

**On 28th September 1066, William Duke of Normandy and his army landed at Pevensey. Sixteen days later and seventeen miles away, he defeated Anglo Saxon King Harold and changed the course of English history.**

The 31-mile 1066 Country Walk is a relatively easy, low-level route. Follow it through countryside that witnessed the Norman Conquest, from Pevensey Castle, past world-famous Battle Abbey, through medieval Winchelsea and into charming Rye.

The Walk passes through the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with rolling hills and valleys, atmospheric marshes, ancient woodland, historic towns, quaint villages, old churches, rustic farms, elegant estates, oast houses and windmills, and plenty of cosy pubs and cafés along the way.

This guide assumes you start in Pevensey and end in Rye (though you can walk either way).

It breaks the Walk into six easy sections, each of which takes 3-4 hours.

Or why not make a weekend or week of it? There are lots of places to stay along the route.

Find out more at [visit1066country.com](http://visit1066country.com)

Thanks to a grant secured by Rother District Council Cultural Development from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Walk has new signage, information panels, benches and sculptures.



# Walkers' Guide

For use in conjunction  
with OS Explorer Map 124

[visit1066country.com](http://visit1066country.com)

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The European  
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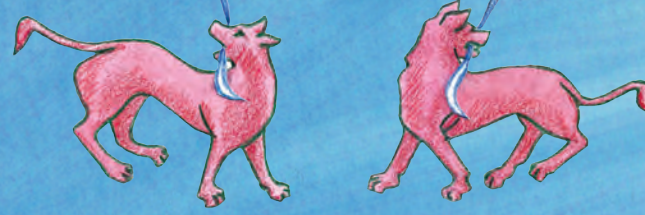
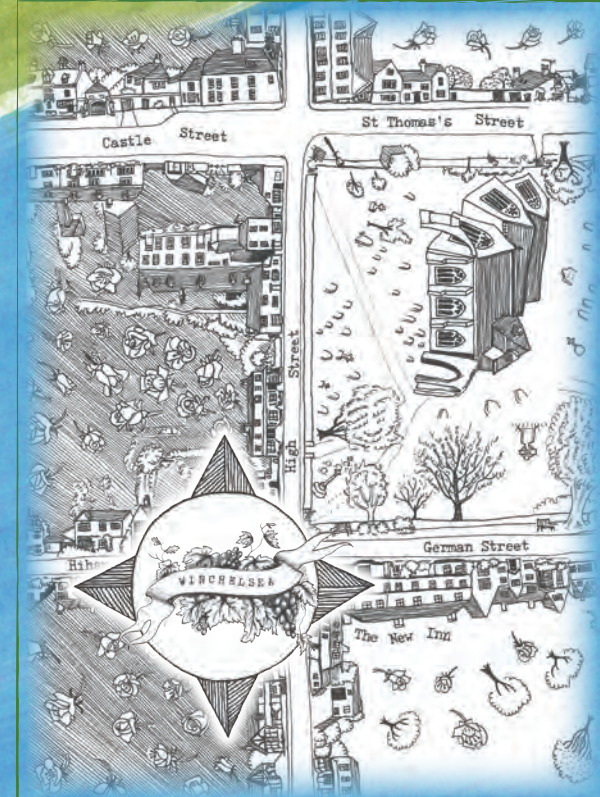
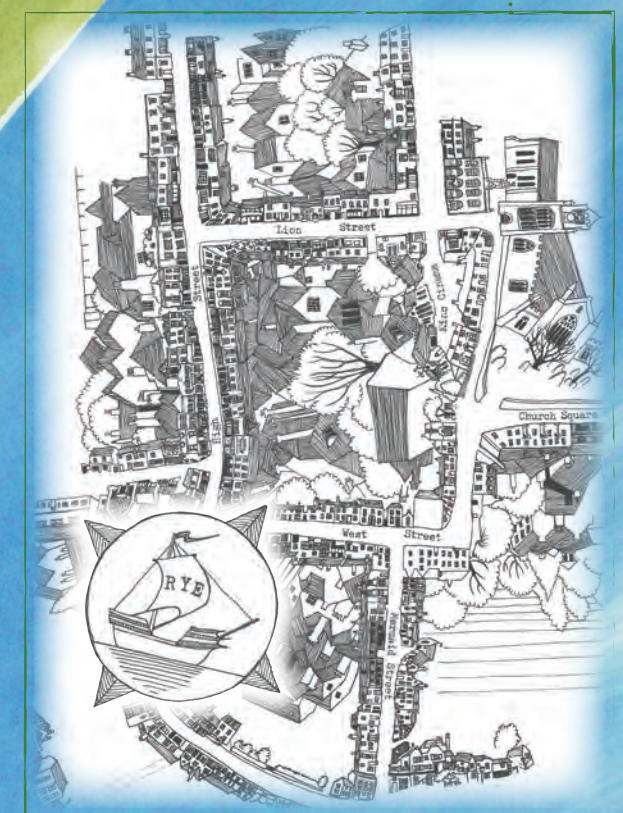
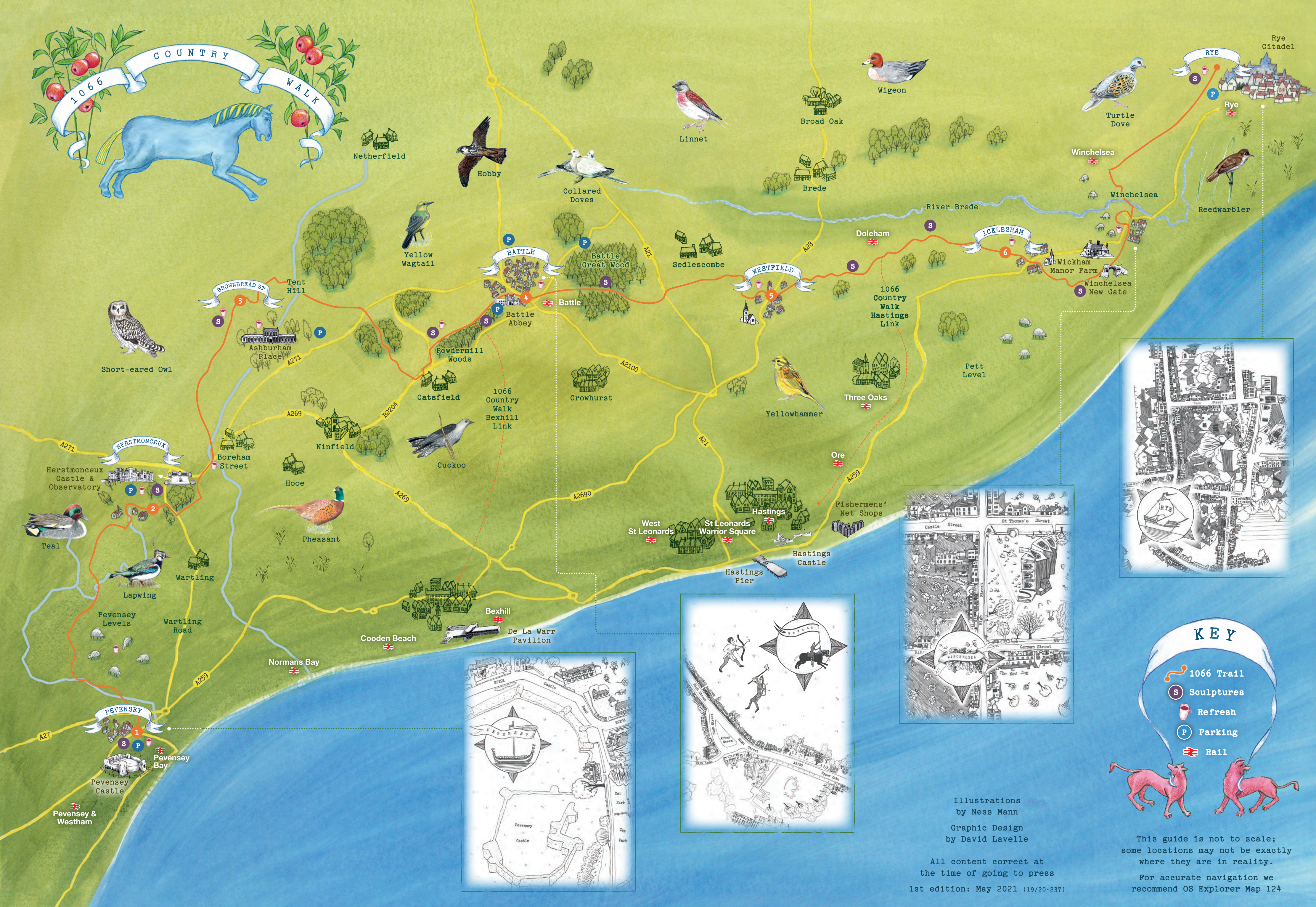
**East Sussex County Council Rights of Way**

**East Sussex County Council**

**English Heritage**

Action in Rural Sussex, South Downs  
National Park Authority, National Trust,  
Forestry England, landowners, destinations  
and communities along the route





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This guide is not to scale;  
some locations may not be exactly  
where they are in reality.  
For accurate navigation we  
recommend OS Explorer Map 124



# 1 Pevensey Castle to Herstmonceux Castle

5.5 miles

## Marshes, castles and observatories

From Pevensey Castle, curve north across Pevensey Levels. Ascend to firmer ground at Church Farm, before a gentle stroll eastwards to beautiful 15th Century Herstmonceux Castle, and the Observatory beyond.

