



9. Continue up the hill past farm buildings, a path and a house on the left. Continue as the metalled road gives way to a bridleway. There are usually ponies in the fields on the right.
10. Continue on the bridleway, which bends right and left. Continue straight on and note the soft fruit growing in the fields either side, one of the main industries for Otham and surrounding parishes.
11. Just after a sharp right bend the bridleway joins the road, Honey Lane. Straight ahead is Thatch Hall, which contains elements of its origins as a Hall House. Keep right, passing White Horse Cottage, one of the original inns of the village.
12. Turn right along Simmonds Lane and walk to the T junction with White Horse Lane/Otham Street.
13. Turn right, signposted Otham and Bearsted. Pass Synyards, on the right one of Otham's historical hall houses, built in the 15th Century. A little further on, on the left and easier to see is Belks, built as a farmhouse in late 14th Century or early 15th Century. Continuing down Otham Street, you can glimpse Stoneacre once more across the valley to the right.
14. Just before you reach the Village Hall on the right, there is a turning to the left, which, although currently unmarked, is a footpath (KM90). From the beginning of this path you

have a clear view of Otham Manor (formerly Wardes), which is a Grade 1 listed late 14th Century Hall House with 16th Century alterations. It was renovated in 1912 by Sir Louis Mallet, ambassador to Constantinople at the outbreak of the 1st World War.

15. Follow the path through trees along the edge of a field. Another path joins from the left (KM85), keep straight on. You are walking through ancient woodlands with many oaks, chestnuts and other trees.
16. The path joins a wide path coming from the left (not a footpath, but a private track belonging to Gore Court) and your path bears right and widens out. A bend in the path reveals the magnificent, panoramic view of the North Downs and Otham Church to the left. Continue straight down to the junction with the path you walked along at the beginning.
17. Turn left and retrace your steps back to the Church.



18. If you have time, walk around the beautiful Churchyard and look at some the historical gravestones. St Nicholas is 12th-century, Grade I listed building.

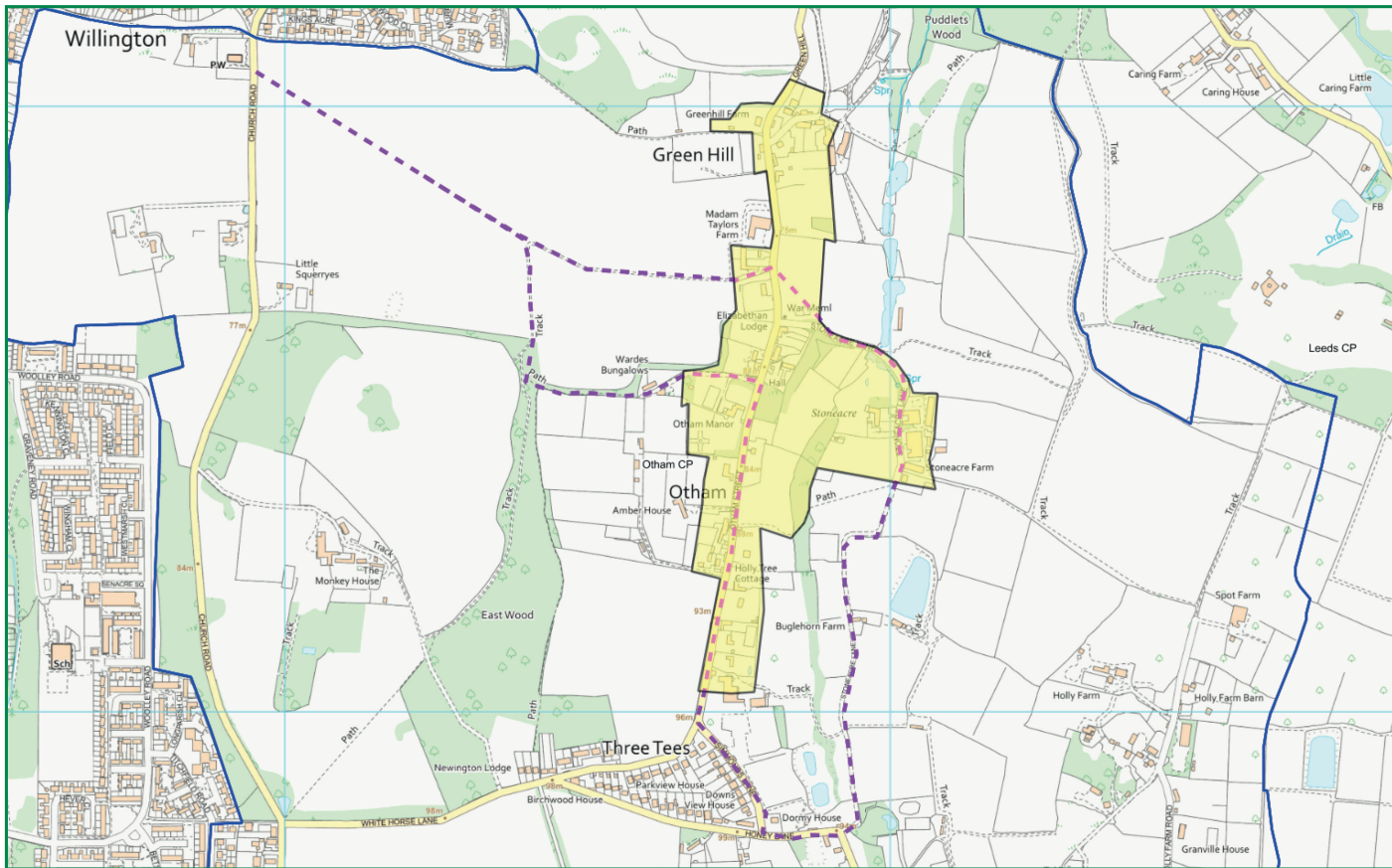
## OTHAM HERITAGE TRAIL 1

### A CIRCULAR WALK FROM ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, OTHAM

2.7 miles







1. From Otham Church, take the footpath (KM 88) directly opposite the lychgate.
2. Follow the path across the large field. Note the lovely views of the North Downs to your left and look back over your shoulder at views of the Church. In this field you may see buzzards or hear skylarks in season.

3. Ignore the footpath going off to the right and continue up a slight incline to the gate. Go through and walk the short distance to the road past pretty houses on the left, formerly farm buildings.
4. Cross the road on to the Green. Walk diagonally south east (right) across the



Green. If you have time, walk up to the war memorial and the unusual village sign and look again at the view across the Green to the North Downs.

5. The village sign was erected for the centenary of the parish council. The plaque reads 'Otham Parish Council 1894-1994 the tools that shaped our village'. The tools include a mallet, a mattock, a hop-dog, an auger, an adze and a thatcher's knife.



6. Join the metalled road signposted to Stoneacre and walk down the short steep hill, looking across the valley and sheep field.
7. At the bottom, pause to look at the old fishponds on the left and right, home to much wildlife. You can take the small bridge if the stream is flowing over the road.



8. Walk up the short steep hill and look at Stoneacre on the right, a 15th Century Yeoman's Hall House. This small but beautiful National Trust property is open to the public from March to September. For opening times see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneacre>