

WALKING FROM TONBRIDGE TO TUDELEY

The walk from Tonbridge to Tudeley is delightful, except the first bit which is in town. It is about two and a half miles, and will take perhaps an hour, depending on your pace. Starting from Tonbridge Railway Station:

1) With your back to the station, turn right and walk to a pedestrian crossing with lights. Cross over (NB: **public toilets** ahead of you) Turn right and walk along past a parade of shops till you reach a roundabout. Turn left into Pembury Road.

2) Walk up Pembury Road. The road rises to the crest of the hill and then descends. At the end there is another roundabout. Cross Woodgate Way and keep straight on along Pembury Road. After 50 yards there is a little black and white lodge on the left with a green FOOTPATH fingerpost. Go through the ironwork gate into Somerhill park. Follow the metalled lane; this is path WT186, waymarked as part of the Tunbridge Wells Circular High Weald Walk.

3) The lane passes a small lodge house on the right. Shortly thereafter a footpath bears off to the left, leading towards the big house (now a school). Pass in front of the big house, heading left, and find a path leading round the lefthand side of the house to a charming footpath lane between high sided walls (may be wet underfoot).

4) Follow the footpath all the way until you meet a metalled track. Keep going straight on. The lane curves round to the right, while the path turns sharp left off the lane and heads uphill. Keep to the left hand field edge, and pass through a charming wooded dell.

5) When you meet the road, turn left inside the hedge. This is a permissive path that saves you from being run over on the narrow and busy road. Walk along for a few hundred yards with the hedge on your right, and through a gap in the hedge you will see the road and a lane opposite, leading to All Saints Church Tudeley. This is WT180. Walk up to the church.

If you have brought sandwiches, and the sun is shining, you can sit on one of the benches in the churchyard, looking across the Medway valley to the distant hills, and hearing the skylarks.

If not, as you met the road you may have seen an Indian restaurant called Turmeric Gold: they say they are a bar as well, so you could get a drink. The Poacher is half a mile to the north on Hartlake Road. Or you can walk back into Tonbridge where there are pubs and cafes.

