

CHART SUTTON PARISH LOCAL WALKS... (No. 2)

LANGLEY LOCH: 4.65 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. Langley Loch

The loch was constructed during the 19th Century by the owners of Langley Park Farm by damming the stream. Note the remains of the boathouse in the larger lake.

On the left of the path you will see the remains of hopper huts. These remind us of the primitive conditions provided for the East Enders' annual stay in the countryside. They used the lake as their water supply. Large quantities of hops were grown throughout Chart Sutton until recently.

2. Brishing Road

By the stream at the end of **KH365** was the proposed site for a station serving the planned Headcorn to Maidstone Light Railway (an extension of the Kent and East Sussex Railway). However, Colonel Stephens was unable to find the funding for this project. As you turn south here, the field opposite once contained a brickworks which supplied local buildings. The ruins of the kiln could still be seen in the 1960s.

3. Amber Green

(Junction of Brishing Road and Amber Lane). This is thought to be the junction of the Roman Road going north/south (Rochester to Hastings) and east/west (destination Ham Street). The bridlepath ahead follows that line through the escarpment. When main drainage was put down Brishing Road no trace of Roman foundations were found.

4. Shine Hill

The steep track to your right was at one time a farmacadam road which linked the farmsteads of Amberfield to the north and Heronden to the south, which were in the same ownership. It was a steep climb for horses but quicker and easier than using Chart Hill to the east. Heavy loads required three horses.

5. Ladds Court, Chart Hill Road

Grade II listed farmhouse. The front dates back to the 15th century but the south wing was built in 1820. The porch came from Allington Castle. The house on the opposite corner of Chart Road was originally a shop C1900.





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This walk starts from the Village Hall in Chart Sutton. From the car park, turn right into Chart Hill Road and continue until you come to 'Lilipie' (the old Buffalo's Head pub). Turn right into Warmlake Road. Continue along this road; go past Ivan's Field and the recreation ground until you come to the entrance to a field on the left, opposite Magpie Cottage. Go over the stile (KH549) into the field and keeping to the right, follow the fence until you come to a kissing gate which you go through into another field.

You will now follow a line of trees on your right, and when they come to an end, you have another field to cross. The path is not always easily discernable but if you make for the distant barn to the right of the white house, you should be on track. There is now another stile to cross which will bring you onto a busy road (Plough-Wents Road). Turn right and follow the road until you come to the 40mph sign at the entrance to a field on your left. Enter the field (KH364) and proceed with the hedge on your left. At the end of the hedge, continue forward across the field and head for a line of trees and bushes in front of you. The farmer should have reinstated the footpath across the field, but if he hasn't... aim for the telegraph pole on the distant hill in front of you... until you reach the line of trees and bushes bordering the field. When you reach here, find an easy way to cross through to the next field and turn left (KH365). If the path (KH 364) has been reinstated, follow it to the rear of the school and the junction with (KH365).

Keeping the hedge on your left, proceed to a stile which you cross and then bear to the left, following a grassy path. You will come to a lake on the right and on the left are the remains of some hoppers' huts.

When you get to a sort of T-junction, bear left and then right. You will now continue for some way, with

a field and fence on the left and the lakes on the right. When you get to the stile, cross over to another field which will probably have some cattle in it. The path now goes straight across to another stile. Over this and then cross a plank which takes you over a small stream.

Continue along the path, through some old upright posts and you are now in a meadow. Follow this meandering path until you reach the Brishing Road. (N.B. The OS pecked green path to the south of Mount Pleasant Farm no longer exists). Turn left and follow the road until you come to crossroads.

Go straight across, still in Brishing Road but be very careful as the road is very busy and it is difficult to see the traffic coming from the right. At the end of the road, turn left and then right on to a track. The footpath goes diagonally across the field (KH552), but is very difficult to see when the crop is fully grown. It may be easier to follow round the edge of the field until you come to the stile at the other side.

Once over the stile, (KM121) continue across the field to the next stile, then follow

KCC FOOTPATHS: KH549/KH364/ KH365/KH552/ KM121/KM122/ KH553/KH554

round to the left, keeping the polytunnels on your right. Go past the paddock and keeping left, go downhill with the road on your right. You will then come to some steps which you go down into an orchard. Turn left and follow a wide grass path (KM122/KH553) until you come to the end of the orchard and go down another set of steep steps. Turn right and then take the left hand fork (KH554) which you continue along until you come to the junction with Chart Hill Road and Chart Road. Turn left and walk (with care) up Chart Hill Road, back to the Village Hall.

