

## Hopton Heath Railway Station to Bucknell Railway Station

9km

1. There's a link path from Hopton Heath Railway Station to Hopton Castle. Step up to the road, turn left over the railway bridge and left again along a lovely lane with a wide green margin. After you pass the distinctive hump of Warfield Bank on the left and the lane dips down to bend right, go left through a gate into a field. Walk slightly right across the field, over a footbridge and through a second field gate. The path crosses this second field to a stile in a hedge and into a lane. Go right to Hopton Castle further along on the left. From the Castle go left to the junction and left again through the village to join the main trail.

2. Walk through the village with the small stream to your left; the church is across a field to the right as the road bends left to pass the entrance of Upper House Farm. As it rises and begins to ease right, go through a gate on the left into a field and follow the tractor track ahead, through two pastures and gates. The track rises, bends right and then left to reach a field gate into Hopton Wood.

3. Go left up to a junction and turn sharp right onto a woodland track, sometimes shared with bicycles. Follow this track round gentle bends until it starts to descend where at a waymark post you cut left upwards on a track which climbs up steadily for some distance, passing one waymark post at a junction before reaching the top.

4. Cross straight over the forestry track and continue ahead on a grassy footpath to leave Hopton Wood. Where the track veers left following the conifers, go straight ahead, passing on your left a conifer seed orchard. The path can be a little overgrown in the summer. Eventually you reach a small gate before Meeroak Farm, and head to the left of a barn. Follow the track through gates and down to a drive. Continue ahead until you go through a gateway. Turn right here along the edge of a wood and then as the path veers left cross a stile on the right into a field.

5. Go slightly right across the field to the opposite boundary. Turn right here to walk down the field edge to cross a stile by a gate: there are wonderful views up the Redlake Valley. Continue down over another stile

by a gate, past Honeyhole Farm on the other side of the hedge. Follow the hedge to the left down towards a kissing gate above a house and stables. Drop down to the painted kissing gate. Keep to the left hand boundary through the garden to a metal field gate on the left. Follow the waymark through the gate into the field, turn right and follow the hedge down to a field gate leading onto a road.

6. Turn left along the road. Where it bends sharply right go through the field gate on your left. Head slightly right and along the track uphill, through a gate and past a line of redwoods on your right. On reaching another field gate ease off right along a bridleway; it contours round the base of Bucknell Hill, through woodland above the River Redlake. After you leave the woodland pass through a small gate and field gate on to Bridgend Lane, leading into Bucknell.

7. Follow the lane through to the main road in Bucknell. Turn left for the railway station, past the Baron Inn. The road bends right and across a bridge. Turn left after the bridge, along a surfaced path to the left of the parish church. This gives out at another main road. Turn right to pass the Sitwell Arms and over the level crossing to enter the station. If continuing on the trail turn right at the end of Bridgend Lane.

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