

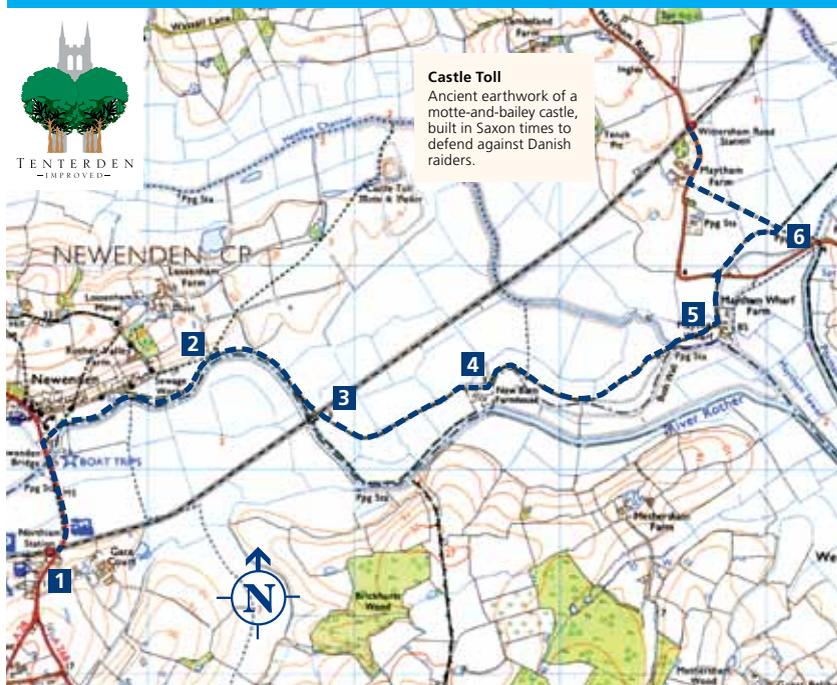


Railtrail 4 – Northiam Station to Wittersham Road Station



Castle Toll

Ancient earthwork of a motte-and-bailey castle, built in Saxon times to defend against Danish raiders.



1 From Northiam Station go left, in a northerly direction, on the A28. (*Busy road, take care.*)

Cross the railway and, after approx. 50 yds (46m), pass through a gate on the left, into a field. Follow a path, with a hedge to your right, which runs parallel to the road.

At the far end of the path, pass through a gate to rejoin the A28 and go left, to cross a bridge over the River Rother.

Immediately after passing buildings on the right, go right at a finger-post, to join a bridleway. Follow the bridleway across a sports field and cross a stile, to the left of a gate, to reach the north bank of the river.

Keep ahead to pass through a gate with a PWAACS sign (Paddock Wood Angling and Conservation Society) and follow the riverbank to reach a path on the left.

To visit Castle Toll, go left and follow this clear path for approx ¾ mile (1.2km). After visiting the earthwork retrace steps to point 2

2 Continue along the riverbank and after the river has completed a sharp right-hand turn, by a 'Danger' warning sign, the path bears left and rises on to the dyke, to cross the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

Take care here, particularly with children – Stop, Look and Listen before crossing the track.

3 Pass through the crossing gates on either side of the track and keep ahead across a field, with a ditch to your right.

At the far side of the field, pass through an opening in a boundary fence to another field and keep ahead.

When the ditch turns sharply right, keep ahead, now with a reeded ditch to your left, towards a metal gate in the top left corner of the pasture.

4 Pass through the gate and keep ahead. The farmhouse at New Barn Farm can be seen to your right, partly screened by trees.

Go through another gate, with galvanised sheeting each side, and continue with a ditch to your immediate right.

Pass through a modern metal gate and bear slightly left to another gate approx. 350yds (320m) ahead.

Pass through the gate and follow a mesh and barbed wire fence to your left, towards the brick buildings of a pumping station.

5 Cross a bridge over the Hexden Channel, to the left of the pumping station, and follow a wide stony path towards Maytham Wharf Farm.

On reaching the farm, take the right of two gates, to the left of the farm entrance.

Continue on a track, ignoring a path on the right by the red letter box, to reach Wittersham Road. (*Busy road, take care.*)

Cross the road and go left, then almost immediately right to join a bridleway through a field.

After curving to the right the track bends sharply left.

6 Approx. 50 yds (46m) after this sharp bend go left, to leave the bridleway, and cross a bridge over a ditch into a field.

Follow a path across two fields, separated by a bridge, heading to the left of buildings at Maytham Farm, on the far side, to reach Wittersham Road.

Go right on Wittersham Road for approx. 300 yds (274m), to reach Wittersham Road Station. (*Busy road, take care.*)

Trail Information

Distance: 3¾ miles (6km).

Time for walk: 2 hours.

Time for train journeys:

Tenterden to Northiam – 30 minutes (approx).

Wittersham to Tenterden – 19 minutes (approx).

Maps: OS Explorer 125.

Parking: Tenterden Station.

Grid reference: TQ882335.

Start of Walk: Northiam Station.

Terrain:

Riverside and field paths.

Refreshment:

Tenterden Station Refreshment Rooms.

Public houses in Northiam and Newenden.

Public Transport:

Buses: Traveline - 0870 6082608.

