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**An LDWA KENT GROUP**

# **26 MILE HIGH WEALD CHALLENGE**

## **A WALK WITH THE SMUGGLERS**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

### **TAKE CARE CROSSING AND WALKING ON ROADS**

**Compass bearings are figures in brackets, e.g. (CB 230)**

Abbreviations (alphabetically):

**ahd**—ahead; **BL**—bear left; **BR**—bear right; **btw**—between; **cnr**—corner; **cont**—continue; **enc**—enclosed; **fld**—field; **flw**—follow; **FL**—fork left; **fp**—footpath; **fsp**—footpath signpost; **FR**—fork right; **GR**—grid reference; **GT**—gate; **HWLT**— High Weald Landscape Trail; **immed**—immediately; **jcn** or **jnc**—junction; **kg**—kissing gate; **L**—left; **LH**—left hand; **LHS**—left hand side; **opp**—opposite; **R**—right; **rd**—road; **RH**—right hand; **RHS**—right hand side; **ST**—stile; **thru**—through; **TK**—track; **TL**—turn left; **TR**—turn right; **wmk**—waymark; **X**—cross; **yds**—yards.

**NB The three routes (15, 20 and 26 miles) intertwine – so please follow your route, and not the person in front, else you could end up walking the wrong distance.**

- 1 From Village Hall, ahd to BL past pond. With **GREAT CARE**, X main rd and TR to War Memorial. TL down driveway to KG. Thru and at top of fld, BL to descend fld (going behind tree) on obvious fp. Ahd to KG into wood, and flw to rd. BR across rd and TL into private drive. BL on TK, pass iron gates, TR and flw TK to just before farmhouse (seat in garden on L). TR thru GT (WC35) and ahd on grass TK to reach drive.
- 2 TR on drive, thru GT and flw to jnc where TR. Ahd on gravel to X new ST on L, and ahd on fp around top, then far side of fld, and down to TL to X ST. Ahd on RHS fld and in 150 yds, at low

- wooden post (before end of fld), BR and over ST. TL and btw fences, ahd to X wobbly ST and around RHS of GT to reach main rd. **GR 709 372**
- 3 With **GREAT CARE**, X main rd to TR (*best to be in pub car park*) and then ahd on verge for 45 yds to TL (sp Finchcocks). Ahd on driveway to jnc where BR over bridge. Keep ahd on rd for 500 yds to cnr where TR and immed TL over ST into fld, and ahd - passing 3 visible large trees - heading diagonally up fld (CB 230).
- 4 At top of fld, pass optional ST, then TL over ST and ahd into green lane, passing cottage and ahd at jnc, now on narrowing fp ascending. After 150 yds, at fbsp on L, TR (WC 50) and up concrete steps to X ST. Ahd along top edge of fld, then B½R making for R bottom cnr of fld. Find gap in hedge just to R of cnr, X ST and TL to X next ST. Immed TR (*on bank – do not descend to fld*) and ahd to X ST by GT into wood and descend on fp. At end, over ST and BL down fld to find ST in far L cnr. To TK, TL and over bridge, and immed TR and along dirt TK, soon with hops on R. **GR 697 364**
- 5 At end of first hop fld, ahd on grass fp in second hop fld. After 80 yds, TL uphill (NT24) with hops on R. At top TR alongside hedge on L. At end thru GT (please close) and immed TL with fence. At 3 way fbsp, keep ahd and BR to obvious ST ahd. X ST and ahd to X next ST into rape fld, pass tree and downhill towards River Teise. At T-jnc, TL (still in fld) and ahd on RHS fld (with A21 to R), passing one fbsp. At next fbsp, BL uphill through vegetation to trees.
- 6 Ahd over driveway with hedge on L, ascending and ahd thru gap, TL and X ST into second fld, by GT. Ahd btw fence and hedge. At cnr (3 way fbsp), TR (Scotney Castle) down RHS fld - **15 milers keep ahd here** - and ahd to X GT at wood edge. Over TK and ahd thru woods to swing L and down steps to driveway (to **Scotney Castle**). **GR 684 353**
- 7 X driveway and over ST and B½L (CB 120) in fld to pass tree and post and down to join rough TK where TR and over stone bridge and ahd to go thru small GT. Over next bridge and thru GT. Uphill for 400 yds – ignore major fp to L after 200 yds - over ST by white gate and ahd for further 250 yds. At TK jnc (WC53), TL on TK and ahd for 500 yds ignore all turnings, going uphill. BL on fp (fbsp Kilndown) and ahd under trees, ignore driveway to R and ahd on fp for 60 yds to TR at roofed Noticeboard / Shelter, and keep L on fp to rd at **Kilndown Village Hall**. **GR 699 352** **15 milers rejoin**

