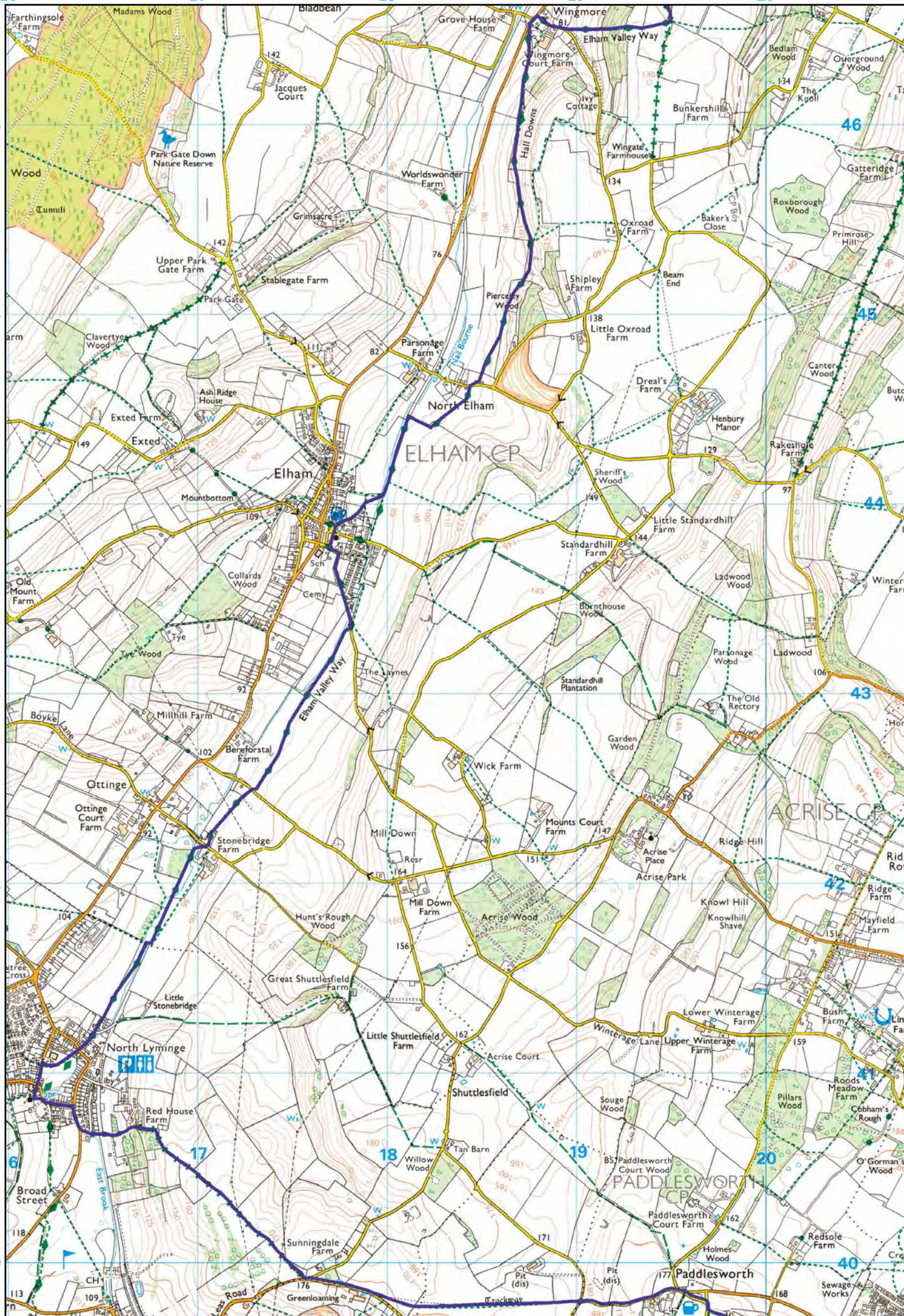


THE ROYAL KENTISH CAMINO









THE ROYAL KENTISH CAMINO



## Route Information

### The Royal Kentish Camino

This route offers the rare opportunity in the British Isles to follow a pilgrimage route that ends at a shrine where the relics of the original saint are still preserved and venerated. The Royal Kentish Camino celebrates the foundational achievements of three generations of royal Kentish women who at the end of the 6th and in the 7th Centuries were instrumental in establishing Christianity in England and shaping the history of this country.

