



## CHART SUTTON PARISH LOCAL WALKS... (No. 3) RESERVOIR RAMBLE: 5 miles

This walk starts from the Village Hall in Chart Sutton. From the car park, turn left and proceed down Chart Hill Road, taking extreme care because of traffic on the bends. At the junction with Chart Road, turn right on to the Greensand Way, footpath (KH554).

With the orchard on your left, continue until you come to the end of the trees. Turn left and follow the 'permissive path' signs set up by KCC which divert the OS-mapped footpath (KH555A). Carry on downhill, passing a lake on the right. The path is not well defined and very overgrown, but soon you should come to a wooden bridge over a stream. Cross over and pass a waterfall on your left and stroll along the path, keeping a private garden, a lake and bamboo along your left-hand side. When you reach a lane turn left, go through a gate and after some 10 metres turn right on to a footpath (KH557).

Climb over two stiles and follow the beautifully mown path which meanders past a reservoir on the left until you come to a creeper-covered wooden hut (difficult to see) below an electricity pylon. Drop down past the hut and turn left on to a tarmac track. Walk along the track until you come to a stile on the right. Climb over and follow the path which takes you right across the middle of the field. When you reach the trees, bear right, and keeping the hedge on your left, continue until you reach a gate. Turn left on to a bridleway (southern part of KH568). In wet weather this becomes VERY muddy.

At the end of the bridleway, cross the road and go through a gate (KH558) into a field. Walk diagonally across the field to a stile, then bear slightly right and pass over the stream. Walk straight ahead to the hedge, pass through a gate and walk alongside the field. With the hedge on your right find another gate in the furthest right-hand corner. This will take you out on to the road (Chart Hill Road). Cross over and enter Green Lane.

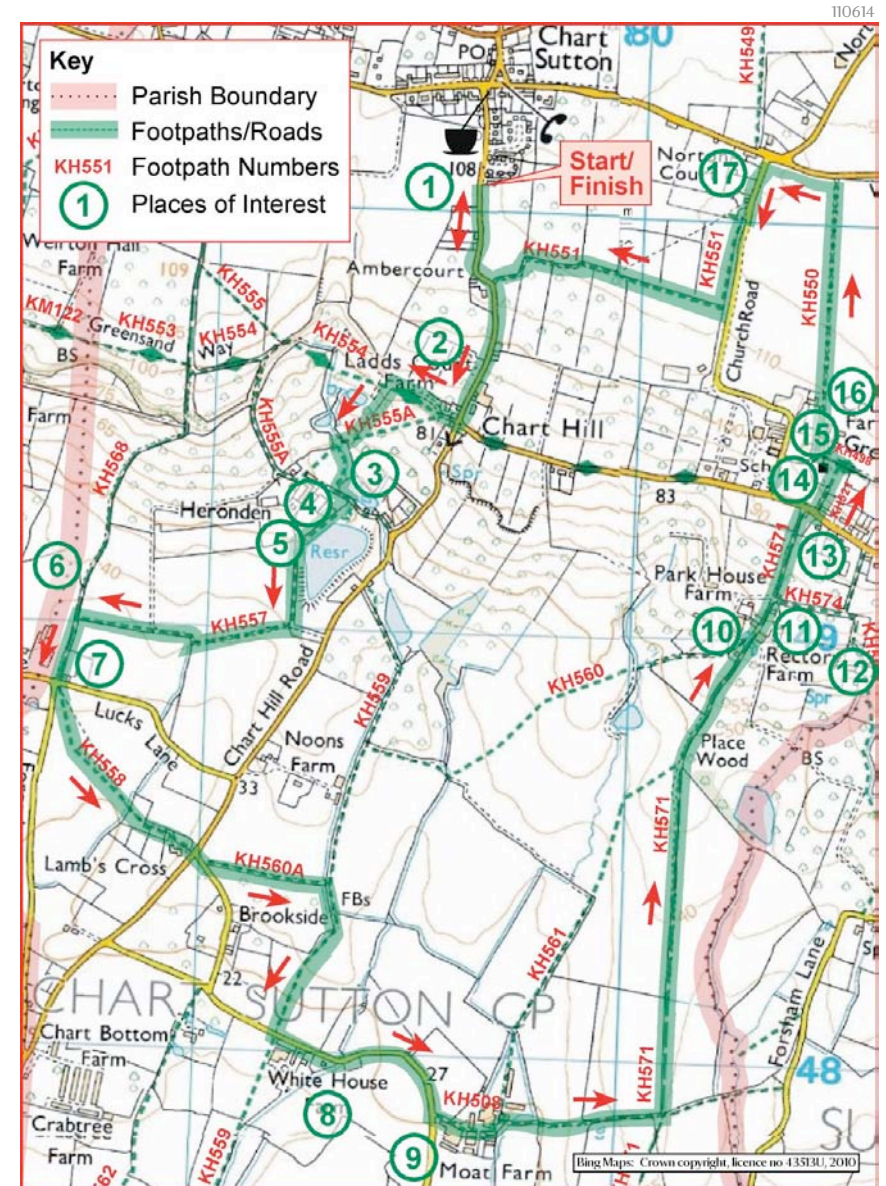
After a few metres, on the left, there is a fingerpost (KH560A). Walk over two small bridges and into the field, turn right and follow along edge of field to a bridge over a stream which leads you into another field. Turn right, (KH 559) and keep along the field edge to another bridge