<b>Checkpoint 1 – seating <u>outside</u> Kilndown Village Hall – 5.4 Miles GR 700 352</b>
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**15 and 20 milers take a different route for next few miles**

- 8 X rd and TR for 10 yds, then TL in front of white walled house, and along fp soon with high fences both sides. Over Close and ahd on overgrown fp and keep L to cont ahd to minor rd. Over rd and down TK to TR over ST before first house on R and along L edge of fld. Over ST and ahd into next fld. TL over ST into woods, BR downhill to muddy TK.
- 9 TR along TK, ahd swinging L and downhill, now on fp. At next jnc keep L, slightly downhill, filling yellow tape on trees. fp widens into TK and eventually BR going slightly uphill. TL along fp, over fallen tree, and ahd with barrier on L (Combwell Woods). Descend (red mark on trees), past large fallen tree, and ahd steeply down to X wooden bridge and steeply up far side. At top, ahd dropping slowly to exit woods at ST with TK ahd and fenced fld on R. **GR 705 336**
- 10 Ahd past pond on L, BR to X TK and ahd for 30 yds. TL to X ST into wood. Keep to RHS fld and soon thru squeeze GT on R. TL, keeping close to fence on L, and ahd thru next set of

- GTs into fld, 1/2L to X ST beneath large tree. Ahd to go thru more GTs and ahd to fence where TR (wmk) and ahd to X ST at top L cnr of fld. **GR 705 330**
- 11 Cross farm rd / driveway and X ST by GT ahd. BR (CB 140), path undefined, aim slightly R of first large tree. Ahd to BR of large tree, to X ST. Ahd in next fld along fence on L, to X ST ahd and (*obviously*) TR between fences over ST and BL down to road barrier. **GR 708 326**
- 12 **BEWARE FAST TRAFFIC**, keep to left of A21 and ahd to BL at minor rd (Ladyoak Lane). When safe, X to RHS (minor) rd and soon TR down driveway, over cattle grid and ahd on driveway / TK to pass radio station. BR onto fp in front of GT, following to R of Water Tower. Flw fp as it descends to jcn, where TR and down to A21 (*again!*). **BEWARE FAST TRAFFIC**. TL and keep to LHS, over side rd and BL onto pavement. Just before sign for Traffic Lights (300 yds), TL on private rd / public bridleway and, at end of tarmac, ahd past barrier. (**close to Flimwell**) **GR 717 317**
- 13 (*You are now in Bedgebury Forest - beware cyclists for next few miles*) Ahd on main TK, past stone edifice (after 450 yds) and BL at FPSP. Ahd still on main TK to pass 4 way jnc (becomes 5 way jnc) and ahd still, soon under high voltage restriction and pass barrier to junction. **TR** with main TK for further 1¼ miles to jnc by cottages (**Louisa Lodge**) **15 and 20 milers re-join you here** **GR 739 334**.
- 14 Ahd uphill and at top of rise (600 yds), with small car park on L, TR along TK and ahd on TK btw open flds. Cont into second fld, then TL by telegraph pole (and hidden fp) down RHS fld to bottom cnr, where TL for 50 yds (approx ½ way along) and TR into trees (beware large footholes) down into gully and up other side to fp. Ahd across fld to join TK coming in from L, nr cnr, and uphill on TK with trees on L. Thru tree gap and ahd on faint fp across crop to rougher vegetation, where B slight L and, at brow of hill, TR on fp downhill, soon with hedge on L, and cont downhill.
- 15 Over TK and ahd on mown grass strip (LHS fld). After next large tree, 150 yds before end of fld, TL thru GT and along RHS fld and thru GT, over ST, down fld. ***Unlikely, but if motocross rally / races actually taking place (you would hear before you saw), please TL at top of this fld and go L around racing TK to reach opposite side – please do not dice with the riders (or officials)!*** Over TK, steeply down, over bridge and steeply up, over TK again, up 2 dirt steps and ahd to L of house ahd. Thru GT and down to rd. (**Gill's Green**) **GR 756 324**
- 16 TL and after 20 yds TR into next rd (Limes Grove), gently rising. At end, BL and with **GREAT CARE** X rd (A229) and TL (single file please) along verge for 45 yds. TR into minor rd, Potters Lane (**GR 757 324**) and ahd for 500 yds to