The walk begins at the World Heritage site of St Martins Church, Canterbury, known to have been used by Queen Bertha probably from the 580s and the oldest church in the English-speaking world. Bertha was a Christian Frankish princess who married the then still pagan King Aethelberht of Kent. Aethelberht invited the Pope in Rome to send a mission to convert his kingdom, and this arrived under the leadership of St Augustine in 597. The camino follows the route of the Elham Valley Way from St Martins to Patricbourne, and then turning south follows the Royal Saxon Way across the North Downs along the Elham Valley to Lyminge, where a church was founded by Berthas daughter Ethelburga around 635. Her church was re-excavated in 2019. The route then climbs up the side of the valley on to the top of the Downs and passes the ancient church of St Oswald at Paddlesworth, the only dedication to this northern saint in southern England.

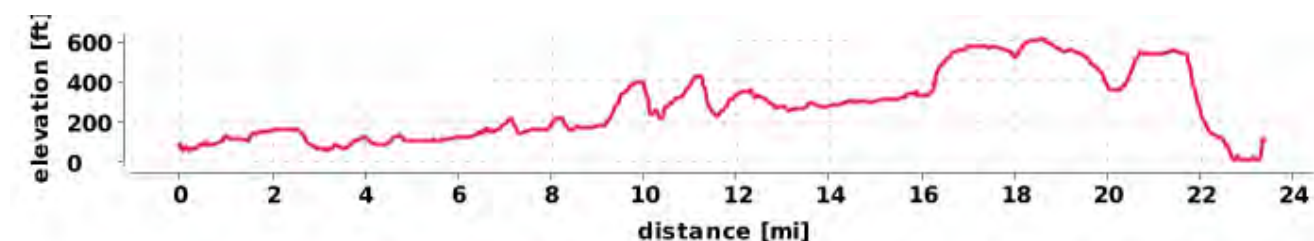
The route then continues to the edge of the Downs and follows the ridge to the coast above Folkestone before descending the scarp to cross the East Cliff and then Folkestone Harbour before climbing up the western cliff to St Mary and St Eanswythe, the church founded by St Eanswythe, Ethelburgas niece and Berthas granddaughter around 660. What are believed to be Eanswythes relics were found in the church in the 19th Century and they were scientifically dated to the 7th Century in 2020. We can be reasonably confident that these are the remains of St Eanswythe, and they remain to this day in her shrine in the church that still bears her name.

The route is relatively level for most of its length as it follows the course of the seasonal chalk stream the Nailbourne from Patricbourne to its source at Lyminge. There is a steep but short climb from Lyminge on to the top of the Downs from where, after walking to the edge of the chalk ridge, there are extensive views over Folkestone and across the English Channel.

## Route Summary

Total Distance	<b>23.4 mi (37.67 km)</b>
Elevation	<b>11 ft at lowest point</b> <b>612 ft at highest point</b>
Total Ascent	<b>1849 ft</b>

## Elevation Profile



# Route Card

#	OS Grid Ref	Dist from start	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
1	<b>TR 158 577</b>	<b>0</b> mi	51° 16' 41" N	1° 5' 36" E	<b>91</b> ft
	Dist to next: <b>23.4</b> mi, Ascent to next: <b>20</b> ft				
2	<b>TR 229 358</b>	<b>23.4</b> mi	51° 4' 43" N	1° 10' 52" E	<b>111</b> ft