

Lamberhurst

Lamberhurst is located about 10 miles to the East of Royal Tunbridge Wells on the busy A21, the main London to Hastings road. It is a village and civil parish in Kent. The village lies in the valley of the River Teise, one of the main tributaries of the River Medway. The valley of one of its tributaries, the River Bewl, was dammed and flooded between 1973 and 1975 creating the Bewl Water reservoir.

The first record of Lamberhurst is in Saxon times during 998 when the church was consecrated, but this was probably a wooden structure. The current church was started in the 14th century and the tower completed in the 15th century.

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, Lamberhurst was a centre for the Wealden iron industry, originally set up during Roman times. Lamberhurst furnace was known as Gloucester Forge - named after a visit by the Duke of Gloucester. The forge became one of the most famous Wealden ironworks, being the main contractor for supplying railings for St Pauls Cathedral (In 1976 the Dean and Chapter of St Pauls returned a section of the railing to be preserved in the village by the Village Hall.)

The village was bypassed in 2005 by the A21 trunk road which previously ran through the village. The decision caused some controversy due to its location in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Until 1894 the Kent and East Sussex boundary ran through the village, when it was decided that the village must belong to either one county or the other. As hop growing was the main industry of the day, and hops in Kent were fetching a better price than in Sussex, Lamberhurst became part of Kent.

Source: kent.villagenet.co.uk
www.wikipedia.org



Margaret Thatcher is shopping in Lamberhurst local shop, 1974

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www.kentwalks.co.uk

The Little Vineyard StrollWalk overview:

Distance:	1.5 miles (2 km)
Time:	0.5 – 1 hour
Description:	A fairly short and easy walk through the old village of Lamberhurst.



High Street
Lamberhurst, 1925

Lamberhurst village
1908



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WALKS OF THE VINEYARD No. 9

Leave The Vineyard, turn left and walk down the road until a crossroad. Join the bigger road and continue down the hill for about 0.5 miles (800m) until a crossroad in front of the village shop in the centre of the village (1). Turn right onto the road (follow the 'Hastings' signpost) and keep walking for about 50 yards (50m) until a 'Public Footpath' signpost on the right. Turn right (follow the signpost) and continue straight (join the road) until a T-junction. Turn left onto the bigger road (it turns sharply to the right) and keep walking along it until the end.

Continue straight along the pavement (follow a 'Public Footpath' signpost) and walk up the hill through two wooden gates (2). Keep walking up along the school ground until a wooden gate (3). Go through it and carry on until a T-junction with a road. Turn left onto the road and keep walking until another T-junction.

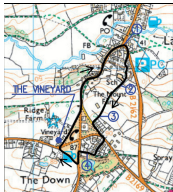
Turn left onto the road and follow it for about 50 yards (50m) until the first crossroad. Turn right onto the road ('Down Avenue') and keep walking until the end of the road. At the end continue straight along a footpath until a T-junction. Turn right onto the pavement (4) and keep walking until the T-junction with a road. Turn left and after about 70 yards (70m) turn right onto the trail. Keep walking along the trail through the village ground, and at the end cross the road and go back to The Vineyard.



Pic 1: The signpost in the centre of Lamberhurst

Pic 2: The gate leading to the footpath along the school ground

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Pic 3: The wooden gate leading onto a driveway

Pic 4: The footpath behind the houses