



NEW YEAR 2021 / WINTER EDITION & COVID 19 SPECIAL MEASURES

PLEASE STICK TO THE FOOTPATHS AT ALL TIMES – WE HAVE VULNERABLE PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL ABLE TO WORK ON OUR FARM IF YOU KEEP TO THE FOOTPATHS. PLEASE NOTE THAT FOOTPATHS DO NOT PASS ANY HOUSES, FARM BUILDINGS OR ROADS. HAVE A LOOK AT OUR INFORMATION BOARDS AND OVERLEAF. PLEASE KEEP TO THE FOOTPATHS, ANIMALS ON LEADS, POOP SCOOPED, AND LOOKING OUT FOR MACHINERY....REMEMBER THIS IS A WORK PLACE – ALBEIT A BEAUTIFUL ONE!

**Charrington Fruit Farms
Cryals Farm, Boundary Map &
FOOTPATHS**

- START POINT =  ENTRY / EXIT
- FOOTPATH = 
- CRYALS FARM BOUNDARY = 
- POINTS OF INTEREST:
- Granny's Bench (rest area) 
- Wildlife corridors - throughout the farm 
- B&B – bug Hotels 
- Conservation areas are marked with: 
- Big Farmland Bird Count Observation site 
- Wild Flower and beehive sites 

PLEASE DO NOT WALK IN LARGE GROUPS AND KEEP IN HEARING DISTANCE ONLY OF ANYONE YOU SEE. MINIMUM 2 METRES BUT WE RECOMMEND MORE THAN THIS.

HAVE A LOVELY WALK. OVERLEAF YOU CAN READ ABOUT WHAT WE DO HERE AND USE THE MAP TO SEE SOME OF THE WILDLIFE.

IF YOU WANT TO TRY OUR CIDER / JUICE / CRISPS YOU CAN ORDER FROM CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM AND WE'RE STILL DELIVERING – YOU CAN GET 10% OFF BY SIGNING UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER.

Take a rest at
Granny's bench...

**COVID 19 SPECIAL MEASURES - PLEASE KEEP TO THE FOOTPATHS AND MAINTAIN DISTANCE AT ALL TIMES
WE'RE STILL DELIVERING BUT PLEASE ORDER ONLINE WWW.CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM OR CALL 01892722372
PLEASE NOTE THIS MAP IS ONLY INDICATIVE TO MAKE YOUR WALK MORE INFORMATIVE AND ENJOYABLE**

WELCOME TO CHARRINGTON FRUIT FARMS

PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE WITH YOU ON YOUR WALK
THIS IS PART OF OUR COVID SPECIAL MEASURES



DON'T LOOK, I'M NAKED!...Well...I've certainly lost all my leaves and you'll have to look carefully along my bare branches to see my bud for the coming spring. You can't be sure, but the pointiest of buds tend to be "blind" or just leaf bud, while the fatter more rounded tipped bud might be my crop for next year. You won't know until the weather begins to warm up and my buds begin to swell and then break. I actually like and need the cold..."chill units" help me shut down for the winter and keep my nutrients locked in for a good start in the spring. Warmer, wetter winters are not my thing – like you, I like the dry, cold and clear days. I'm not that keen on deep frosts! This is my downtime. While I'm dormant, I'm still susceptible to damage and it's a good time to sort out my body shape!

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU?...While our trees are overwintering, we are still carefully storing their harvested apples in very sophisticated cold stores. Our stores harness nature and slow down the natural ripening of each variety by matching and maintaining a carefully balanced mix of temperature and atmosphere. We manage the atmosphere in the store by allowing the apples to respire normally but in a sealed chamber. As the apples respire they use up the oxygen in the store and we keep the resulting carbon dioxide lower than the oxygen by filtering the air in the store to remove the carbon. This is monitored three or 4 times a day, every day. The colder temperature helps reduce the respiration rate. Once we are ready to sell the apples, we open the store and wash, grade and pack it ready for you.

IT'S NOT JUST WHAT WE GROW BUT HOW WE GROW IT: We have the highest accreditation in the country (LEAF) for sustainable farming, supplying all the major supermarkets with fresh apples and making our own award winning apple juice, premium sparkling ciders and apple crisps. We have won 6 Great Taste Awards and 4 Quality Food and Drink Awards, winning Best Cider, best mulled apple juice and Best Sweet Snack (apple crisps) for innovation and quality. We have also been awarded the Emsden Trophy for our contribution to the Kent Countryside, looking after everything we have here – our precious water where we are net contributors to the water table, harnessing the sun with our solar panels to power our cold stores, and looking after our trees and everything and everyone who lives on and visits the farm (including you 😊). Our water conservation and rainwater collection means our reservoir was full within weeks of the winter rains coming and is now already contributing to the wider water table. In fact we are a carbon positive business and we are net contributors to the water table collecting significantly more water over the year