<b>Checkpoint 2 – roadside – 13.0 Miles GR 762 328</b>
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- 17 Leave Checkpoint (heading same direction, eastwards) on rd for further 550 yds to end. (**Four Wents**) **GR 766 328**
- 18 At Xrds, TL (sp Cranbrook) and in 150 yds (at end of hedge on R) TR over ST (beware exposed nail) into fld. Ahd, soon meeting fence on R, ahd in same direction and down to GT. Thru (lift LHS GT) - **please close GT as best you can**. Continue down middle of fld. Over bridge and up to go thru small GT on R and ahd on RHS fld to X ST. Down to X bridge and up and over rickety ST (barbed wire), and ahd up fld (electric fence on R).
- 19 At top of fld with **GREAT CARE X ELECTRIC FENCE** and thru GT (**please close**). ***Beware possible Bull in fld***. Ahd and, at hedge cnr, BL down fld to fp and ahd thru woods, Xing earth bridge. Immed TR in next fld, downhill (CB 040) to centre of trees ahd, over ST down to

- X bridge and up steps to fld. Ahd uphill with trees on L and fld to R. At first hedge cnr, go **ahd** across gap to join (line of) trees, now on R. At top of tree line, TR for 15 yds, and flw main TK to L. Pass wmk, ahd into green avenue and, at end, over ST and ahd with large trees to reach ST. (**Swattenden Centre**) **GR 774 344**
- 20 X rd and thru gap into fld. Flw down LHS fld, TR at bottom cnr then TL at KG. Keep R and TR at cnr to find next KG on R after 100 yds. TL along fld edge. At end, TL down fp and ahd along LHS fld. Ahd, soon uphill, on TK btw trees. Dogleg R and L and, in 80 yds – **15 and 20 milers going L here** – **cont ahd** on lane as it curves R and ahd to roadway. TL into Bramley Drive and immed FL down fp. TR at end and TL next to posts to go down past playground on L, over bridge and uphill to reach main rd. (**Cranbrook**)
- 21 TR and at rd cnr, when safe, X to far side and TL in front of Weald Information Centre to go up to church. Pass L of church and soon churchyard wall on R. Pass (another) playground on L. Keep to R edge of grass fld and flw to go down steps and, with **CARE**, X main rd and up steps and ahd on fp. Thru KG and ahd on LHS fld on good fp. At TK jnc, keep ahd on good fp (*HWLT goes off to R*), still with high fence on L. At end BL to go thru KG and ahd btw fences. **GR 787 369**
- 22 At foot of slope, thru KG and **BR** on fp leading uphill (CB 055) thru KG, down steps, X minor rd and up steps and ahd under tree cover along LHS of fld. Roughly 100 yds before end of fld, BL to fld edge and TR along FP. At 4 way fp jnc, ahd on gravel TK to rd. TL on pavement and, when safe, X rd and then TR on The Street. (**Sissinghurst**) With **GREAT CARE**, X main rd (A262), and TR passing church (and hidden school). At end of layby, TL down TK and flw. At gates to waste water treatment works, TL and immed TR down RHS apple fld. Over footbridge and cont **ahd** in trees. **GR 797 380**
- 23 Ahd into apple fld and after **30 yds** find (timid) fpsp on L, **BR** on 'diagonal' fp thru apple trees. At end, TL up main fp (joins from R) and in 50 yds TR uphill, either side of fence, initially parallel with apple trees on L, swinging slightly R and now parallel with apple trees on R. At top of fld, over ST to L of GT and