### Did you know...

Upon landing at Pevensey on 28th September 1066, William, Duke of Normandy's forces fortified Pevensey Castle, built by the Romans around AD290.

### Look and listen for

Heron, lapwing, skylarks, sheep

### Sculptures

1. Pevensey Castle
2. Herstmonceux

### Historic places

- Pevensey Castle
- Pevensey Court House Museum
- Herstmonceux Castle
- The Observatory Science Centre

### Refresh

- Castle Cottage Tea Room, Pevensey
- Royal Oak and Castle, Pevensey
- Smugglers Inn, Pevensey
- Chilley Farm Shop, Rickney Lane, Pevensey Levels
- Chestnuts Tea Room, Herstmonceux Castle

...and other options available!  
Check opening times with venues.

# 2 Herstmonceux Castle to Brownbread Street

5.5 miles

## Farmland and quiet lanes

Pass the former Greenwich Observatory and turn right down Wartling Road, before crossing and leaving the road to skirt Wartling Wood on the left. Head north, across fields, to Boreham Street. Cross and turn right along the road, before bearing north across open fields and joining a lane to Brownbread Street.

### Did you know...

In the 12th Century, Idonea de Herst married Norman nobleman Ingelram de Monceux. Herstmonceux Castle is one of England's oldest brick buildings.

### Look and listen for

Sweet chestnut, yellowhammer, observatory domes

### Sculptures

2. Herstmonceux
3. Ash Tree Inn

### Historic places

- Herstmonceux Castle
- The Observatory Science Centre
- Ashburnham Place

### Refresh

- Chestnuts Tea Room, Herstmonceux Castle
- Scolfes, Boreham Street
- The Bull's Head, Boreham Street
- The Orangery, Ashburnham Place
- Ash Tree Inn, Brownbread Street

...and other options available!  
Check opening times with venues.

# 3 Brownbread Street to Battle Abbey

6.6 miles

## Old estates and historic hills

From Brownbread Street, follow lanes through Ashburnham Estate. After the bridge at Old Forge, turn right off the lane towards Tent Hill's stunning views. Across the A271 take a track through Normanhurst Estate to Catsfield and cross the B2204. Descend through Powdermill Wood and up through fields to Battle Abbey.

### Did you know...

Depending on which source you read, either the Norman or the Saxon army camped on Tent Hill the night before the Battle of Hastings. The battle actually took place seven miles from Hastings at Senlac Hill where Battle Abbey now stands.

### Look and listen for

Common butterflies, hedgerow flowers

### Sculptures

3. Ash Tree Inn
4. Great Park Farm
5. Battle Abbey

### Historic places

- Ashburnham Place
- Tent Hill
- Battle Abbey

### Refresh

- Ash Tree Inn, Brownbread Street
- The Orangery, Ashburnham Place
- White Hart, Catsfield
- Great Park Farm, Catsfield
- Mrs Burton's Tea Room, Battle
- Abbey Hotel, Battle
- Bluebells Café, Battle
- Chequers Inn, Battle
- Number Eighty, Battle

...and other options available!  
Check opening times with venues.

# 4 Battle Abbey to Westfield

4 miles

## Woodland and golf courses

Head east out of Battle along Marley Lane. Turning right, head due east through Great Wood. Emerge from the wood, traverse the golf course and cross the A21 at Kent Street. The path continues east across farmland into the quiet lanes of Westfield.

### Did you know...

The battle began at 9am on 14th October 1066. By sunset, 10,000 men had died, including Anglo Saxon King, Harold Godwinson. William, the King of England, built Battle Abbey in 1071 to mark the spot where Harold fell.

### Look and listen for

Woodpeckers, coppicing, golf balls!

### Sculptures

5. Battle Abbey
6. Battle Great Wood

### Historic places

- Battle Abbey
- St John the Baptist Church, Westfield

### Refresh

- Mrs Burton's Tea Room, Battle
- Abbey Hotel, Battle
- Bluebells Café, Battle
- Chequers Inn, Battle
- Number Eighty, Battle
- New Inn, Westfield
- Taris Coffee Bar, Westfield

...and other options available!  
Check opening times with venues.

# 5 Westfield to Icklesham

4.9 miles

## Sweeping views and rustic valleys

Leave Westfield towards Pattletons Farm, crossing rolling fields to Doleham Ditch. Cross the railway and head past Lower Lidham Hill Farm and along the wide Brede Valley ascending, with pretty views, towards Broad Street. A picturesque vale leads to a final ascent into Icklesham.

### Did you know...

Westfield was known as Westewelle in the Domesday survey, which records seven villagers and one cottager. The population is now 2750.

