



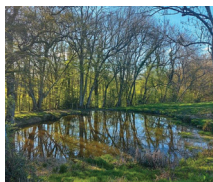
This family and dog friendly walk highlights some of the fascinating, and at times, hidden history of the K&ESR railway line, which originally ran from Tenterden all the way to Headcorn.

1 Turn right out of Tenterden Station yard and go over the level crossing. Follow the footpath down through the car park and look for a kissing gate in the bottom fence under a power line.

Pass through the kissing gate and follow the power line across the field to a bridge in the far corner. Cross the bridge and continue up hill with a fence on your left.

At a junction of paths take the left fork between fences to reach another kissing gate. Pass through the gate and keep to the field boundary with the hedge on your left.

Pass to the left of a pond (*a WW2 bomb crater*) to find another kissing gate in the corner of the field. Go through the kissing gate and descend to cross a plank bridge into another field. Walk along the left hand side of this field, passing another pond and after a further 200 yds (approx) go through a kissing gate on the left.



Turn right along the boundary of this field to a gate in the top corner. There is a kissing gate to the right of the main gate. Pass through the kissing gate and walk half right across the field towards buildings on a lane beyond the far corner. (*Silcocks farm shop and cafe offer dog friendly refreshments here*).

2 Turn right along the lane (*beware traffic*) for 550 metres/630 yards to a crossroads with bungalows on the left. *This was formerly the site of a level crossing beside St. Michaels Station. The surfaced track to the right is the trackbed of the former Headcorn to Tenterden section of the Kent & East Sussex Railway (see overleaf).*

3 Turn right to follow the line of the railway back towards Tenterden. The path rises to the summit of the former railway and then descends, gently at first, then steeply at a point where the former embankment has been cut away, rising again to return to track level at a point where a fence prevents you accessing the line any further.

4 Turn left and pass through a gate into a cul-de-sac. Look for a path on the right that ascends between houses to another road. Turn left and at the road junction turn right.

Follow this road until it bears left up a hill marked "Private Road". From here there is a view of the headshunt at Tenterden Town station over the gate on your right.



Tenterden to St. Michaels (circular walk)

Trail Information

Distance:
3.5 miles (5.7km)

Time for walk:
2 hours

Time of train journey:
No train journey required

Maps:
OS Explorer 125 and 137

Parking:
Tenterden Station

Grid reference:
TQ882335.

Start of walk:
Tenterden Station

Terrain:
Field paths, quiet lane, former railway track, urban streets and town centre.

Refreshment:
Tenterden Station Refreshment Rooms, Silcocks Farm Shop and Cafe in St. Michaels, Public Houses and Cafes in Tenterden

Public Transport:
Traveline - 0870 6082608. K&ESR Train from Bodiam or Northiam.





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Tenterden to St. Michaels (circular walk)

5 Ascend the private road. Bear left through the car park at the retirement bungalows and descend the alleyway into Tenterden town centre.

Turn right past the shops. Pass the Town Hall on the right and bear right along the path past the door of St. Mildreds Church and down steps to a road.

Turn right. At the end of the road turn left down the public footpath. Turn right on the next road to return to Tenterden Station.



St. Michaels Halt

A small halt opened on 1st May 1912 to serve the St Michaels area of Tenterden (*known as Boresisle until Victorian times*) which had grown up around the Victorian church of that name.

It had a short wooden platform and an adjacent hut for parcels and ticket collection. Land was taken for a goods siding but it was never used.

This little halt seems to have proved a sensible investment, for throughout the 20th Century the area was the focus of much of the expansion in housing for the town.

The part-time booking clerk for St. Michaels halt between the wars was, unusually, a female, a Miss Goodall. She was the sister of George Goodall who worked for the railway as a carriage cleaner and carpenter.

Trail Information

There are no stiles and the footpaths are well maintained. Some slopes may be slippery in wet weather.

Public rights of way:

All walks have legal access to land using public paths and bridleways. Walkers should take care to stick to the correct paths and ensure that dogs are kept under close control.

Equipment & clothing:

Walking boots or shoes are recommended for all walks and protective clothing should be carried.

Country code:

- Do not drop litter.
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it.
- Do not pick flowers and plants.
- Face oncoming traffic on country lanes (except on blind bends where the outside should be taken to ensure that traffic in both directions can see you).
- Do not start fires.
- Fasten all gates.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Do not make unnecessary noise.



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