

INVESTIGATING IVYCHURCH



ROMNEY MARSH
— THE FIFTH CONTINENT —



Doorstep Discoveries

INVESTIGATING IVYCHURCH

DESCRIPTION: Walk around the beautiful village of Ivychurch and discover exactly what's on our doorstep! A scavenger hunt style walk finding out about Ivychurch's history and wildlife.

Hard surfaces ✓ Views ✓ Nature and Wildlife ✓
Refreshments ✓ History ✓ Buggy Friendly ✓
Family friendly ✓ Interactive ✓

THINGS TO TAKE: Paper, wax crayon, camera

LENGTH OF WALK: 0.5 mile maximum

TERRAIN: Flat. Some uneven surfaces around the church yard

PARKING: Parking is available at the Village Hall Car Park.

POSTCODE: TN29 0AL

GRID REFERENCE: TR 0273 2768

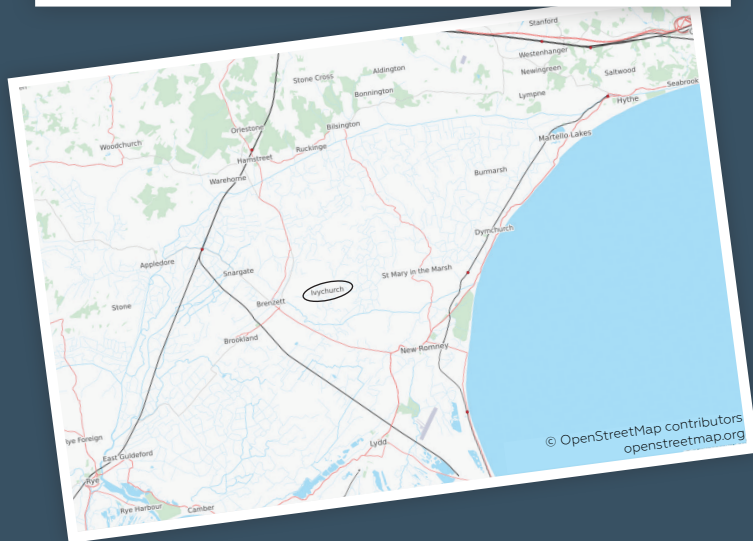
X/Y CO-ORDS: 602738, 127688

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Bus Route 11B from Ashford to New Romney.

MAPS TO USE: OS Explorer map: 125: Romney Marsh

REFRESHMENTS: available at The Bell Inn, Ivychurch.
01797 344355

TOILETS: at the pub and also one in St Georges Church
(ask for availability)




START/FINISH: The Village Hall Car Park, Ivychurch.

1 With the playground on your left hand side, look for the gap in the fencing at the bottom of the hedgerow.

Go through the gap and you will be standing on a green carpet of grass.




 Look for the trees behind the fence on the opposite side to the Hedgerow. Are they evergreen or deciduous trees? Hint: evergreens are green all year round and deciduous trees lose their leaves during the winter.

 These trees are called Leylandii or Leyland cypress trees and are a hybrid from 2 species of Cypress trees brought to England in 1888. Can you guess which country they originally came from?

 Why do you think Hedgerows are amazing places for wildlife?

 Draw 2 different leaf shapes in this box.

 Can you find 3 different types of plants in the Hedgerow – can you name them?

If you find anything unusual or need help with identifying any plants or insects, why not take a photo and post it to our Facebook page for help.



INTERESTING FACT


Hedgerows are one of our most easily encountered wildlife habitats and can be found right on our doorstep.



They are a valuable space for a huge range of wildlife to live and feed there. If you look into the hedgerow quietly, you may find an old bird's nest or some wild animals eating berries!

Hedges can line the edges of roads, railways, and footpaths and border the edges of fields and gardens and come in many sizes shapes, and colours. They are often the only link between patches of habitat which means that wildlife can use them like corridors to travel safely from one area to another.

Look in the hedgerow, can you find something with 2 different colours on it?



Is there anything here that shouldn't be?

2 Continue along the green carpet until you reach a wooden kissing gate.

‘Kissing Gates’ were used as barriers to stop livestock passing through. Can you name another way of preventing animals from escaping?



Carefully cross over the road towards the Church gates.



3 Go through the wooden gates into the church yard, turn left and walk along till you find Alfred Butlers Grave.

Look up to the top of St George's church tower. Can you see which way the wind is blowing from? Hint: which way is the arrow pointing?

INTERESTING FACT

The Romney Marsh is famous for being windy and the wind is a great source of renewable energy.

Have you seen the wind turbines while traveling around the Marsh? The 26 turbines can generate enough energy to power 33,000 homes.

4 Continue walking in the church yard and find the tree with the bird box.



What type of tree do you think this is?



Stand quietly and listen, what can you hear?

5 Continue your walk around to the back of the church, on your left you will see a fence.



What is behind the fence?
Hint: these help to stop the land from flooding.



Take a photo of an insect you find in the graveyard or hiding by one of the gravestones.



Find the nearest tree in the church yard.
Make your own yoga pose like a tree.
Can you hold this pose for 10 seconds?

INTERESTING FACT

Yew trees are evergreen trees found in Britain and can grow up to be 600 years old! There are lots of them found in churchyards around Britain and there are several theories to why...

- Churchyards often did not allow grazing animals on them. Yew trees are poisonous and therefore the only place where they could grow freely.
- Yew trees are thought to ward off evil spirits!
- Yew trees were planted on graves to protect them.





Using a wax crayon and a piece of paper, can you do a bark rubbing of one of the trees? If you do not have a wax crayon and a piece of paper, feel the tree with your hands. What does it feel like?

