

## The Hastings Line Stage 6: Saturdays 15 and 22 July 2017 Frant to Stonegate (8.8 miles)

**Meet:** Frant station (GR TQ607364) on arrival of the down train due at **11.14am** (*dep* Charing Cross 10.15, Waterloo East 10.18, London Bridge 10.23, Orpington 10.40, Sevenoaks 10.49, Tonbridge 10.58). (*No toilets at station, use those on train*).

**Maps:** OS 1:25 000 Explorer Sheet 136; OS 1:50 000 Landranger 188; East Sussex street atlas.

**Outline route:** Frant station - Bells Yew Green - Wadhurst station (3.3 miles) - Durgates - Wadhurst (lunch stop; 4.8 miles) - Dens Farm - Stonegate station (8.8 miles).

**Late start/early finish option:** Leave or join at Wadhurst station after 3.3 miles); thence 5.5 miles to Stonegate.

**Ascents:** 200m      **Descents:** 250m.

**Terrain:** Very undulating, field paths and mainly quiet roads.

### Detailed route description:

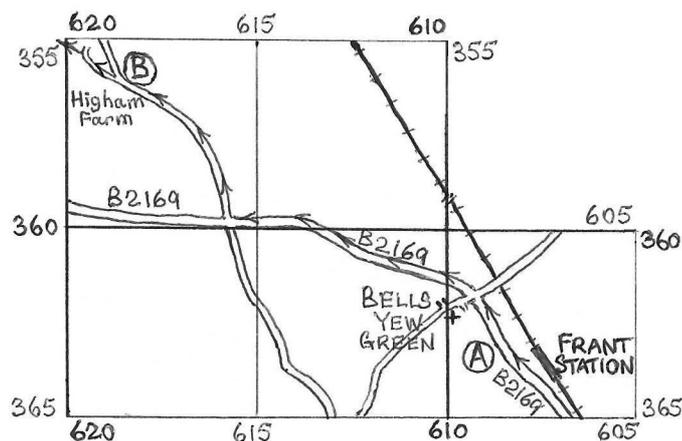
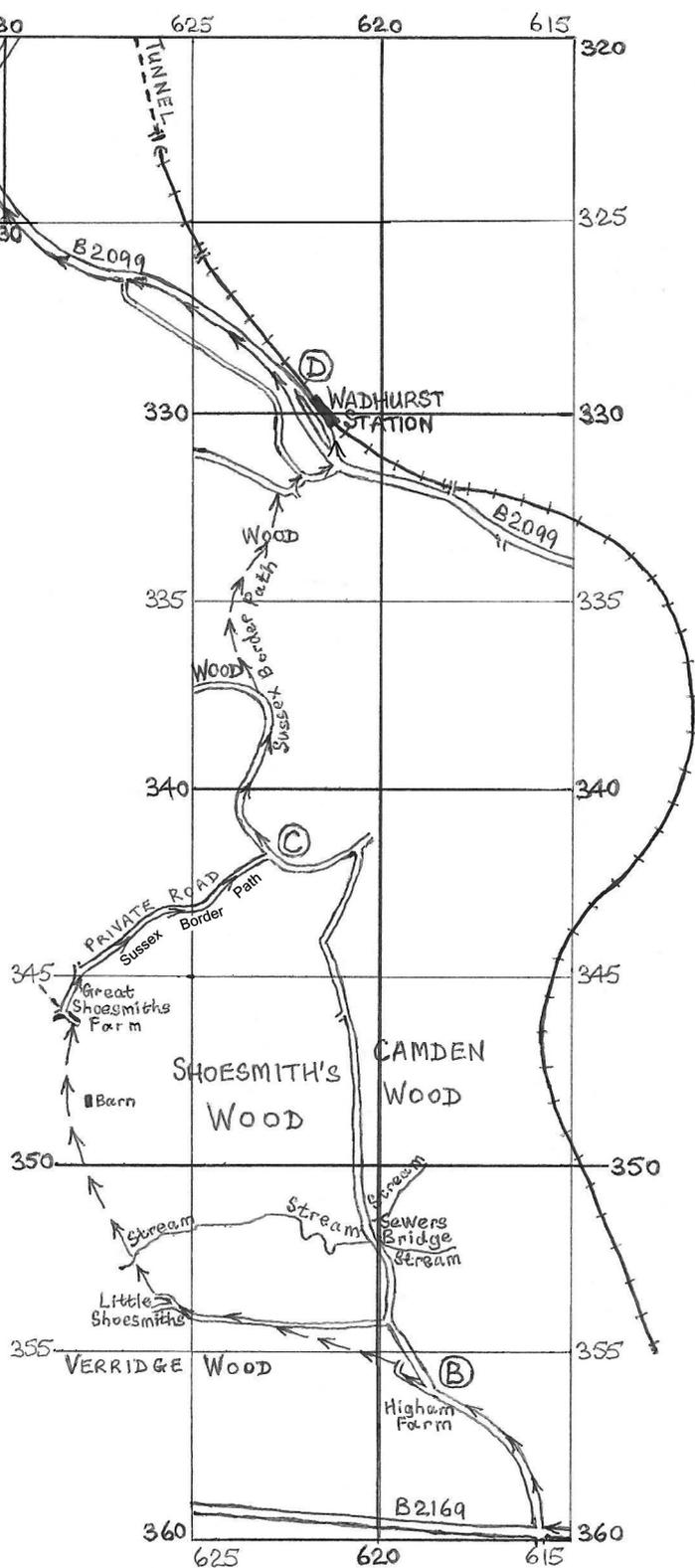
From **Frant station** ((A) on map) turn right along the B2169 (*busy road, single file*) for 800m through Bells Yew Green to the second crossroads, where turn right into a quiet lane.

