

Country Parks and Nature Reserves

Brockhiill Country Park, Saltwood. Dogs on leads in café area, and in fields beyond lake when livestock present. Dog friendly café serving vegetarian food.

Park Gate Reserve (Elham) and **Jumping Down Reserve** (Barham) dogs on leads when livestock present and in bird nesting season.

Coastal and Beach Walks

Most public beaches are open to dog walking at any time of the day from 1st October to 30 April. In summer sections of some beaches are open to dogs all day or in the evening and early morning. (Check Bye-laws on District Authority websites—Shepway, Dover, Thanet). Some (part) sandy beaches 20 mins to 1 hour's drive from Elham include: Folkestone Warren, Dymchurch, Littlestone, Dungeness, Sandwich Bay (toll road), Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate, Margate, Minnis Bay
Caution: Check tide tables to avoid high tide (some areas you may get cut off).

Coastal path walks are open all year to dogs, with the exception of some promenades where dogs must be on lead or are not permitted in the summer (check Bye-laws on District Authority websites). **Caution:** Much of cliff edge path along the coast is unfenced, keep dogs on leads.

Further Information

¹⁾ CLA Guidance Note: Dogs, Access and Public Rights of Way GN08-10 18/05/2010

²⁾ Dogs in the countryside: www.naturalengland.org.uk

³⁾ www.nfus.org.uk/uploadedFiles/Campaigns/Disease%20in%20Livestock.pdf

Dogs and horses: www.bhs.org.uk/safety-and-accidents/common-incidents/dog-attacks

Dogs and cyclists: www.sustrans.org.uk; www.explorekent.org

www.elham.co.uk; www.walkersarewelcome.co.uk; www.kentramblers.org.uk; www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering/countryside-volunteering/kent-countryside-access-forum;

Happy Dog Walking !

Reproduction and Use of Guide

This dog walking guide for the **Elham area** is an initiative of the **Kent Countryside Access Forum** with the assistance of **Kent Ramblers**. It has been produced to promote communication between Parish Councils, land owners, footpath/cycle/bridleway users and dog walkers in the countryside and to provide information for local residents and visitors with dogs. Part 1 of the guide, gives 'general guidance', and Part 2 is specific to a particular area.

There is no copyright restriction on this guide (anti-copy right). Please feel free to copy it for your own use. If you wish to use it as a framework for creating a dog walking guide for another area, you are encouraged to do so. The guide should remain anti-copyright.

Elham is an accredited **Walkers are Welcome** village, a scheme which aims to ensure excellent town and country walking facilities and footpaths.

Contact: chris@cjelly.plus.com for further information, questions or comments.

01/7/16

ELHAM DOG WALKING GUIDE



Elham

Introduction

The UK is a nation of dog lovers with an estimated 8.5 million dogs⁽¹⁾ in the country and 23% of households owning at least one dog⁽²⁾. It is little wonder then that dog friendly walking routes are in high demand, especially routes where dogs can be safely let off the lead.

This guide suggests dog friendly places to take your dog locally along with some friendly advice on what is expected of you and your dog.

The guide is divided into two parts.

Part 1 gives general guidance relating to walking your dog in the countryside

Part 2 provides some information and guidance on local paths, beaches and woodlands where your dog can be exercised freely and safely.



Part 1 - The Responsible Dog Owner

Clearing up after your dog.

Most people these days are aware that it is socially unacceptable not to pick up after their dog, as well as the risks of dog faeces to human health. For those in breach, heavy fines can be levied under dog control orders where they apply, mainly in public places.

There is also growing evidence of the links between two specific diseases in livestock and the presence on grazing land of faeces from infected dogs. The two diseases are:

- Neosporosis – which can cause abortions in cattle and
- Sarcocystosis – which can cause neurological disease and death in sheep.

In both cases it has been proven that dogs are host to these diseases and evidence suggests that only a small number of infected dogs develop symptoms.⁽³⁾ To be sure that your dog is not contributing to the spread of this problem, it is essential to clear up after your dog in all situations, whether on a footpath or in fields and dispose of the waste responsibly. Where dedicated dog waste disposal bins are not provided, litter bins may be used or waste must be taken home.

