

CUT OUT
& KEEP

Rudyard Kipling's former home Bateman's at Burwash

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Puck of Pook's Hill

A classic walk from the attractive East Sussex village of Burwash to visit Bateman's, the former home of Rudyard Kipling

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Burwash sits on a ridge which separates the Dudwell and Rother valleys in the heart of the High Weald, East Sussex. The village was

important to the southeast's iron industry right up to the 18th century, echoes of which are easily spotted today among the pretty weather-boarded and half-timbered houses along the High Street.

Like many places near the south coast, the village was a magnet for smugglers, as evidenced by graves in the cemetery of the Church of St Bartholomew.

Nearby Bateman's is the Jacobean home of writer and poet Rudyard Kipling, where he wrote *Puck of Pook's Hill* and the world-famous poem, *If*, but its origin is also related to the iron industry, being built out of local sandstone by a wealthy ironmaster. After the decline of iron making and a period as a farmhouse, it was restored



Illustration: Graham Jeffrey

in 1902. Kipling bought it and lived there until his death in 1936. His widow, Caroline, or Carrie, left their beloved Bateman's to the National Trust on her death three years later.

The latter part of our walk goes right past the millpond and watermill (powered by the River Dudwell) as well as the house and its gardens.

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Membership starts from £2.50 per month and grants access to a comprehensive programme of guided walks and strolls. Non-members can take part in taster sessions. 01798 875073 (Monday to Wednesday 9am to 1pm). friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk





COMPASS POINTS

- Location:** Burwash, East Sussex.
- Distance:** 8.6 km (5.4 miles).
- Terrain:** Woodland and meadows; Holton Lane may be muddy in places.
- Ascent:** 183m (600ft).
- Where to park:** Village car park (free).
- Grid reference:** TQ 674247
- Sat nav:** TN19 7ET
- What3Words:** ///football.mush.prank
- Map:** OS Explorer 136, *High Weald*.
- Dog-friendly:** Yes.
- Refreshments:** Pubs and café in Burwash, tea room at Bateman's.

THE WALK

1 Cross the road, turn right along the High Street and then, after 100m, go left onto Ham Lane where you'll soon pass the Rose & Crown Pub on the left. About 300m further on, look out for some double metal gates on the right of the track and go through a partly hidden gate before turning right to walk across the middle of a field.

2 As the path descends, another gate comes into view. On reaching it, turn left behind a hedge. The path drops down to recross Ham Lane into another field. The path here is less distinct, but the exit into the woods is over a stile in the bottom right-hand corner where a fence closes in from the right. Cross a plank bridge into a field and go half-right to another with a cattle grid alongside. In 250m, at a wide gap in the hedge, turn left over a stile.

3 With the obvious path going up the hill on your left, aim slightly right to pass through a gap in a fence with a copse on the right. On the other side, the direction to take is just to the left of another copse by a small pond. Join a track

(ignoring the gate ahead that leads into woods) and follow it as it curves around Franchise Manor. It passes between farm buildings and ascends to join an asphalt drive that leads up Holton Hill, passing a World War II memorial to a downed Hurricane pilot along the way.

4 At the crest, bear left onto a road for a few metres before turning right onto a bridleway known as Holton Lane. This track, which can be muddy in places even in summer, follows the ridge for 2km. Just before reaching a metal gate, follow the path left as it rises to reach the A265.

5 Go right along the road for 40m, then turn left along a drive. Where it swings sharply right, continue ahead. After 60m, ignore the fork right to go through a gate on the left and then go left again by a large oak. Follow the field edge and shortly cross a stile by a gate into an area populated by young oak trees.

6 The path wends its way down to the end of a lane by Rye Green Farm and becomes a wide

track for a while. At a gate, ignore the path on the left going uphill – 300m further on the path reaches the river Dudwell. Cross over the high bridge and turn left.

7 Bateman's soon comes into view. Walk around the millpond and turn left along a lane. Just after passing the big house turn right along a road and then after 200m go left over a stile.

8 Head up the right edge of a field, then slightly right into the field beyond to pass to the right of a copse. At a junction of paths just after passing through a gate, turn left uphill and shortly fork left again to reach the village car park. ♦

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