



Kingsley and the Hangers

Distance 15 km (9½ miles), easy walking

Region: Hampshire

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Refreshments: Kingsley and many pubs on the route

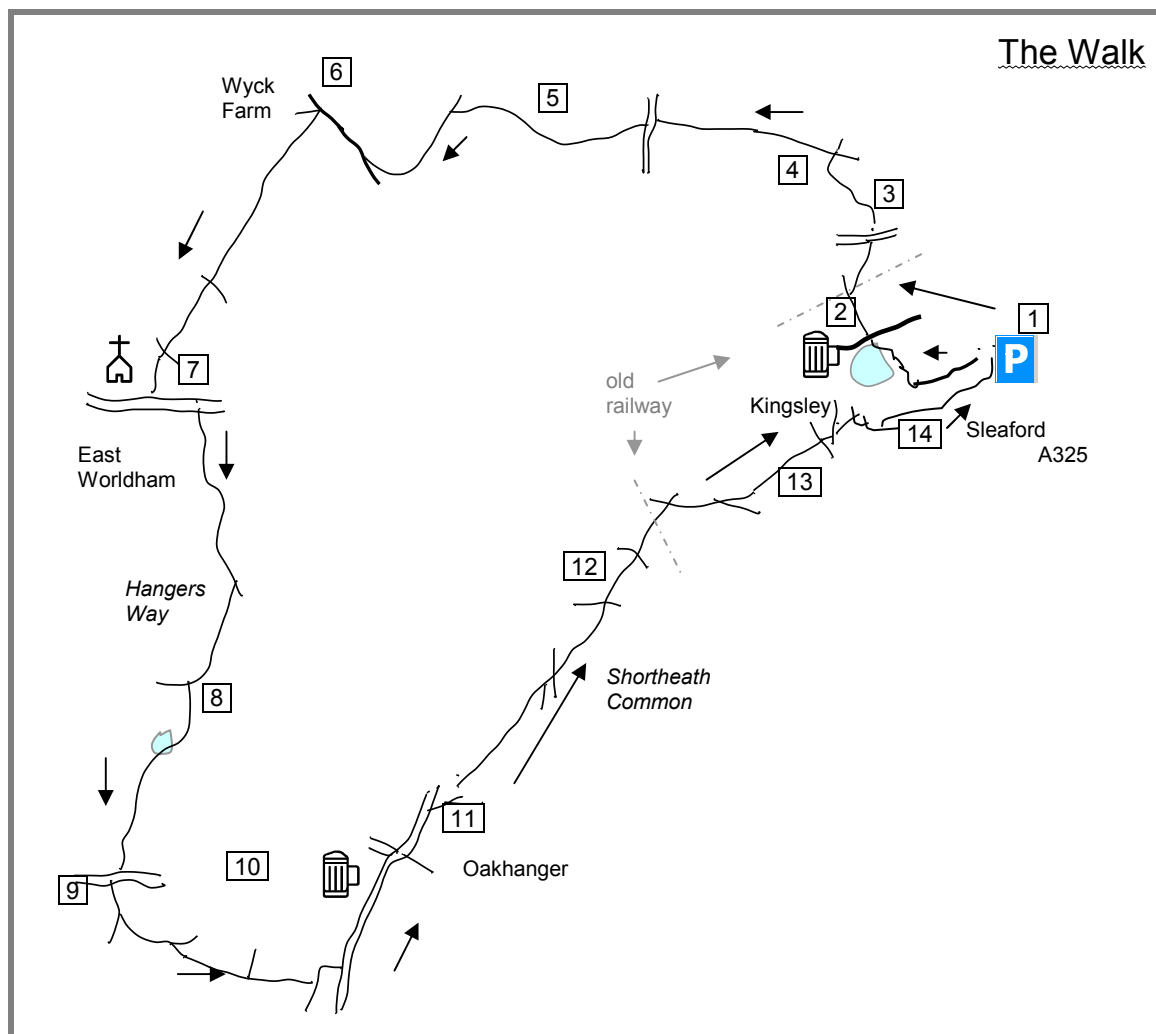
Map: Explorer 133 (Haslemere & Petersfield)

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Woodland, heath, views

In Brief

This is a walk in the hilly parts of Hampshire taking in several of the interestingly-shaped hills called “hangers” with lovely woodland and memorable countryside.