<b>Checkpoint 3 – road corner – 18.3 Miles GR 798 384</b>
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- 24 Ahd down rd, Satins Hill, (single file, please keep to RHS). At next rd jnc, when safe, TL into London Lane and ahd for 500 yds. 100 yds before first property on L, ignore rickety ST on R but in 7 yds TR btw posts and TL on fp. Ahd on RHS, past house and on driveway to reach rd. **GR 792 391**
- 25 With **GREAT CARE**, X main rd (A229) and TL for 20 yds to TR on restricted byway / lane. Flw as lane goes downhill then, at "Soft Verges" sign, BR. Thru GT and down grass lane, becoming fp. At fld end, cont ahd on small fp past GT on R, and 50 yds uphill into woods. At jnc, TL (fpsp). Flw fp, and ignore all turnings off, as it winds thru woods for 200 yds. TL by four limbed tree (fpsp) for 10 yds down to main TK where TR (fpsp). Ahd passing Wood for Sale, over small footbridge and thru GT into chicken enclosure (**please close all these gates**). Ahd thru enclosure to exit in similar fashion.
- 26 Ahd thru two small posts for 20 yds and **TR** to go btw two more small posts. TL with wire fence and ahd to go thru next 'chicken' GT. Initially BL around small plantation but then TR in larger expanse of fld (CB 290), past 'nice' small tree to reach next GT in far fence, with (chicken) farm now clearly visible down on R. X wide TK and ahd on fp into woods, thru wooden KG, X wooden bridge and ahd, passing fallen tree, ducking under two sets of branches and flw

slowly deteriorating fp (*ie vegetation gets denser*), but eventually reach wide muddy TK.

**GR 777 397** (*or very close to*)

- 27 TR down to X ST by large GT and down LHS fld (oast houses visible ahd above trees). X earth bridge and X fld to metal GT to R of cottage (Hartridge Manor Cottage). Thru GT and TL on tarmac lane, then at end go ahd on “very nice” gently ascending fp, within woods, ignoring any turnings. Ahd when major fp joins from L, now on rough lane / TK, passing houses on R. Pass oast house on R, TK becomes tarmac and cont ahd down lane passing sign for “Top Bungalow” (*how do they know??!!*). Up hill and ahd. **GR 776 387**
- 28 At next cnr, with “Weavers” on L, TR to go thru 7 bar green GT (fp stone marker is L of gate). TR (CB 310) up RHS fld with tree line and bushes on R. At top of fld, ahd, bearing L on TK thru woods. Ahd to BL btw buildings on main TK and ahd past applestore and then oast houses. Keep ahd to reach lane. With **CARE**, X lane to BR up wide gravel TK “Thie Cheerey”. **GR 766 382**
- 29 Before flagpole, TL thru small GT and **immed** TR (same direction) along fp to go behind outbuilding, then with fence on R. Thru small GT and ahd, bearing L to X ‘simple’ ST. Along LHS enclosure. At end over ST – **20 milers re-join here** – and immed **TR** thru KG and BL, and then immed TR down slope (holly hedge on R), join fp from L and ahd. After 250 yds - at dogleg ahd with blank wooden board high up on tree ahd and “**evil eye**” at head height - TR on fp (yellow marker on tree on L after 10 yds, WC85) and ahd to left cnr and down to rd. (*If you miss turning and reach grass by white house, you have gone too far, please return to dogleg*). **GR 762 384**
- 30 TL on minor rd for 450 yds past Clayhill Farm (please keep to RHS and single file as you go round corner). At School sign, immed TL over small bridge and thru GT into enclosure. Keep ahd / RHS to X GT. (**Colliers’ Green**)

