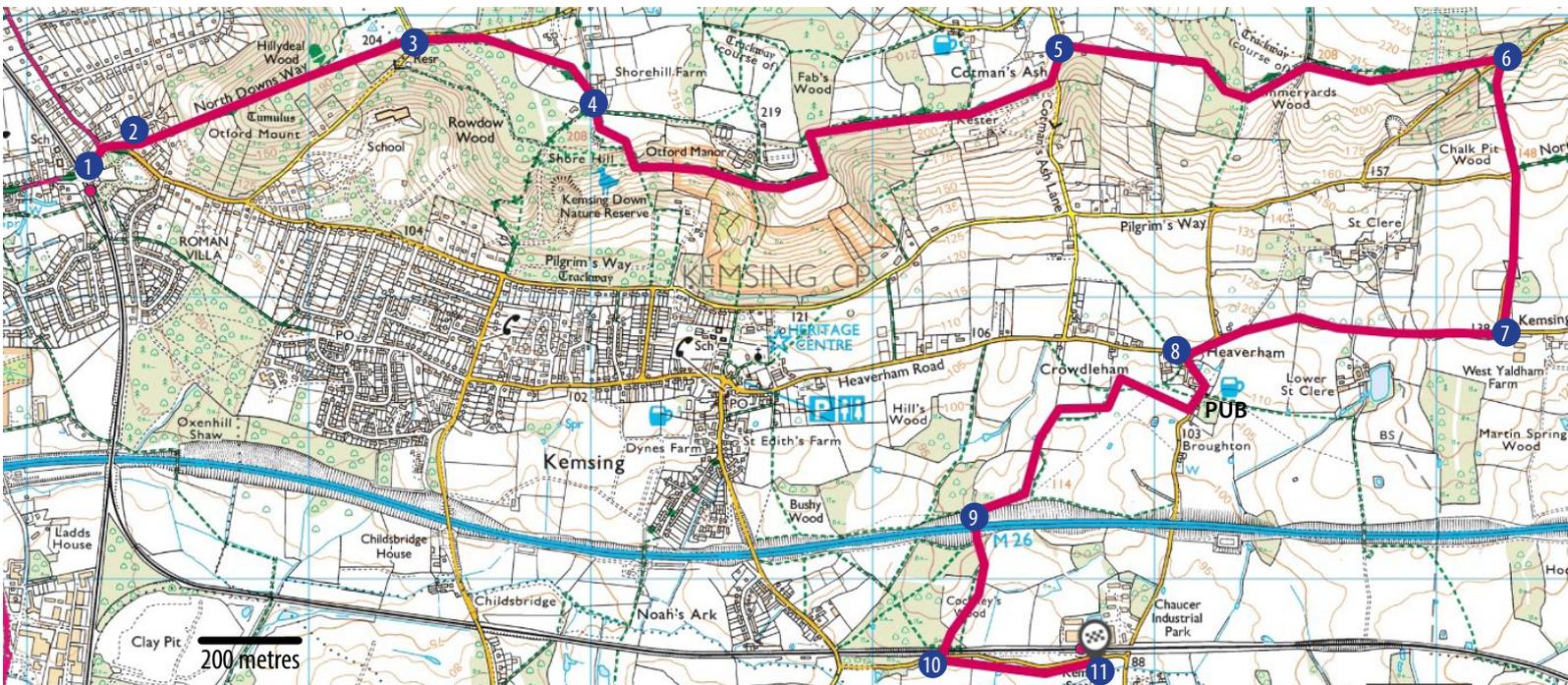


Walk 27: Otford station-Kemsing station

A linear North Downs escarpment walk of 6.5 miles that takes the scenic route between Otford and Kemsing railway stations via Heaverham. Allow 40 minutes after the pub to reach Kemsing station



How long? 6.5 miles (allow 4-5 hours including drink at pub)

Start Otford railway station (Thameslink line to Sevenoaks from Blackfriars via Catford). Please remember to buy tickets to Otford, not Oxted or Oxford!

End Kemsing railway station (fast hourly Southeastern services back to Bromley South then a quick change back to services for SE London).

What will I see? Great 'garden of England' views, peaceful meadows, woods, wildflowers, 17th-century St Clere house and parkland, Kemsing Down SSSI.

Refreshments Chequers Inn, Heaverham

[Click here for GPX track](#)

Alternative route retrace your steps from the Chequers Inn to return to Otford station for a 10-mile walk in total

START Points 1-2 215m. Leave Otford station at its main exit (at the rear of the train) and turn right (heading east) on the A225 (Station Road). Now, turn right at Pilgrim's Way East. After a few metres take the path opposite, uphill signposted North Downs Way (looks like a private drive).

Point 2-3 1km. Path enters light woodland and has some steps in it. Seat on left to admire view. At the top is a grassy field. Keep on right hand side and pass through trees to a junction of country lanes.

Point 3-4 700m. Continue along lane heading east (Birchin Cross Rd) until you rejoin the North Downs Way on right. Continue east on the North Downs Way. Walk alongside field on your left, past large isolated house to Shorehill Lane.

Point 4-5 2km. Turn right on Shorehill Lane then very soon left to continue on North Downs Way now heading southeastwards. The path has short downhill and uphill sections but ignore paths heading right to the bottom of the hill to stay generally at the top of the escarpment. Follow the signs for North Downs Way at all times. The path passes near Otford Manor and soon a lovely spot with a wooden cross

surrounded by wildflowers. Soon the path turns sharp left to head north along a field with a very old brick wall that has something to do with Otford Manor to the left. It then turns sharply east again. Follow it all the way until it meets Cotman's Ash Lane.

Point 5-6 1.7km: At Cotman's Ash Lane turn left then very soon right to resume the North Downs Way, passing through meadows, woodland and along fields until you hit another country lane: Old Terry's Lodge Rd.

Point 6-7 1.2km: At Old Terry's Lodge Rd turn right then almost immediately left to head straight down the escarpment at a spectacular spot above the St Clere Estate. The path then joins a country lane (Kemsing Rd) that branches off Pilgrim's Way heading south. Continue down this road for about 300 metres to reach a junction of lanes.

Point 7-8 1km At the junction turn right and follow the lane/bridlepath through the attractive St Clere estate with the large 17th century house on your right across a field. After descending a shallow hill the lane reaches a T-junction.

Point 8-9 1.5km At the T-junction turn

left on to Watery Lane. Stop off at the Chequers Inn with pleasant outdoor area for refreshment, keeping your eye on the time for the train back from isolated Kemsing station because you should leave the pub with **at least 35 minutes** to spare, unless you fancy walking down hazardous no-pavement Watery Lane to the station (only 15 minutes). For the footpath to the station turn left (south) from the pub then immediately see the footpath sign to your right. Follow the path round the edges of fields. Soon you'll be heading straight south. As you near the M26, turn right on the path to find a footbridge across the motorway.

Point 9-10 600m Having crossed the motorway follow the path south entering a wild field with loads of molehills or anthills and long grass (well, it was like that at the time of writing). It's hard to discern a path at this point so head straight for the railway line beyond on an embankment but note the woods on your right. Enter these woods close to the railway line via a stile and carefully cross the lines themselves to reach Honeypot Lane.

Point 10-11 400m Turn left on this pleasant quiet lane and, voila, Kemsing Station, and your train home. amac49@hotmail.co.uk

