

HIGHWAYS OLD AND NEW

The Roman roads in East Kent were built to converge on Canterbury: from Reculver, Richborough (the great military depot), Dover (for a time fleet headquarters) and Lympne, all to become in the late third Century forts of the Saxon Shore. It was Stone Street that linked Lympne to Canterbury, almost undeviatingly due north and south. It has been used ever since. Along this road the four knights, after plotting at Saltwood Castle on 29 December 1170 to rid their King of his Archbishop. The B2068 still brings traffic to Canterbury; but a more recent and faster road, opened in 1981, is designed to divert it. This walk follows the route of the Roman road in Iffin Lane and twice crosses the by-pass.

START: Simon Langton Boys' School, Langton Lane, Nackington Road. **PARKING:** In lane. **BUS:** Services to Kent and Canterbury Hospital; and 599 and 618 to Folkestone (alight at end of lane). **PUBS:** Nearest in Old Dover Road.

1. Take path at right-hand side of school entrance. At its end go slightly left along farm road, past cottages, to oasthouse.
2. Cross road and go along footpath opposite. After a quarter of a mile at junction of footpaths turn sharp left down then up hill through orchards and continue to by-pass.
3. Turn left beside by-pass, cross by bridge and immediately turn back right along other side for 50 yards. Turn left and follow footpath to Merton Lane. Turn right down Iffin Lane and then left up New House Lane. After about 80 yards a slope on right leads up to footpath parallel with road.
4. Go left along this path to stile. Cross and continue along hedge beside New House Lane, passing behind two groups of houses.
5. Cross road leading to New House Farm and through hedge. Go straight ahead for about 150 yards to hedge at right angles. Turn right along it for about 50 yards, go through gap and retrace your steps on other side out to New House Lane. Cross road and follow track opposite between hedges to Iffin Lane.
6. Turn right (along route of Roman Road) and in about 200 yards turn left along bridleway. Follow right-hand side of field boundary to first hedge at right angles on left. Follow track on right of hedge and at corner turn right along line of poplars.
7. After 200 yards or so turn left through gate, following fence and then farm track to Merton Farm.

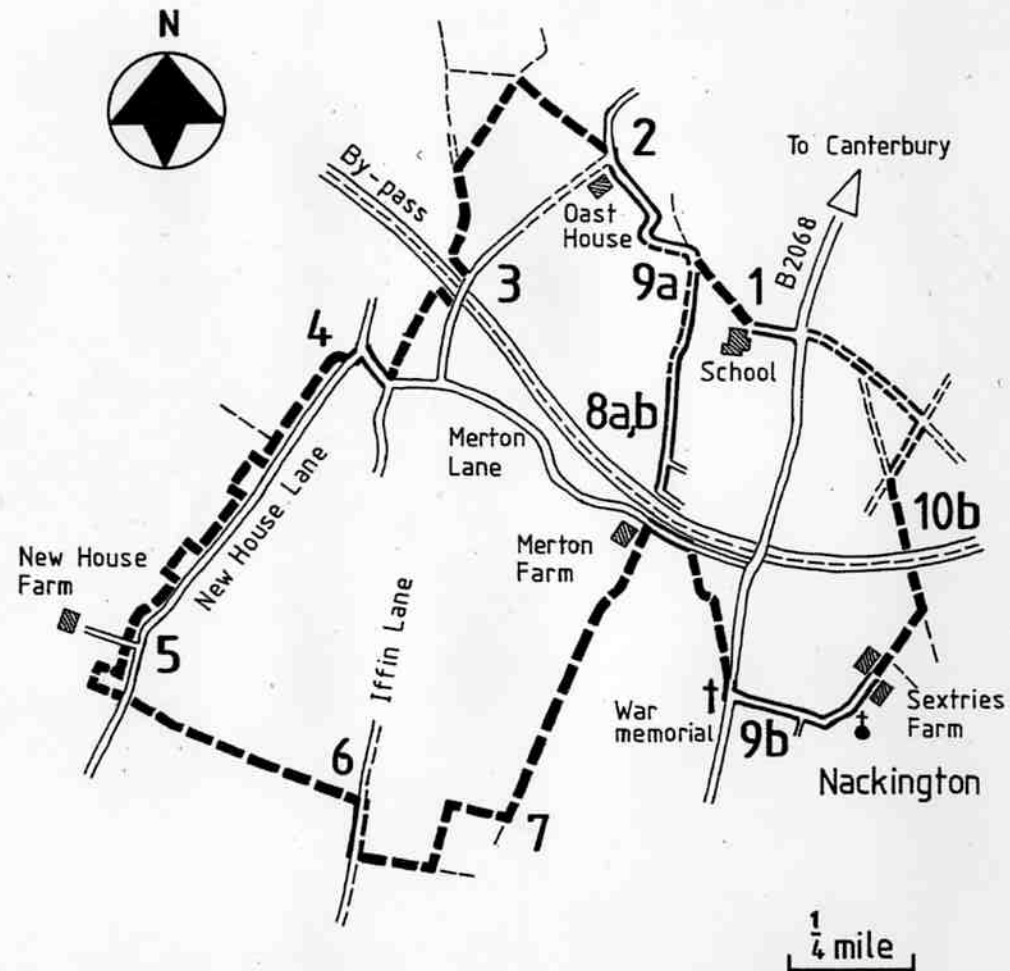
Here you have a choice:

- 8a. **SHORT WALK.** Cross over by-pass by stiles, taking care of fast traffic, and follow track past entrance to Rugby Club.
- 9a. When track bears left turn sharp right along footpath back to starting-point.
- 8b. **LONGER WALK.** Turn right along road; 100 yards on cross stile on right into orchard. Follow hedge on right and turn left at first line of shelter-belt trees along farm track. At end turn right along farm track parallel to Nackington Road to stile on left at top of orchard leading down to road near war memorial.
- 9b. Cross road and take road leading to Nackington church. Passing Sextries Farm, follow farm track straight ahead and after 250 yards take path going diagonally left between privet hedges, reaching by-pass in 120 yards. Cross it by stiles, taking care of fast traffic.
- 10b. Follow hedge by orchard to its end. Then turn right on farm track and at next farm track turn left past hop garden out into Nackington Road opposite Langton Lane.

Fasten all Gates

Highways Old and New

A five or six mile walk from Langton Lane



DIRECTIONS OVERLEAF

By the Country Paths Group