

## **Heathfield\* to Five Ashes – 3½ miles**

\*Park in the Tower Street recreation ground car park at Heathfield

Exit the car park, (TQ586213), turn left and proceed along Tower Street to the cross roads.

Cross the A265 and continue along Marklye Lane for a little over ½ mile.

At Marklye Farm take the driveway on the left leading to 'Marklye House', (marked as Orchard House on map).

Just after crossing the bridge over the disused Heathfield to Tunbridge Wells railway line, turn left down the slope, bear right in front of the weather boarded building and continue along the wide fenced path, turn right and go through the five bar gate into the field.

Go downhill, to the right of the copse of Silver Birch, and look for a stile into the woods at the bottom.

Cross the stile, go over the bridge and bear slightly right through the woods.

Go straight over a wide woodland track and continue into a more open area.

Re-enter woodland and go downhill to a bridge, cross the bridge and after a short section of woodland emerge into a field.

Proceed up through the field making for a gap in the top left corner, (not gated at time of inspection, 13-10-2017).

Continue straight on up towards 'Herrings Farmhouse', where there is a private air strip, an electric fence prevents livestock from getting onto the landing strip.

Go through the gap in the hedge onto the farm track. The path on the ground at this point differs from what is shown on the map.

Go straight across and go through the gate in the gap between the farmhouse to the left and the barn to the right.

Continue in a straight line, past the trees on the left, and through the field beyond and go downhill.

Go through the gate and turn immediately right, follow a sunken lane which exits in the bottom of the field and the path continues over a bridge.

Continue on through the wood eventually emerging into a field opposite an electricity pylon.

Go over the stile directly in front and continue straight on uphill across the field.

The next stile is down in a dip and will not be visible until the hill is breasted.

Go over the stile and make for a second stile on the far side of this next field, after crossing this stile make for the gate at the top of the field.

Go through the gate and turn right along the track for a few yards and then go through a five bar gate on the left.

Carry on to the right along the tree line and then turn left and go through a kissing gate.

Cross the field to the far right hand corner where there is a stile.

Go over the stile and proceed downhill along an old, and slightly overgrown, sunken lane.

Go through the gate at the bottom and proceed straight on through the farm yard.

At the end turn left along the drive in front of 'Allens Farmhouse'

At the end of the drive take the lower route out on to the lane and turn right.

Follow the lane for a few hundred yards and at the junction take the fork to the left.

Continue along this lane for about ½ mile.

Just after passing 'Bella Vista' on the right, take the turning on the right. (Some new houses were built up here at the time of inspection, 13-10-2017, so it is possible the road may be upgraded in due course).

The path continues shortly on the left, within the tree line.

Emerge onto the A267 at Five Ashes, near the bus stop.

