

# Walk 29: Oldbury Iron Age Fort circular

A Greensand Ridge walk around an ancient fort in rich woodland with a mysterious atmosphere

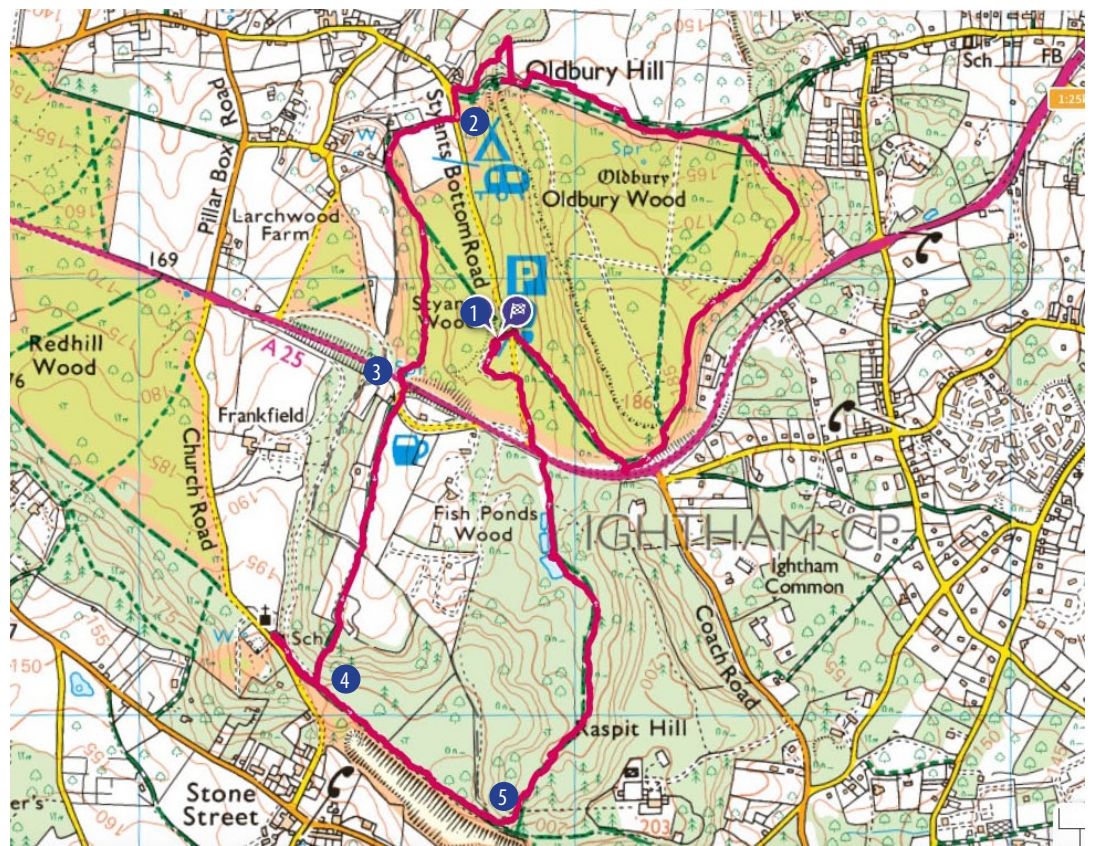
**How long?** 4.2 miles (2.5 hours)

**Start/End** Styants Bottom Rd NT car park off the A25, Seal Chart. Nearest stations Sevenoaks, Bat & Ball, Borough Green (then taxi)

**What will I see?** Iron Age fort, deep woods, ponds, sandy paths, a pleasant meadow area

**Refreshments** Ightham Mote NT cafe nearby, also Chaser Inn at Shipbourne. Amherst Inn is on the route, just off the A25

[GPX map of this route](#)



## Point 1-2 2km

Leave Styants Bottom Rd National Trust car park and head across the road south east. Join path with ditch (part of the Iron Age ramparts) on your right, below you. Continue to walk by the ditch and follow the path as it nears the A25 then goes around the fort perimeter with the summit on your left. (If you want to cut it a bit shorter, you can take a path on the left over the top of the fort and rejoin the circumference path to the north.) After 1km or so you reach the northern part of the fort and can see across fields to the North Downs ridge, Heaverham, Kemsing and the St Clere Estate. Walk on the edge of the fields or on the parallel path in the woods. As you near Styants Farm House, the path descends between sandstone outcrops on a holloway.

## Point 2-3 800m

Head south on the road (Styants Bottom Rd again) then turn right as you reach Oldbury campsite on your right. The path takes you around

the campsite, resuming its track south through woodlands. Continue towards the A25 which you will be able to hear soon.

## Point 3-4 800m

You should emerge from the woods on the A25 with a tarmac lane roughly opposite. The Amherst Inn should be in a dip to the left. Carefully cross and head down this lane passing a couple of houses and horse pastures. Very pleasant little area this. Soon the lane becomes a path and heads up through woods. At a path T-junction at the top, turn left (or turn right to see lovely St Lawrence Church in its woody setting).

## Point 4-5 800m

Head south-east on this path (having turned left). Soon there will be warning signs about an unseen cliff on the right behind trees. This is a greensand cliff (a kind of sandstone glauconite) set back from the main ridge, though converging on it behind Ightham Mote. After 800

metres at a slightly more open area note widely spaced 'giant' steps cut in a steep slope on the left. Descend them!

## Point 5-end 1.1km

After descending the steps at point 5 simply follow the sandy path north (pictured, right) through lovely secluded-feeling Fishpond woods. Eventually you'll reach three marshy ponds on your left with fallen logs and giant water plants that look like something out of the Jurassic era. It's a really special spot, something quite distinct on the Kent Walks Near London routes. Soon after this, the path arrives at the A25 nearly opposite Styants Bottom Rd and the car park. Take great care crossing the A25; it's not the busiest A-road but cars travel pretty fast on it.

This walk is one of several routes on the Greensand Ridge at KWNL; these are Ide Hill, Hosey Common, Westerham, and the nearby One Tree Hill and Underriver routes.



Sand path heading back to start after Point 5