6 Continue your walk around the churchyard until you reach the entrance to St. George's Church.

INTERESTING FACT

St. Georges Church was built in the 13th Century... around 700 years ago! It is built out of a rock called Kentish Ragstone which is a tough Limestone from Kent used to build The Tower of London and make cannon balls!



Touch the Ragstone walls of the church.
What do they feel like?



7 Once inside the church turn right.

Can you find the long stone bench in the picture and sit on it?



INTERESTING FACT

This stone seat was built many years ago to cater for the elderly and the weak during church services. Everyone else would stand unless you were part of an important family who could afford to pay for their own seating area.

8 Find the exhibition on rural life inside the Church.

INTERESTING FACT

The rural life exhibition gives us clues to Ivychurch's past. It was a small farming community growing crops and tending to sheep.

9 Find the item below.



What is it called and what was it used for?



From looking at the artefacts, can you find out what the main food was that was grown around Ivychurch?

10 Leave the exhibition and continue your hunt around the church.

INTERESTING FACT

Historical legends of the church include the building of tunnels from the church to connect to the pub next door to help smugglers hide treasure and escape police!



Look down and find the writing carved into the floor. Can you find the name of the man who was a friend of the Briffeden Family?

11 Can you find what's in this photo?

This is a 'Hudd' or 'Hood'.



Can you guess or find out what it was used for and where?



12 Go back outside and head towards the gate – on your right there are 5 graves together.



Write down the names.

They were part of an important local farming family.

13

Continue your walk down the path and leave the Church yard.

Turn right towards the pub.

INTERESTING FACT

The Bell Inn was built over 450 years ago in 1545. St. George's church originally only had one bell in its tower, which gave the pub its name. During the 18th and 19th century it was used by large gangs of smugglers known locally as 'owlers'. This name is thought to come from smugglers preferring to move their illegal goods around at night, like owls!

How many picnic benches can you see?

Can you see the village sign on the opposite side of the road? What animals are on the sign?

⚠ Be careful of moving cars outside
The Bell Inn and the road traffic. ⚠



14

Cross over the road onto the path on the other side and walk towards the village hall.



How many steps can you do along the path till you reach the end?

Guess how many steps you might have done by the end of this walk?

15

Cross over the road to the bus shelter.



Be careful of moving cars.



What is the last stop on the bus route 11B?

How long does it take to get there from Ivy Church?

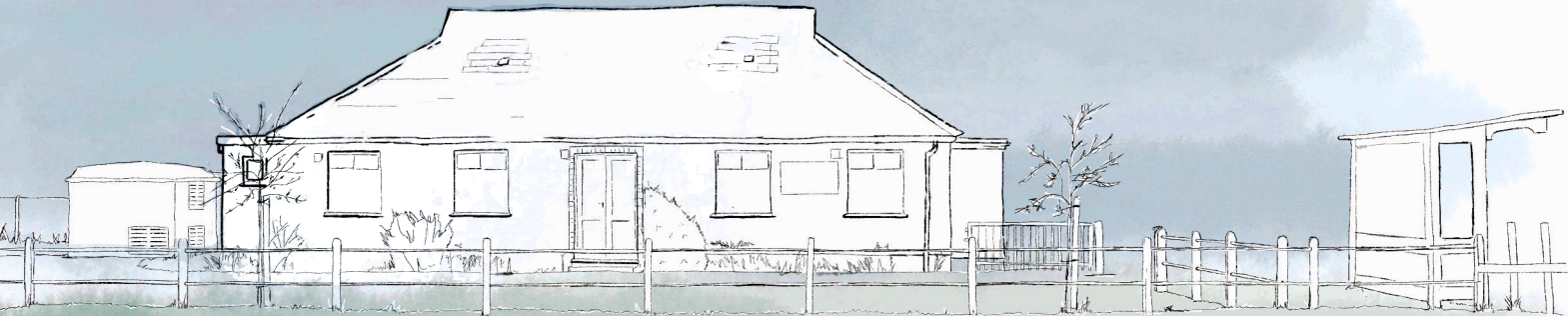
On your way back to the village Hall car park.



Look for something beginning with the letter 'B'.



Can you find your reflection in an unexpected place?





Look around you for wildlife that moves.
Can you draw a picture below?
Post it on the Facebook page.



16

You have now come back to the start.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Certificate of Completion



This acknowledges that



has successfully completed the
Doorstep Discoveries -
Investigating Ivychurch walk

discoveries



DATE



ANSWERS

1.1 | These are evergreen trees which hold their leaves all year round.

1.2 | North America.

1.3 | Hedgerows provide food and shelter and act as corridors which the wildlife can use.

2.0 | Cattle grids, stiles, ha-ha, fencing, hedgerows...

4.0 | Oak.

5.0 | A drainage ditch.

9.1 | A Plough - The plough cut furrows or "rigs" into the field bringing fresh soil to the surface and helping to bury the remains of the previous years crop.

9.2 | Potatoes.

10.0 | Joseph Stanley.

11.0 | A Hudd (or Hood) is really a Georgian umbrella which was used for funerals. It would be taken out into the churchyard during periods of poor weather so that the priest's wig and prayer book were not spoiled by the rain.

12.0 | Thomas BUTLER.
Catharine relict of Thomas BUTLER.
Elizabeth wife of Thomas BUTLER (son).
Thomas BUTLER (son of Thomas and Catharine).
Charlotte wife of Thomas BUTLER (son).

13.1 | Five.

13.2 | Sheep.

14.0 | Roughly to be around 1500 steps.

15.0 | Ashford, Park Street. 1 hour, 2 minutes.

**REMEMBER TO UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS
TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, AND KEEP
UPDATED FOR THE NEXT
DOORSTEP DISCOVERY.**