Restrictions

Public places: Local Byelaws (Dog Control Orders) specify where and when dogs must be on a lead, and where dogs are not permitted. Check District Authority websites for information.

Public Rights of Way (PROW): Dogs are defined as a 'legal accompaniment' on a public right of way. There is no general requirement for dogs to be kept on the lead on PROWs. However, if you or your dog depart from the PROW you are trespassing and the landowner has the right to ask you to return to the designated path. The 1953 Act to protect livestock from dogs makes it a criminal offence for your dog to 'worry' (attack, chase, injure or be at large among) livestock. Dogs must be kept 'under close control' in the vicinity of livestock. When dog obedience is questionable your dog must be kept on the lead.

Countryside Access Land: Since 2000 there has been a right to walk across most downland, heathland, moorland and registered common land. Walkers are made aware that they are entering Access Land by means of a notice placed at points of entry. Access Land legislation requires dogs to be kept on leads of less than 2m in length to protect ground nesting birds during the period 1st March to 31st July. It is also a requirement that dogs should be kept on a lead at all times when in the vicinity of livestock. However, in situations where personal safety may be at risk from livestock, usually from cattle, especially cows with calves, the best advice is to keep dogs off the lead and exit the field with them as quickly as possible.

Permissive Paths: Allowing walkers onto private land where they normally have no public access rights is termed permissive access. Landowners may grant such access as a goodwill gesture or as part of a formal stewardship scheme for which they receive payment. In both cases the landowner has the right to place restrictions, e.g. no dogs or dogs only on the lead.

Part 2 - Where to Walk with your Dog

A variety of self-guided walks in Kent can be downloaded free from the following websites:

Explore Kent: www.explorekent.org

Kent Ramblers: www.kentramblers.org.uk

However, neither site gives specific guidance for dog walking suitability, as yet.

A publication "**Kent – A Dog Walker's Guide**" by David & Hilary Staines is available from www.amazon.co.uk (current price £7.95). Many of these walks are based in West Kent, however, and there are few in the East Kent Downs and none in the Elham area in this book.

Walks from Elham village

The village of **Elham** is located between Folkestone and Canterbury in the **Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB) and is covered by **OS Explorer map 138**.

Eight self-guided walks starting and ending in Elham village are published by **Elham Valley Cards** and can be purchased from the village pubs, tearoom and shop or directly from Elham Valley cards **tel: 01303 840461**. Price £2.50 for four or £5 for all eight.

- **Walk numbers 1 to 8** in the series are suitable for all small dogs, i.e. those that can be easily lifted over stiles or passed through gaps. (Dogs on leads where livestock present).
- **Walk numbers 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8** are also suitable for many large dogs as they mostly have kissing gates or gaps with only one or two stiles. (Dogs on leads where livestock present).

Dog Waste Bins in Elham

In Elham litter bins are located mainly on the High Street between Elham School and Cherry Gardens and also at Fairfield.

Dog Restrictions in Elham

In Elham, dogs are not permitted in the King George V playing field and children's play area or on the 'Triangle' (Green opposite the school). For special public events these restrictions may be temporarily waived. Dogs are permitted on and off lead on the Gore (opposite the Village Hall).

Woodland Walks near Elham

Forestry Commission Woodlands: (light green on OS 138)

These walks can be circular and are self-guided, suitable for large and small dogs off lead.

Local Forestry Commission woodlands include Elham Park Wood, Madams Wood, Covert Wood, Covet Wood, Park Wood and West Wood. (The enclosed map shows locations).

Free car park at West Wood; all other woodlands have roadside pull ins

Caution: the western edge of West Wood is unfenced onto the B2068 Stone Street.

Private woodlands: (dark green on OS 138) Access is by public rights of way only.

