Walk 7: One Tree Hill figure of 8

The fantastic wooded greensand ridge of the North Downs figures strongly, plus medieval Ightam Mote. Another take on Walk 6 with Wilmot Hill thrown in.

How long? 3-4hrs/5 miles
Public transport: Nearest rail is Sevenoaks and Hildenborough. From there it’s a taxi I’m afraid.
Parking: One Tree Hill NT car park on Carters Hill, Sevenoaks, near Knole Park
Start of walk: aforementioned car park
Steep slopes? some steps on the escarpment, nothing prolonged

Walk highlights
Wonderful trees clinging to the cliff-like sandstone ridge with vistas beyond across the Weald to the Bidborough ridge and the Ashdown Forest. Medieval glory of the NT’s Ightam Mote. Chaser Inn pub at Shipbourne is excellent. Ordnance Survey Explorer 147 map

Click here for GPX map of route showing realtime location

The only farmland stretches of this walk are around Shipbourne (where the Chaser Inn is much recommended) and after Budd’s Green. Then you are back in the woods. On the return, you enter a section where sandstone boulders mark the way and the trees tangle together in a jungle-like fashion. Watch out for a very tall, straight-trunked oak tree here and an abundance of butterflies in spring/summer. Kestrels hunt along the edge of the fields below and I’ve seen buzzards, hobbies and a tawny owl here too. Look out for llamas in the fields as you pass White Rock Farm.

Later, there are more views of the Weald from the escarpment (here called Rooks Hill) and trees growing out of the side of the cliff. A surprising and richly varied walk, but, alas, muddy from November to April.

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