The route is fairly dry in good weather but boots are recommended. Long trousers are required as this walk is not nettelfree. There are some fields and stiles that may be difficult for a dog.



The walk begins on **Kingsley Common**. For more details see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

1 From the car park, turn right through a barrier marked NO PARKING EMERGENCY ACCESS. After 80m ignore a minor right fork and generally disregard all paths branching off, keeping to the widest and most direct track. You pass under power lines. Finally, the track ends abruptly at a low bar with a grassy space ahead. Go forward 20m and turn sharp **right** on a narrow grassy path. In 10m, fork **left** and follow the path downhill avoiding all turnings off till you reach the lovely Kingsley Pond. Go either way round the pond to the opposite end where there is a car park by the main road. The *Cricketers Inn* nearby offers food and accommodation.



2 Cross over the B3004 by the *Cricketers* to a footpath opposite. Follow the path along the right-hand side of the field at first, then through a gate and along the left-hand side of the next meadow. *If this section seems a bit overgrown with brambles, don't despair: they do not recur.* Just after a bridge and steps either side of the disused railway, take the **right** fork diagonally across the centre of the meadow. You reach a fence on the left leading to a stile and an enclosed path between fences, all the time heading for a huge red-brick house, reaching a minor road.

3 Go straight over the minor road, through a gate and along a wide grassy path. At the end go through a gate, turn **right** and immediately **left** round a house, through a small wooden gate into a narrow meadow with hens, through another gate and **left** through a metal gate. Go over a bridge and stile and **right** along the field edge. Bend **left** at the field corner but in 10m turn **right** over a wooden bridge into a wood. The path crosses an unneeded stile, goes across the centre of the next field and up into woods again via steps. (If there are crops in the field, you need to turn left at the other side for 20m to find the steps.) At the next field, go **right**, **left** and **right** again around the perimeter. In about 100m, at a signpost, turn **left** across the centre of the field.

4 *There are great views from here, especially back to the Surrey hills.* The path runs across fields, over stiles and down a track to a minor road by the attractive *Colesons*. Cross the road and continue up a bendy driveway reaching Stubbs Farm. *The Granary here boasts a four-star bed and breakfast. Binsted church is visible over on the right.*



5 The footpath zig-zags left and right through the farm, runs down the right-hand side of a field, across the field at the bottom, over a footbridge in trees, across a farm track and then wheels left, going steeply up steps. At the top, at a T-junction with another footpath, turn **left**. Soon, the path leads half **right** across a field as indicated by a signpost. *The golfball-shaped domes in the valley belong to the radar station at RAF Oakhanger.* The path leads **right** over an unneeded stile by a gate and joins a lane, running past a converted oast and the fine *Bumbles Farmhouse*.