### Look and listen for

Orchards, oast houses, birds of prey

### Sculptures

7. Hare Farm
8. Lower Snailham Farm

### Historic places

- St John the Baptist Church, Westfield
- Church of St Nicholas, Icklesham

### Refresh

- New Inn, Westfield
- Taris Coffee Bar, Westfield
- Queen's Head, Icklesham
- Robin Hood, Icklesham
- Tea Beside the Orchard, Icklesham

...and other options available!  
Check opening times with venues.

# 6 Icklesham to Rye

5.6 miles

## Windmills and ancient ports

Leave Icklesham, cross fields and pass the windmill at Hog Hill. After Wickham Manor, pass Winchelsea's ancient gate. Go through Winchelsea, join Winchelsea Lane, then turn right off Dumb Woman's Lane to skirt the base of Cadborough Cliff to Rye.

### Did you know...

At least 50 medieval cellars sit beneath Winchelsea. Merchants used them to store wine and other goods. Between 1306-7, 736,000 gallons of wine were shipped to Winchelsea. You can book cellar tours at [winchelsea.com](http://winchelsea.com)

### Look and listen for

Waders, ducks, damselflies

### Sculptures

9. Wickham Manor Farm
10. Rye

### Historic places

- Church of St Nicholas, Icklesham
- New Gate Winchelsea
- Winchelsea Court Hall Museum
- Rye Land Guard Gate, Ypres Tower and Gun Gardens

### Refresh

- Queen's Head, Icklesham
- The Robin Hood, Icklesham
- Tea Beside the Orchard, Icklesham
- Charles Palmer Vineyard, Wickham Manor Farm (no café, but wine-tasting by appointment)
- New Inn, Winchelsea
- Crown Inn, Rye

...and other options available!  
Check opening times with venues.

## Top tips

- The 1066 Country Walk is 31 miles long. It's a relatively easy, low level route, but is not recommended for cycling and wheelchairs
- The route is clearly signposted, but we advise taking OS Explorer Map 124
- Allow 2-3 miles per hour or 3-4 hours per section (more if muddy)
- For places to stay locally see [visit1066country.com](http://visit1066country.com)
  - Shut gates
  - Carry water
- Dress for the conditions
- Tell someone your route
- Take care at crossings
- Keep dogs on leads and under control
- Stay on public paths across farm land

## Getting here

Trains: there are good rail links at Pevensey and Westham, Battle and Rye. There are also stations Pevensey Bay, Doleham Ditch, Three Oaks and Winchelsea, where trains stop less frequently [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

Buses: [tinyurl.com/1066buses](http://tinyurl.com/1066buses)

By car: check local parking options online

## Puddings and pathways

Look out for the 1066 Country Walk Puddings and Pathways Festival: free professional street theatre at fabulous eateries along the route, where you'll also find delicious 1066 themed puddings!

More information at [visit1066country.com](http://visit1066country.com)  
[18hours.org.uk](http://18hours.org.uk)

## Sculptures

Created by local artist Keith Pettit, the ten wooden sculptures along the Walk are inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry and the heritage of 1066 Country. All sculptures are expected to be in place from August 2021.

1. Landings  
Norman longboats (Pevensey Castle) ♿
2. Isti Mirant Stella  
Halley's Comet crossed the sky just before the invasion (Herstmonceux Castle) ♿
3. Rest  
The horses that played a vital role in the invasion (Ash Tree Inn)
4. Window  
The animals depicted in the border of the Bayeux Tapestry (beside Great Park Farm) ♿
5. Bound Division  
King Harold, King William and the Crown (hidden in trees by the path, outside Battle Abbey)
6. Hidden Truth  
The crown over which the battle was fought (Battle Great Wood)
7. Farbanks Henge  
Monoliths overlook the Normans' new realm (Hare Farm, Westfield)
8. Legacies  
Saxon and Norman roots entwine in the English Language (Lower Snailham Farm)
9. The Watcher  
A sentry watching for the arriving Norman fleet (Wickham Manor Farm)
10. Treow (Old English for tree)  
A Bayeux Tapestry tree (start of the path at Rye) ♿

## What's new on the Walk

Thanks to a grant secured by Rother District Council Cultural Development from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development the 1066 Country Walk has been given a new lease of life in 2021.

There are over 80 new wooden signs and information panels by The Sussex Sign Company, 10 bespoke sculptures and 11 benches by Sussex artist Keith Pettit: [keithpettit.com](http://keithpettit.com)

The project aims to attract walkers to explore this beautiful route and the surrounding historic landscape, boost the local rural economy and encourage health and well-being.

Additional support funded this guide, illustrated by Ness Mann: [instagram.com/ness\\_mann\\_illustrations](https://www.instagram.com/ness_mann_illustrations) and [nessmann.co.uk](http://nessmann.co.uk)

This guide is downloadable from [visit1066country.com](http://visit1066country.com)