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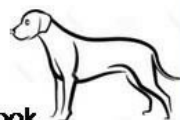
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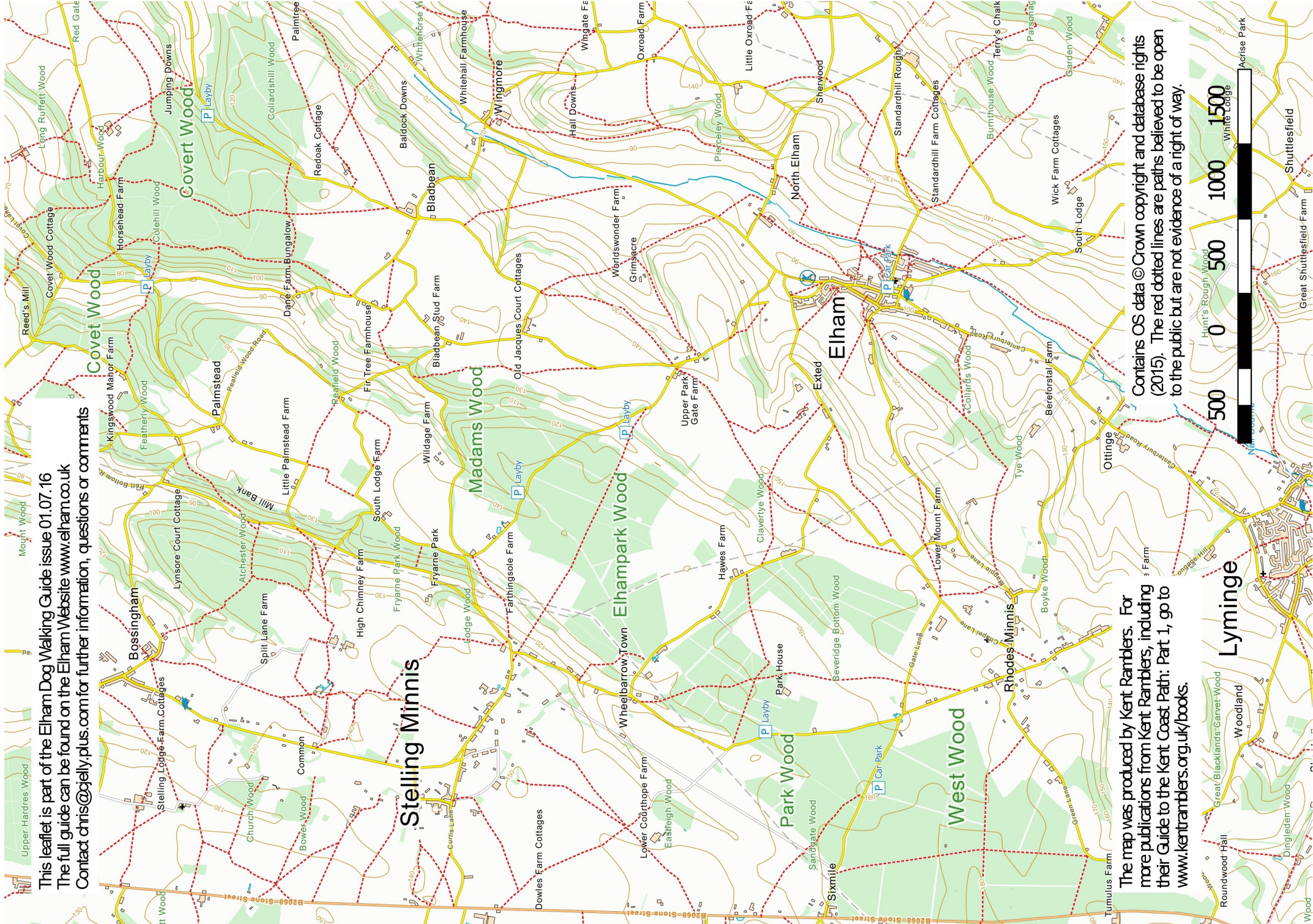
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This leaflet is part of the Elham Dog Walking Guide issue 01.07.16
The full guide can be found on the Elham Website www.elham.co.uk
Contact chris@gelly.plus.com for further information, questions or comments

The map was produced by Kent Ramblers. For more publications from Kent Ramblers, including their Guide to the Kent Coast Path: Part 1, go to www.kentramblers.org.uk/books.

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