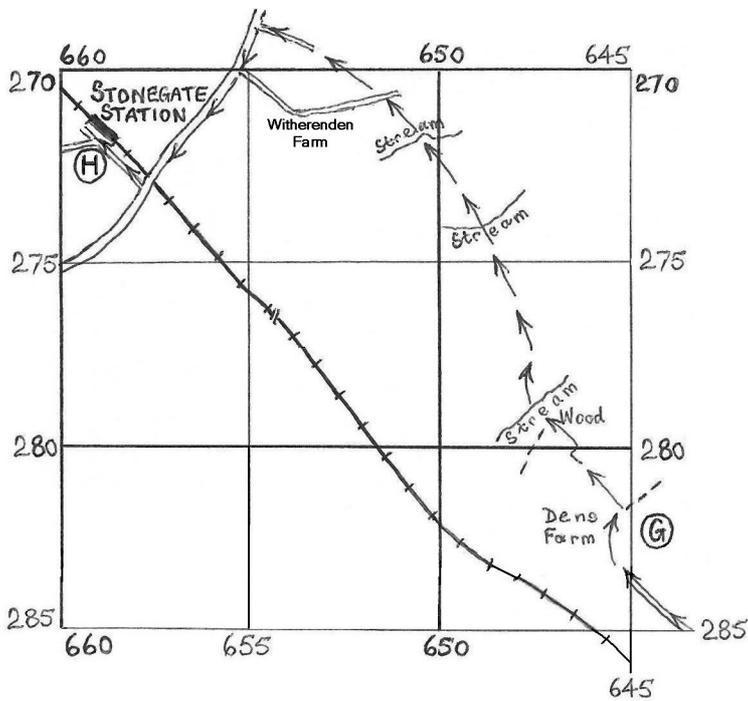
After passing Higham Farm (500m, left, (B) on map), take a track forking left at the end of the farm buildings, then fork left again through a gate (*not signed*) just before a house. Drop diagonally (ESE) to the far corner of the field, then continue along a track through a wood leading to Little Shoesmiths.

Behind there, take a footpath heading SSE over a stream, then uphill. Go through one metal gate, then another waymarked one halfway up the hill. Continue to a finger post at the top of the hill, leaving a brick barn to the right. Then take a track heading southwards and downhill to Great Shoesmiths Farm, where you meet the Sussex Border Path. Continue southwards along a metalled private road which soon bears right (SW) and eventually joins a quiet road ((C) on map).

Turn left for 600m to two houses and, where the lane bears left to face E, fork right along a sunken lane (still on the Sussex Border Path) through woodland. On reaching a further lane after 650m, turn right and uphill to the B2099, then turn half left to **Wadhurst station** (right, (D) on map; *toilet in booking hall, spacious traditional waiting room on up platform*; 3.3 miles).

From Wadhurst station exit turn right along the access road to the B2099. Continue through Durgates ((E) on map) to Wadhurst (*lunch stop; picnic by fire station gardens, or White Hart pub or cafés*; 4.8 miles).





Go SSW down the road at the side of the White Hart which becomes a track and then a footpath. Cross a stream and then go uphill for 250m before forking left (SSE). After 60m cross a track and continue S across open ground and then through Snape Wood. Cross the railway line, and turn left on reaching a road ((F) on map).

After 160m fork right along a footpath (*sign obscured*) heading S with a wood alongside to the right. Follow an overgrown footpath past a dry pond and across a stream, then bear SSE and uphill to a metal gate. Here turn right down a lane heading S, passing the 'Buttons' estate and crossing a stream. Where the lane turns left, continue S along a metalled private road. Where this divides after 350m bear left (SSE) to Dens Farm ((G) on map).

Here bear right along a track then almost immediately turn left (SSE) along a footpath. After 200m turn right for a few metres, then left to continue SSE with a wood to the right. Continue straight on across several streams, keeping the buildings of Witherenden Farm in sight. After three fields a small gap in a hedge leads to a bridleway.

Here bear left (E) along the footpath, which becomes a farm road, then turns SE and leads to a public road. Turn left (NE) and uphill along this road, and after crossing the railway turn right along the access road to Stonegate station ((H) on map, 8.8 miles).

**Saturday rail service from Stonegate:**

Stonegate	16.23	17.23	17.53
Sevenoaks	16.59	17.59	18.29
Orpington	17.09	18.09	18.37
London Bridge	17.26	18.25	18.56
Waterloo East	17.31	18.30	19.01
Charing Cross	17.35	18.35	19.05