than we use....AND HAVE BEEN FOR OVER 50 YEARS....no band wagons here...just tractors and trailers!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ORCHARDS?...It looks like nothing but don't be fooled! We're trying to limit our own "travel" through the orchards, especially with machinery to prevent soil compaction and protect the rows and headlands. You'll see how even the footpath where you walk suffers from erosion as a result of walking the same route. The orchard floor and rows are full of micro-organisms and everything has an important role. Even the grass strips are important helping drain and absorb the excess water as well as reduce infection from bare soils. The leaves that have fallen are naturally decomposing. If they are not gone by spring, we'll be gathering and finely chopping them to reduce infection and return to the ground with the prunings. For now, the bark from these prunings are a great source of winter nutrition for the rabbits and other animals. Our birds are enjoying the protection of our thick, high windbreaks and all the animals too down below who use them as winter wildlife corridors and can cross the entire farm in multiple ways protected from the elements, prey and people. Even the buzzards are busy. If you get a chance to watch the formation flying of the starlings, it is definitely worth taking a moment to appreciate the precise matching and wave-like ripples that swoop to ground level and soar to the clouds and back down again often with more joining.

REPLANTING AND REGENERATION: If you walk through our field "Hop Garden" on Cryals Road (by the main entrance), you will see we have recently planted it. We are going to be doing the same with another three orchards this year. At the moment you can easily spot these as they have been left ploughed and open to allow the cold and air to naturally cleanse the soil. As you walk across the top of the farm, you will pass both "10 Acre" on the eastern boundary and "Big Field" on the western boundary. Further down as you pass through the latch gate into Hop Garden, you will see Pond Field as well. In all, there are 5 hectares being replanted (just over 1 tenth of our farm). These are 25 year investments and they need to stay healthy, productive and commercially viable for that whole period. It's a responsibility that we share with you as well as we need you loving, valuing, eating and drinking all the varieties we grow for that whole time too. This year the changes are stark and obvious but actually every year in an orchard's life is equally as important. Later this year you will see the orchard levelled, grass seeded, and marked out with the new orchard structure. We hope to plant in November if the ground conditions allow. These are long term investments and we hope to have our first full crop 4 years from planting. Apple orchards are very kind on the land with everything during the life of the orchard being returned to the field. Look out for the transformation over your many walks...

WHO ELSE IS ABOUT? With "the virus" we're so pleased to see so many humans! It's a real privilege to live and work here year round and it's great that people are rediscovering the

footpaths – and from chatting to many of you, it's clear that these walks are important sometimes bringing families together, sometimes getting away from it all and sometimes just a favourite walk. As a LEAF farm, we want you to enjoy your walk and get the most out of it by pointing out some of the (we hope!) interesting things as well as the less visible activities. All the wildlife we have is as a result of the very long term nature of our farming practices and our farm becomes a rich and importantly reliable source of year round food and protection. Listen out for the change in the bird song and keep your boots to hand for at least the next few months. Take care particularly over the lower ground around the reservoir as it is very slippery. Wild Geese are the only shakers and movers down there.

WISHING YOU A LOVELY WALK: You are very welcome here. Please do keep to the footpaths and look out for all the workers (bees and humans and tractors)! The fields look lovely and open but we would be very grateful if you could keep firm control of your dogs and scoop any poop – it upsets the foxes and most of all it is not appreciated on the bottom of our boots when working in the fields. If you would like to meet us or know more about the farm, our apples and our award winning single juices, ciders and crisps, please email us hello@charringtonsdrinks.com or call Alex on 07919413104. You can also see what we're up to on www.facebook.com/charringtons, Twitter [@charringtons](https://twitter.com/charringtons), web pages charringtonfarms.co.uk and charringtonsdrinks.com, and even our You Tube channel "Hello@ Charrington's" where you will find more information and you can buy our cider, juices and apple crisps (we don't have a shop but we do deliver!).

As you walk through you will see Information Boards, Wildlife Corridors, Bug hotels and Conservation Areas. Please feel free to take this page away with you - you will find them in the holders at the entrances /exits to the farm. Look out for events (VIRTUAL or otherwise!) that we will be running through the year from Cider tastings to Blossom walks or drop us a line to make a suggestion. We are planning on using QR codes a lot more so, if there is something you see on your walk that you want to know more about, let us know and we'll add some QR trail notes.

Have a lovely walk! *Alex*

This guide is also now available online via our website www.charringtonsdrinks.com – go to our news and events pages and download. Hover your camera over the QR codes to download instantly.