



The Star

Alfriston, Rathfinny Wine Estate

- ① Walk down the village towards Deans Place.

Opposite Deans Place there is a public bridleway marked Bopeep Bostal which you follow. As you take the gently rising chalk and flint track you will see the stables and then Alfriston campsite on your right. ②

Follow the sign post for the public bridle way keeping to the left track with expansive views across the North Downs and to the south where Seaford, Newhaven and Brighton are all visible.

- ③ Take a sharp left on the public bridleway and follow the track down towards the vines and **The Rathfinny Wine Estate**.

As you are now entering a working vineyard please be aware of cars and machinery and keep dogs on a lead. At the vines ④ turn left and follow the road along their edge. Follow this and you will see a road down to the right taking you to Flint Barns or carry on to see the cellar and bottling buildings ahead ⑤ with the vines of Cradle Valley on your right.

Keep on the road through the Winery ⑥ with views of the vines right and left. To the left the vines are all Chardonnay grapes until you get to the estate office.

Follow the winding estate road downhill until you reach Alfriston Road. Turn left at the road and follow the footpath back into the Village. ⑦

The Land and Wildlife

The Chalk soil is exactly the same as the soil in Champagne, stretching across the English Channel and visible in the nearby Seven Sisters cliffs. It is perfect for sparkling wine grapes.



Corn Bunting

The UK population of corn buntings has declined by 86% since 1967. This is mainly because fewer seed and insect food sources are available to them on farmland but you can find them in the vineyard windbreaks.



Buzzard

Listen for its mournful mewing as it soars over the vineyard with its short tail and broad rounded wings. It can reach speeds of 28mph and has yellow legs and a yellow and black hooked beak. They vary in colour from all dark brown to much paler variations, all have dark wingtips and a finely barred tail.



Brown Hare

Look out for this shy elusive runner with long, black-tipped ears along the vine rows. It can reach speeds of 40mph when evading predators. In March during mating season you may see them boxing when a female is fending off a too persistent male.

WALK 5





The Star

Rathfinny Wine Estate

Distance: 4.5 miles approximately.

Route: Alfriston and Rathfinny Wine Estate.

Map: OS Explorer OL25, Eastbourne & Beachy Head.

Conditions: good walking along chalk and grassy tracks and private roads, otherwise gentle undulation with no steep gradients.

Refreshments: Rathfinny Wine Estate.

Mobile Download: If you prefer to be guided by your phone, please download the free OS Maps app and then follow the QR code inside to link to this route.

WALK 5

The Polizzi Collection

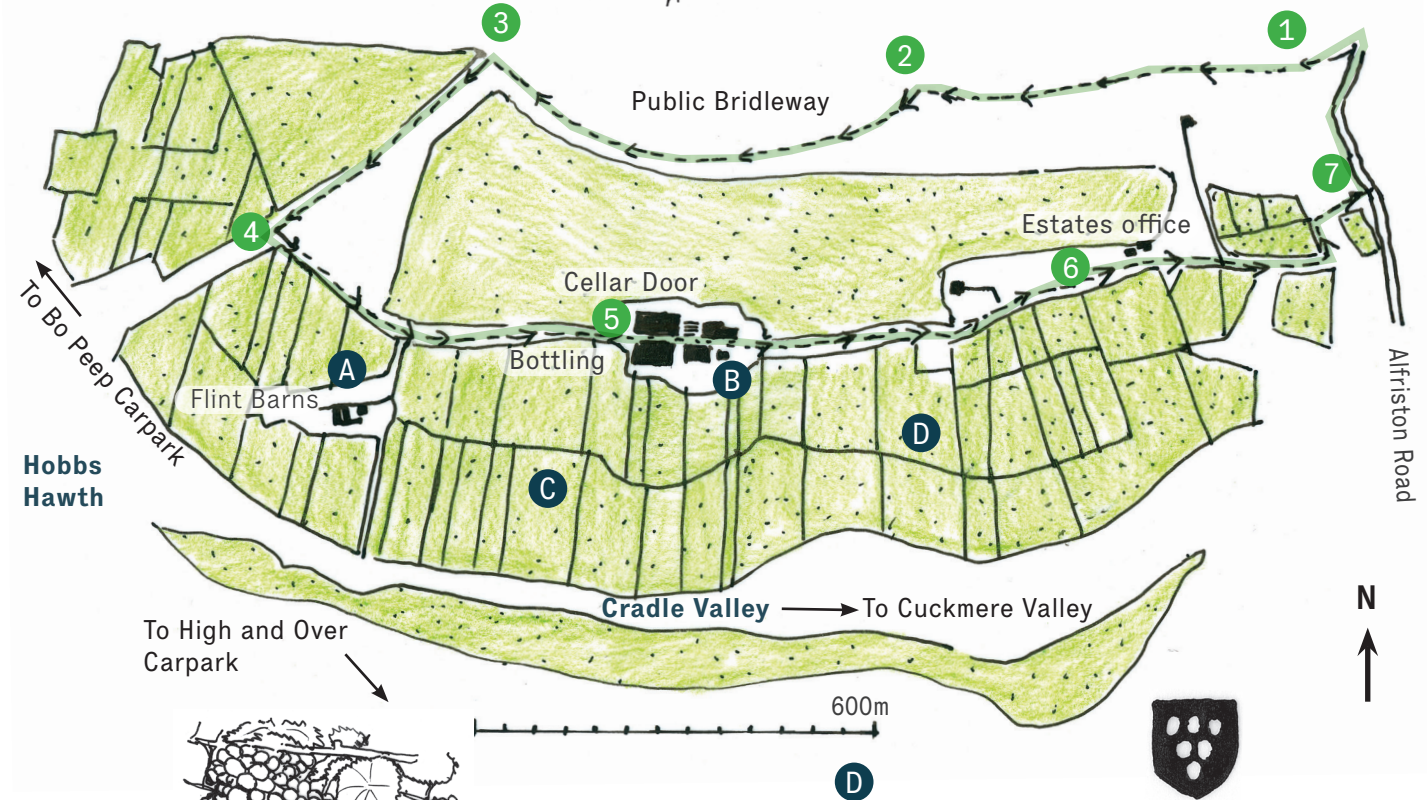
A Flint Barns

Restored after the storms of 1987, offering rooms and a seasonal courtyard restaurant.



B Winery, Tasting Room and Cellar Door.

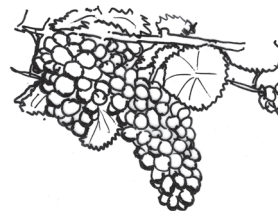
A cellar with space for 4 million bottles, each aged for a minimum of 3 years (Rose 2). At the Cellar Door you can buy and order all the Estate wines and Seven Sisters spirits.



C

Vines

First planted in 2012 they are 2.2m wide and 1.1m apart. As of 2020 there are 93 hectares under vine. The 385000 vines all need individual care; hand-pruning and hand-harvesting by a local workforce.



D

Grape Varieties

Look out for the three main varieties that go into the estates sparkling wine.

Pinot Noir (red tag)- used in red and white providing minerality and red fruit flavours.

Chardonnay (yellow tag)- using different aromatic and flavoured clones from green plums and apples to tropical mango.

Pinot Meunier (purple tag)- planted on the more exposed areas as it is a hardy variety.