



Pic 1: The small pavement along the road

Pic 2: The 'Broadwater Road'



Pic 3: The turning onto the trail

Pic 4: The trail leading into the orchard



Pic 5: The path through the orchard

Pic 6: The turning onto Water lane

The Abbey 'No Barrier' Walk

Walk overview:

Distance: 2.5 miles (4 km)

Time: 1.5 – 2 hours

Description: A longer 'no barrier' walk. Take in the eastern surroundings of the town and visit West Malling abbey.



Leave The Farm House, turn to the right and walk along the High Street until the first street on the right. Turn right onto 'Swan Street' and keep walking straight along it for about 0.9 miles (1.5 km) (at the beginning you can see West Malling abbey with a very nice waterfall on the right and later you will walk under railway and road bridge). Behind the bridges you can walk along a small pavement on the left side of the road **(1)** until the first crossroad.

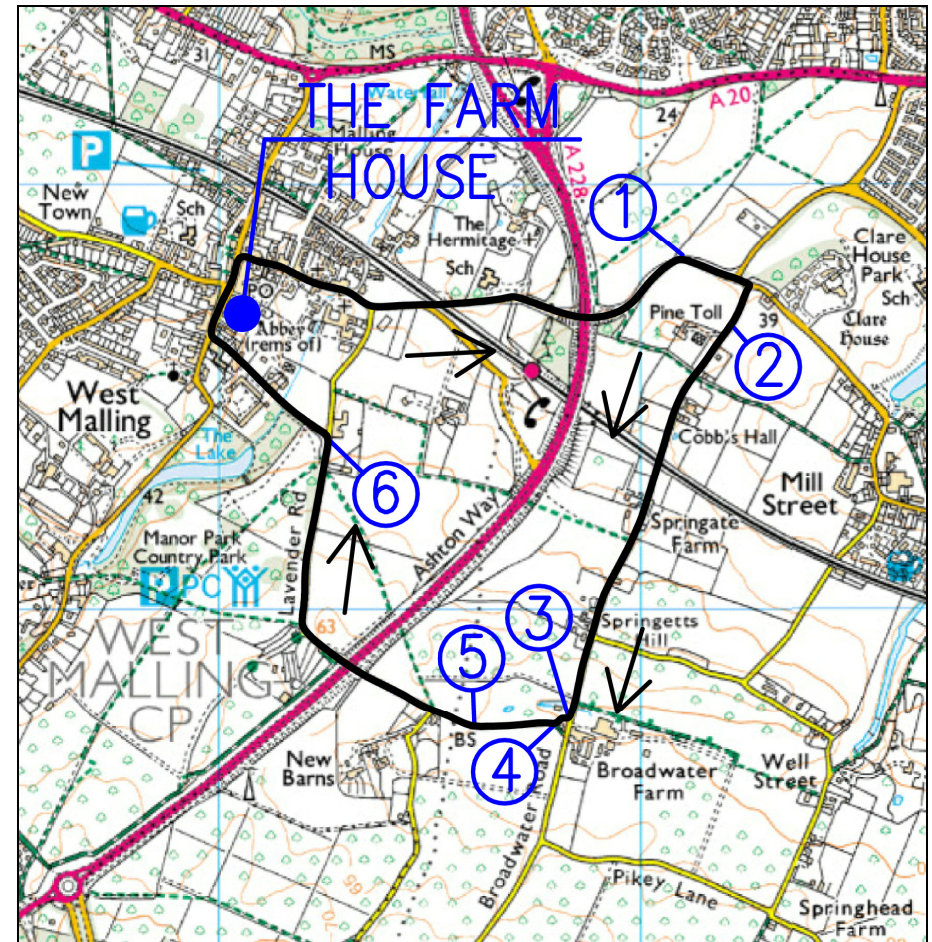
Turn right onto 'Broadwater Road' and follow this road **(2)** for about 0.9 miles (1.5km) until a crossroad with a track **(3)** (the crossroad is just behind 'Quiet Lane' post on the right). Turn right onto the track and carry on along it into the orchard **(4)**. Keep walking along the track through the orchard **(5)** until a small trail on the left (it's right next to the buildings). Turn left onto it, and later turn right onto the road.

Follow the road over a bridge until a T-junction. Turn right onto the road and continue along it for about 0.3 miles (500m) until the first crossroad **(6)**. Turn left onto 'Water Lane' and follow it for about 0.2 miles (300m) until a T-junction. Turn right onto the High Street and go back to The Farm House.

St. Mary's Abbey (Malling Abbey)

The manor of West Malling was given by King Edmund to Burhric, Bishop of Rochester in 946. About 1090 Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester and monk of Bec Abbey in Normandy, chose Malling as the site of his foundation for a community of Benedictine nuns, one of the first post-Conquest monasteries for women. Just before his death in 1108, Gundulf appointed the French nun Avicia as the first abbess. Royal grants gave the nuns the rights to weekly markets and annual fairs as well as wood-cutting and pasturage rights in nearby royal forests.

As the Abbey prospered, West Malling became a flourishing market town. In the four-and-a-half centuries of Benedictine life at the Abbey, major events included a fire in 1190 which destroyed much of the Abbey and town, the Black Death in 1349 which reduced the community to four nuns and four novices, and the surrender of Malling to the Crown on 28 October 1538, during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Immediately before the Dissolution, Malling Abbey had an annual income of £245, and with many buildings it was a rich prize for the Crown. During the 350 years that followed the Abbey was owned by many families, most being absentee owners.



The Anglican Benedictine community of nuns that has made its home at Malling Abbey since 1916 was founded in 1891 as an active parish sisterhood. The sisters worked among the poor in Edmonton, North London until they became attracted to the Benedictine contemplative life through the preaching of Abbot Aelred Carlyle. In 1916 the Trustees of Malling Abbey invited them to move to the more spacious and historic Abbey and to continue its tradition of Benedictine prayer, worship, work, study, and hospitality.