<b>Checkpoint 4 – roadside – 22.6 Miles GR 758 387</b>
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- 31 X RD and thru smaller (L) of two GTs directly opp (**NOT** gate 10 yds to R) and ahead on enclosed fp. At end of fence on L, BR past wmk-post, thru gap and along RHS of fld. Thru gap in cnr and keep ahd thru wood. Over major X-TK and ahd to exit wood at GT. Ahd X fld (CB 310) (*crop may make progress difficult*) to reach wmk-post. X ST and into wood. X small stream, and up to X ST and along RHS of fld. Thru gate and ahd, initially on green lane, soon TK. Dogleg L and R to pass buildings and then ahd on unmade drive, eventually reaching RD. **GR 742 397**
- 32 TL and immed TL into Jarvis Lane and in 10 yds X rd and over ST. Along LHS of fld, X ST in cnr and ahd along LHS of next fld. X ST and ahd on L, keeping close to hedge. X ST in bottom left cnr into next fld and ahd with hedge on L. TL with fld edge in front of crop and TR along edge of fld still (with trees on L). *NB official path may go thru crop ahd, but not visible*. At end, swing R to go thru gap in hedge, 35 yds from cnr, and immed TL down fld and **ahd** to 4 bar GT in bottom LH cnr. X ST and over bridge and, after 80 yds, at fp jnc, FR up steps, over bridge and up to sp (**Ladham Estate**). **GR 735 396**
- 33 Ahd X fld on clear fp, to go up steps and along LHS next fld, turning R at top and then TL at fpsp uphill to reach TK (bridleway). TR on TK and flw as this descends. At bottom of slope, swing R and soon uphill again. At XTK at top, TL on TK and soon swing R (fpsp) onto grassy fp, over “jump”. TL along driveway / TK and cont on this TK, to eventually reach grass triangle

- just before busy rd. TR down verge then, **when safe & EXTREME CARE**, X rd to LHS and TR (single file) to cnr. **(Brandfold) GR 723 393**
- 34 At cnr, TL down fp, BR and over ST, continuing to descend. Go thru gap and into fld, where **BL** (not ahd) around fld edge. Over wooden bridge and along LHS fld to meet fp from R and go thru gap in hedge and over ST. BR (WC24) and cont basically ahd in straight line. X ST and ahd on faint fp across middle of fld, aiming just L of white boarded house. X next ST and ahd on bank with fence on L. Ahd along driveway and BL at jnc (with houses in Close on R) and up to rd. TR on rd, pass tennis courts and TL at fsp (HWLT) at cnr. **GR 717 383**
- 35 Up steps, over ST and BL in fld, keeping slightly R of 2 oak trees and X ST in hedge ahd into lane. X lane, BR thru KG opp, over plank fb, ahead with fence on R. X two further KGs and cont uphill with fence on R to X KG. Cont up LHS of fld. At top L cnr, X footbridge, thru KG and ascend sharply, flw obvious fp as it BR to X fb and thru KG in hedge. TL sharply uphill and make the most of the final bit of climbing before the finish, along a boardwalk. Thru KG and ahd up btw fences on enc fp to rd. TR (leaving HWLT) to crossroads. With **GREAT CARE**, X main rd and along rd opp. In 60yds, immed after pond on R, FR to Goudhurst Village Hall and Finish. **GR 722 376**

**26.7 miles**

***Congratulations***