

CHART SUTTON PARISH LOCAL WALKS... (No. 1)

GREEN LANE: 4.12 miles



Chart Sutton is, with Sutton Valence and East Sutton, one of the 'Three Suttons'. The parish is situated some three miles southeast of Maidstone on the edge of the Greensand Ridge, overlooking the Weald. It is a sparsely-populated rural parish of some 885 hectares with an electoral roll of about 700.

Chart is the modern word for the Saxon 'Caert' meaning heathland. The Saxon King Coenwulf gave a charter to the parish in AD814. The area was on the route used by the North Kent tribes when they took their stock south to fatten on the rich forest lands. A settlement around a church provided shelter and rest for the travellers, but no trace remains.

The church was rebuilt in Norman times, but the surrounding village was probably abandoned after the plague of 1300.

The present village was established much later.

PLACES of INTEREST along the ROUTE

Can you spot the pictured scenes as you walk along?

1. Chart Hall Farmhouse

Grade II listed, timber framed, built in early to mid C15th.

2. Lord Raglan PH

Serves drinks and meals, pleasant outdoor area.
Note that it is closed on Sundays.

3. Cheney's Court

In early times it was called 'Hadenesham' and belonged to Sir Robert de Shurland. In the C13th, the lands passed to his daughter who married William de Cheney who gave his name to the estate. The estate was in decay by 1780, when mentioned by Hasted and no manor house remains.

4. Ashurst Lodge Farmhouse

Grade II listed, timber framed, built C17th or earlier. Property of the Mascall family from at least 1465 to 1692 or later. In two wills, income from the land was designated to help the poor of Chart Sutton; this gift was still being collected in 1982.

5. Ashurst Farmhouse

Grade II listed, built late C16th or early C17th.

6. Little Ashurst

Grade II listed, built late C15th with C19th façade.

7. Old Farmhouse, Moat Farm

Grade II listed, built C17th or earlier with C18th barn.

8. White House Farm

Grade II listed, built early C16th or earlier with C17th alterations.





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From the village centre, drive down Chart Hill Road and at the bottom of the hill, turn left into Green Lane. You will come to a triangle where you can park your car on the grass verge.

Chart Hall Farm is directly in front of you, and to the right of the entrance is a stile which you should climb over into the field (KH562). Keeping the fencing on your left, continue straight across the field until you come to a gate. Go through this gate and continue down the right hand side of the field and through to the next one. Walk straight across the middle of this field, over the stile and straight across until you come to a small stream. Cross the water (if there is any) via a plank; care needed as it is not very sound.

Take a diagonal route to the right and cross this field until you come to another stile which leads to a field which usually has a couple of ponies in it. They are very friendly. There is a small homestead on your right. Cross this field to the top right hand corner where you will find a stile which takes you out into a lane. Turn right into the lane and then left into the main road.

Continue on the road (go past the Lord Raglan pub!) until you come to Chaney Court Farm, and then turn left into the lane (KM93). This footpath continues, after some 35 metres, into KH515. Passing oast houses and fields of sheep, after a further distance (125 metres) along this path, you will find a gate on the left hand side (junction with KH559 and KH559A). Take the path KH559A, which leads into a field with a corrugated shed in it. Keeping the hedge on your right, skirt round the field to the top right and pass through another gate and on to a stile which is marked with a footpath arrow. Cross over the stile and you will be in another field with a line of electricity poles. Keeping to the right of the

**KCC FOOTPATHS: KH562/KM93/
KH515/KH559A/
KH571/KH508**

pole and aiming for the three oak trees, cross the field until you come to a rusty gate.

Go through the gate and immediately turn right to another gate which will take you into a hop field. With the hops on your left at all times, follow round the field until you come to another gate and proceed through and straight ahead to yet another gate. Pass through this and follow the hedge round until you turn a corner and proceed towards a bungalow. Follow the track, keeping the bungalow on the right,

and through the gate where you turn left and follow the lane.

Keeping on the lane for some 225 metres (you will pass Mole End and Ashurst Farm amongst others, and a left turn named: Green Lane). Just past this turn, before the lane bears right, is a signpost (KH571) pointing across the field. Proceed diagonally (right) across the field until you come to a fence crossing which you climb over and then turn left on to the track (KH508). Follow the track to the farm and behind the new wooden building, turn left, then right through the farmyard. Pass the barrier and turn right on to the lane. Continue along the lane until you arrive back at the triangle and your car.

