

The Greensand Way

map 2

Gibbet Hill (SU 899360) to
Hambleton Common (SU 963384)
7¼ miles, allow 3½ hours

A Walk ahead past the Celtic Cross. Start downhill then bear left into a beech wood along a broad surfaced track. Continue downhill on an unsurfaced track for 875 yards to the road (A3). Cross the road. Bear right up a broad track then follow the main track along the side of the Devil's Punch Bowl. Continue over the heath, gradually descending for 950 yards. At cross tracks just before trees, go ahead along a sunken path, beside woodland, to the road.

B Bear right along the road. After 400 yards, turn left through the gate to the right of Hedge Farm. Where the main driveway bears left, go ahead along a narrow path. Continue round the

garden hedge and turn right, going over stiles. Follow the field edge for 450 yards, crossing a stile half-way down. Cross a stile at the bottom of the field, bear left, then right and go down a narrow lane to Smallbrook Farm.

C Turn right into the field opposite Smallbrook Farm and walk towards a kissing gate stile in the right-hand corner. Continue ahead, crossing kissing gate, then follow the fenced path to Thursley churchyard.

D Bear right past the church. Climb over steps in the churchyard wall to reach the road. Turn left down Highfield Lane. Where the road bends left, walk up the

track ahead. Turn right at the top, then go left through a metal swing gate into a field. Bear right across the field to a swing gate, then turn left along a fenced path to a service road.

E Turn right along new service road signposted Greensand Way and Horse margin. Turn left through the underpass and cross under the A3. Turn left along service road and continue down to the gates of Cosford House. Turn right towards Cosford Farm. After 500 yards turn left to pass Cosford Farm and continue along a grass track with a pond on your right. Ninety yards past the pond, bear left up stone steps beside a wall. When the wall ends, continue uphill, crossing two broader paths, to the kissing gate at the edge of a field. Cross the field, over a stile and through a kissing gate, to reach the road.

F Cross the road. Go through a gate ahead, then walk between trees towards Heath Hall. Cross stile and turn right then follow the field edge for 220 yards. Turn left, down steps, to a lane. Go



through the gate opposite, walk ahead across two fields, then go over a stile and through a gate to reach the driveway at the entrance to Lower House.

G Go ahead through a tall kissing gate and down a field path into parkland. Cross onto a sandy drive. Follow a broad track up through parkland for 310 yards. Turn left immediately after a gateway. Go through a metal kissing gate. Bear right to follow a woodland path downhill to

Interesting features

a kissing gate. Turn left onto the road and walk for 440 yards to the road (A286 Milford to Haslemere road), 330 yards to the north of Brook village.

H

Cross the road. Walk ahead up a track through woodland. After 400 yards, turn right at a path junction ignoring path signs to Heath Hills Wood. Follow the footpath for 160 yards, leaving woodland to your right, then bear left into a field and continue for 600 yards along the field edge, again with woodland on your right. Go down steps to the road and continue for 70 yards.

I

Turn right. After 440 yards turn right again along a narrow footpath into woodland. Continue to Brook Road. Cross this, then bear left along a broad track. Continue for 800 yards, over the railway and past Witley Station, to the road.

J

Cross the road and turn right. Turn left along a footpath opposite Robin Way. Turn left along the road (A283) for 30 yards, then turn right up a side road for 300 yards.

K

Bear left up a sandy track. After 380 yards bear right and continue up hill. Follow the footpath around the hilltop above Hambledon Common. Pass an old seat, then bear left down to the road at Hambledon.

8 The Hindhead Tunnel

The longest under-land road tunnel in England taking A3 traffic under Hindhead Commons and skirting the edge of the Devil's Punch Bowl. The Tunnel project allows the old A3 to be closed and stopped up - it will be returned to nature and enable the reunification of the National Trust land either side, creating the largest heathland restoration project in the South East.



Thursley church

8a Devil's Punch Bowl

This huge hollow has been formed over many thousands of years, by water seeping out from the spring line between the Hythe Beds and the Atherfield Clay.

9 Hindhead Common

Exmoor ponies and Highland cattle have been introduced to graze the slopes and maintain the heathland as it was created by grazing animals over 800 years ago.

10 Church of St Michael and All Angels, Thursley

In the churchyard you will find the stone erected in memory of the sailor murdered on Gibbet Hill. Eight chest tombs recall local 18th century residents, more prosperous in their day



New road construction around the Hindhead tunnel

than the sailor, but less wellknown.

11 Bowlhead Green

A small hamlet between the parishes of Witley and Thursley. Bowlhead Green has a superb collection of buildings, including barn and carthouse, dating from the 16th to the 18th century.

12 Banacle Common

Also known as Bannicle Hill, the Common served as one of the Admiralty Semaphore hills for a signalling system devised in 1816 and used between London and Portsmouth.

13 Sandhills

The artists Miles Burkett Foster and

Helen Allingham were among the intelligentsia who discovered Sandhills in the late 19th century and settled here.

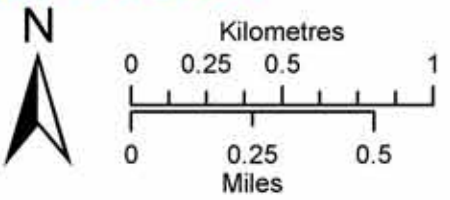
14 Wormley

The station, opened here on 24 January 1859 was known as Witley for Chiddingfold until 1947. The village grew further from 1867, when King Edward's School was founded 'for 240 destitute children of both sexes'.

15 Oakhurst Cottage

The late 17th century cottage, owned by the National Trust, survives as it was in the 19th century. It houses part of the Gertrude Jekyll collection of West Surrey Bygones.

GREENSAND WAY - Map 2, Gibbet Hill to Hambledon Common



Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 133

— Greensand Way (A) Route directions (1) Interesting features