## KCC FOOTPATHS: KH554/KH555A/ KH557/KH568/KH558/KH560A/ KH559/KH508/KH571/KH521/ KH498/KH550/KH551

and a very rickety stile. Walk onwards keeping the fence on your right. When the fence ends, walk on straight ahead across the field. The farmer has defined the path and you can see the stile in the distance. Climb over this wobbly stile and turn left into the lane (Green Lane). Continue for some way until you get to Moat Farm, then turn left on to the footpath (KH508).

Follow the track through the farm buildings, bearing left at the house and right at the chalet. Continue along the farm track, going uphill until you get to the top of the incline. Turn left at the blue arrow showing the bridleway (KH571). The path continues between two fenced fields and then open fields. Continue uphill and you will reach some houses and a lane (Rectory Lane), and then a T-junction at the top of the lane. Turn right and after approximately 30 metres, turn left and climb some steps (KH521). The path ascends slightly through the churchyard to a gate where you turn left (KH498).

At the gate at the end of the track, turn right (KH550) and pass several houses and then more open fields. Walk on until you reach the end of the field (before the road) and follow the path around to the left, marked by a yellow arrow. When you reach the end of the field, turn left into Church Road and continue until the fencing on your right comes to an end. Turn right on to footpath (KH551) and then immediately left into an orchard. Keeping the fruit trees on your right, walk along beside the hedge until the orchard ends, then turn right. Further along, the path will bear left then right through a gap in the hedge. Carry on until you come to the road (Chart Hill Road). Turn right, and walk up the hill until you return to the Village Hall.



## CHART SUTTON PARISH LOCAL WALKS... (No. 3)

### RESERVOIR RAMBLE: 5 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

### 1. Village Hall

This is the original Hall built in 1929 for £640; the money being raised in the village over a 3-year period. It continues to be the 'centre of village social affairs' as described at the time and is lovingly maintained by the Hall Committee.

### 2. Ladds Court

Grade II listed, house on site since C12th, originally owned by Priory of Leeds, housed Augustine monks. Present farmhouse is C17th or earlier with C19th alterations. Timber framed with plaster infilling. Porch came from Allington Castle.

### 3. Waterfall and Lower Ponds

Farmland in this area was owned by the Kleinwort Family in the 1920s and the two lower ponds and waterfall were created as a pleasure area (one natural pond, one for swimming) when the family enjoyed picnics away from their home at Wierton Place, Boughton Monchelsea. There were bridges, an island, two diving boards, changing hut and rowing boat.

### 4. Heronden (formerly Hearnden Farm)

For many years farmed with the Amberfield Estate at the top of the ridge. Hall house is C15th with later alterations and additions.

### 5. Chart Mill

In the Domesday Book, Chart Sutton is listed as having two water mills. The second is further down the hill and probably abandoned at time of Black Death which devastated the older settlement of Chart Sutton. The last listing of this Mill working is in the 1891 census; the Miller was a Mr Drury. The overshot mill wheel was removed for scrap in WWI and was to the left of the mill.

### 6. Bridlepath (KH568)

Follows the line of the Roman Road from Rochester to Hastings.

### 7. Lucks Cottage

Grade II listed, early C17th, timber framed.

### 8. White House Farmhouse

Grade II listed, C17th or earlier with C17th alterations, timber framed.

### 9. Old Farmhouse, Moat Farm

Grade II listed C17 or earlier. Timber framed.

### 10. Rectory Lane

This was the 'High Street' of the original settlement of Chart Sutton, abandoned following the ravages of the Black Death: 1348-1350.

### 11. Rectory Farm

Grade II listed. Probably the oldest house in Chart Sutton, known that between 1284 and 1320, two successive rectors lived there, although house is thought to be C15th with later additions.

### 12. Priory House

Grade II listed. Former vicarage and one time preparatory school. C17th with C19th additions, although site was designated by Archbishop of Canterbury as 'lying conveniently for a dwelling of a Vicar' in 1320.

### 13. Charnel House

Grade II listed building, facing Rectory Lane, sadly now in poor repair.

### 14. St Michaels Church

Tower is C14th, remainder rebuilt by Henry Holland 1779-82 following a major fire, alterations 1897-8. Note a number of tombstones to west of church for the Shirley family who were yeoman farmers of Hernden first recorded in Hearth Tax in 1640.

### 15. Chart Place

Grade II listed, C16th core, partly rebuilt 1708 by Sir Christopher Desbouverie as the principal manor house of the village.

### 16. Chart Place Cottages

Grade II listed. Formerly a farmhouse, early C18th.

### 17. Norton Court

Grade II listed, C18th. Site of the 'antient' seat of the Norton family who owned a large part of Chart Sutton in the reign of Richard II. Through the ages the estate was diminished due to the Jutish law of gavelkind.