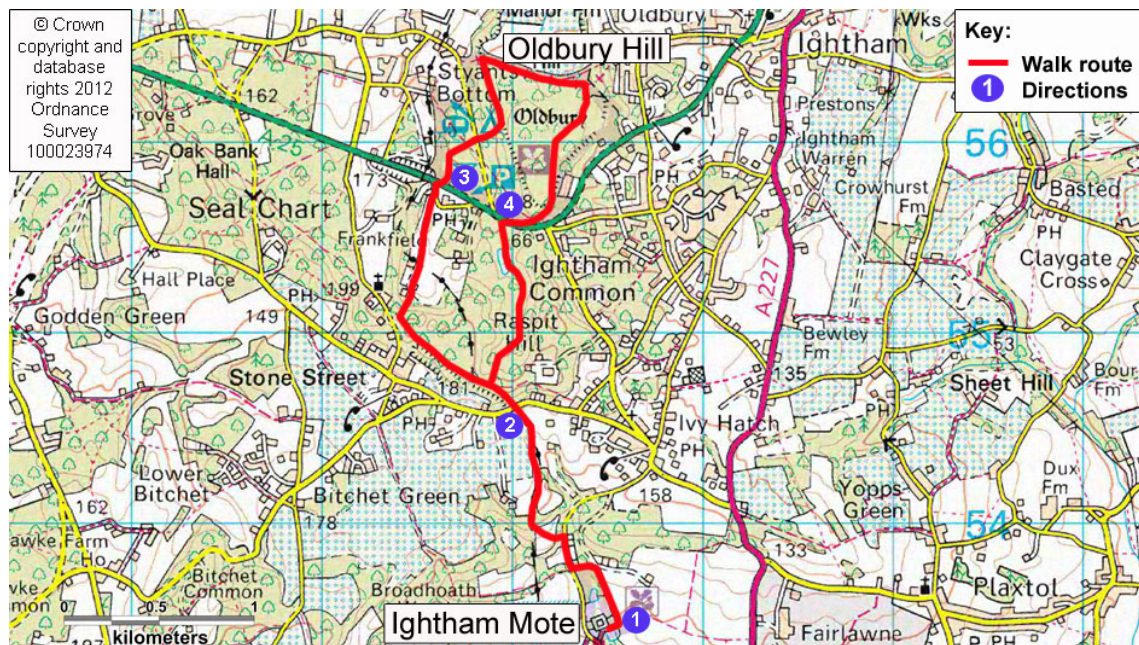
By bus: Nu-Venture 404 from Sevenoaks, calls Thursday and Friday only. On other days alight Ivy Hatch Village (St Mary's Lane), 0.75-mile (1.2 km) walk. Please note: no Saturday or Sunday service. Autocar 222 Tunbridge Wells to Borough Green, alight at Ightham. No Sunday service. 2-mile (3.2km) walk. Arriva 308 Sevenoaks to Gravesend, hourly service Monday to Saturday alight Ightham Common, 2-mile (3.2km) walk.

By train: Borough Green and Wrotham 3.5 miles (5.6km); Hildenborough 4 miles (6.4km); Sevenoaks 7 miles (11.2km). Journey time from London Victoria to Borough Green is approximately 40 minutes.

By road: 6 miles (9.6km) north of Tonbridge on A227; 6 miles (9.6km) south of Sevenoaks on A25; 16 miles (25.7 km) west of Maidstone on A20/A25.

National Trust

nationaltrust.org.uk/walks



1. From Ightham Mote car park, with visitor reception behind you, walk through the walled car park and up the entrance driveway, with fencing and trees to the left and more car parking to the right. At the end of the parking area and as the driveway rises, look for a gap in the fencing and a footpath on the left-hand side. A post with a green walk marker should be visible at this point. Turn left onto this path, initially down a few steps then follow the path to Mote Road. Turn right to walk up the road, past two cottages on the right and a field to the left. After approximately 220yd (200m), take the footpath on the left into a wood that initially runs parallel with the road before turning left up an incline. Carry on up this incline to turn right again to follow the fencing and wood on the right. Continue on this path, which heads north then bears slightly left where the fencing is replaced by stone walling each side, until you reach a road.

2. Cross the road to continue up the bridleway ahead, which is steep and can be strenuous when wet and muddy. This path turns to the left where steps aid the climb up to the high ridge above Stone Street. At the top of the climb there is a good vantage point to pause and look west towards Godden Green and Sevenoaks. Continue along the path with fencing to the left along the high ridge, noting a track forking in from the right. Continue along this track (ignoring a footpath turning down to the right) keeping straight ahead until reaching a second footpath on the right with a stone marker. Turn right down this path through woodland to a wider track by a house and some outbuildings. Walk on down the track to join the slip road by Crown Point and keeping left, proceed to the A25. Cross the A25 to the footpath signpost opposite, to enter Styants Wood.

3. At the footpath sign, take the path straight ahead, going down a slight bank and turning left then right to join the wider path and continue in a northerly direction. At a cross junction, turn right (marker post orange #2) then proceed up an incline and down into the car park. Bear left through the car park to the northern exit and cross the road. Follow the path ahead (ignoring paths to the left and right) up a steep incline with steps. Turn left onto a wide track, walking north again for approximately 164yd (150m) before turning right up the bank (to a slightly higher level) and then turn left to continue on a northerly heading.

4. Continue until the path bears half right before reaching a 6-way junction (orange marker #9). Turn right onto a wide track marked byway (going east) and follow this track past a pond and spring (an ancient watering hole) to a junction (marker #11) and an information board. Take the narrow path marked bridleway which forks to the left and continue on until doing a U-turn right onto a path from the right just before the bridleway heads down a gully. Walk a short distance to a five-way junction, take the path at 10 o'clock, and follow the eastern rampart boundary. Continue along this path, through a clearing and up a slight gradient to pass two viewing points. The path widens for some distance and then slopes down. Before you reach the barrier, take the narrower left fork, which follows down to join a wider path to the southern entrance gate and the A25.

5. Cross back over the A25 using the central island as a halfway point and turn right. Walk along the grass verge and turn left at the footpath signpost onto a shady path through woodland. Follow this path past the fish ponds and continue on to walk up a steep slope and steps. Turn left to rejoin the high ridge track previously walked and after a few steps, bear right off the wide track to a path with fencing on the right. Follow this path retracing previous steps down the steep incline to cross Stone Street road, walking on ahead and back to Ightham Mote turning right down to the silt trap and Green

Walk path. Turn left to take the path up to the Ightham Mote car park or alternatively carry on down Mote Road for a fine view of the house and gardens past the cottages to the rear entrance to Ightham Mote. Turn left into the estate and follow the bridleway past the house and back to the car park.
