

# THE WILDSHARK VINEYARD WALK

## Walk Overview

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.2km)

**Time:** 2.5 hours

**Description:** Along the North Downs Way with beautiful views to the North Downs. Descend to head for Wildshark Vineyard with a chalk stream and then through the vines passing the reception area.



The Dirty Habit  
Upper St, Hollingbourne,  
Maidstone  
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1. Onto The North Downs Way.



2. Towards the North Downs



3. Vines of Wildshark Vineyard



4. Ancient stepping stones



5. Mural of cretaceous creatures



6. Leaving Wildshark Vineyard

Leave the Dirty Habit and turn right around the corner of the pub. Walk past the 'Habit' car park and keep walking straight along the road (It's the famous and ancient Pilgrims Way) later it becomes a track (Pic 1). Follow the track for approximately 0.5 miles until a cross roads of paths. Turn right onto a descending track with a hedge on the left and a field on the right until a road then turn left in front of the wooden fence. Follow the track up with beautiful views to the North Downs on the left. (Pic 2). Keep going through the coppice, passing a metal farm gate on the right. Continue down the path for approximately thirty yards.

Take the metal lynch gate on the right into Wildshark Vineyard. Take the diagonal footpath through the vines to the bottom. (Pic 3, looking back). Please stay to the path and keep dogs on the lead. Cross over the vineyard track and continue to the left over the chalk stream in front of you. Turn to the right with the metal estate fencing to your left and the chalk stream to your right. Continue along for approximately two hundred yards until you reach the ancient stone stepping stones across the stream. (Pic 4). Go out of the woods and turn right keeping to the grass and up the slope past the picnic area and the pond and the woods to your right. Follow on down the slope with the vines on your left. At the bottom walk to the left towards the railway line. Once at the railway line take the track to the right and follow the railway line along with the vines on your right. You will come to a railway tunnel. (Pic 5). The murals show the creatures that once inhabited the area during the cretaceous period over 140 million years ago when it was an ocean! Hence the name 'Wildshark' Vineyard!

Once out of the tunnel turn right and walk towards the farm buildings. Half way up turn to the right and continue up the field with the fence on your left. At the top take the entrance to your left which will bring you to the Wildshark reception area. Stop for a quick wine tasting and try some award winning English wines! Once you have refreshed yourself go onto the road and turn right (Pic 6) Continue until you see a footpath sign in the hedge. Take this footpath through until you come to the open field. Keep to the footpath diagonally across the field to the road and the railway bridge.

Continue up the lane past some cottages to a 'T' junction and turn left. Continue for approximately three hundred yards past Greenway Court on your left. You will see a red post box. After this take the footpath on your right. Follow this to the top and the North Downs Way and turn left. This will take you to the road and the Pilgrims Way. Continue to The Dirty Habit on your left.