- 6 Opposite the gate of Wyck Farm, turn **left** onto a footpath and immediately take the **left** fork. The beginning of the footpath is a real delight, fringed as it is with birch trees and an ancient wall, before crossing a linden and chestnut driveway. It then runs through a long field with fine views to the left. The footpath crosses a track in a narrow line of trees and goes through three fine swing-gates and along another footpath to reach the churchyard at East Worldham. *The effigy in the south wall inside the 13th-century church was rumoured to be that of Philippa, wife of the poet Geoffrey Chaucer. This is based on the wheel badge on her chest, "Roet" (or "rouet" in modern French) being her family name. It is now believed to date from about a hundred years later.*
- 7 Go past the church and turn **left** on a track to the main road, our friend the B3004. Turn **left** on the road and, about half way down the hill, turn **right** on a track marked as a footpath. This path goes **left** through a kissing gate where you have a wonderful scene of the perfectly-shaped King John's Hill by a lake and sheep meadows. The path runs through another kissing gate, past the lake and follows a line of an ash tree and oak trees. It then goes through a swing gate into woods. You now need to follow the green arrows. The path curves **right** down to another gate. Always keep straight ahead through more wooden gates, across two pastures, under power lines and into woodland. Once in the woodland, ignore a footpath at the signpost forking left. You now traverse some of the most enchanting woodland you are ever likely to see. *You will have noticed that you are on the Hangers Way, a 21-mile long-distance walking route running from Alton, along a series of steep-sided wooded hills known as "The Hangers", through Petersfield to Queen Elizabeth Country Park. After 350m of sparse woodland, yellow arrows direct you to the **right** through a gate and onto a darker muddier track.*
- 8 In about 100m, the path leaves the track, going **left** over a little bridge, as always still following the Hangers Way. Do not miss this turning! The path winds, straightens and widens, then goes through a gate, half **right** across a meadow and through a swing-gate into woodland dominated by tall pines. After about 100m, turn **sharp left** at a Hangers Way sign, onto a narrow path into the woods. The path goes around the left hand side of a pond with private fishing rights, and comes out on the other side on a solid stony track. Turn **left** on the track for a short distance and turn **right** at the arrow, still following the Way. The route crosses Hartley Wood and reaches a minor road by *Candover House*.
- 9 The Way turns **right** onto the road and **left** past cottages. Just past the last building, turn **left** through a gate on a footpath, thus leaving the Hangers Way, and proceed to the corner of a wood. After entering the wood, go straight on over a track, ignoring a footpath sign to the left. The path eventually goes over a rutted track, enters a field and continues along the right-hand edge with the domes visible ahead to the left. At the next corner, the path goes over a bridge and stile in the hedgerow and curves **left** across the field towards the domes.
- 10 Cross the field in a straight line diagonally with the domes on your left, crossing a dry ditch, aiming for a large stile visible in the hedgerow about 5m to the right of the opposite corner. Go over the stile, a bridge and a second stile and turn **left** around the field, then **right** at the corner.



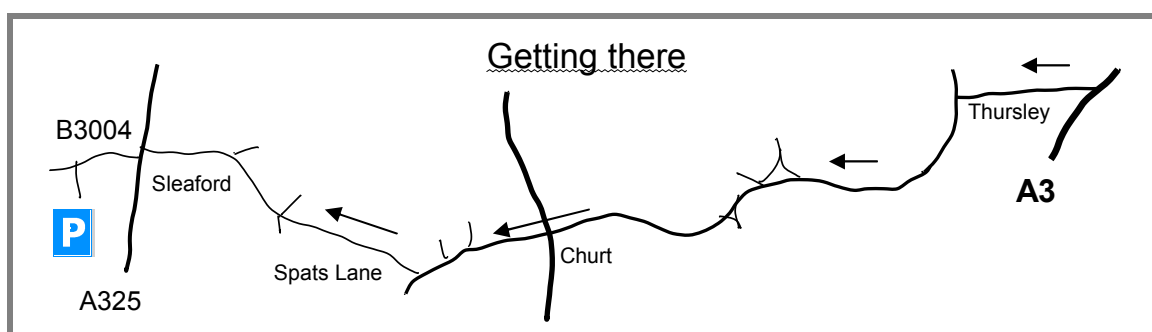
Follow the path past the thatched *Tunford Cottage* to a main road and turn **left** onto it. Further on through the village, you pass the *Red Lion* pub, which has an à-la-carte menu and a large garden. Follow the road a little further through the houses of Oakhanger until, just past a phone box, you come to the village green with a large chapel ahead on the left.

- 11 Take a footpath **half right** across the green and continue straight on into Shortheath Common, ignoring a wider rough road curving right close to the houses. Stay on the broad path across the common, avoiding all lesser branches and crossing paths. Eventually, the path is joined by a track from the right and passes *Heathfield House*. After the house take the **right** fork and continue along the track until you meet a track coming in from the left. Turn **right** with the track for just 10m and then turn **left** over the grass to continue in your original direction. This route is less obvious than the previous wide tracks so you need to concentrate on maintaining direction. The route goes through a gap between birches, then straight ahead on a narrow path between oaks and birches. It then crosses two drives and you need to head for the left-hand corner of a house called *Chestnut Farm*. It has a long brown wooden outhouse and the corner of the outhouse is on your right as you pass by.
- 12 The wide path curves left in front of the outhouse and then right through a dark gap in the bushes that discloses a rather hidden stile. Go over the stile and turn **right** on the path which runs beside a reservoir, hidden from view on the left, and fields on the right. Soon you have the disused railway and a line of poplars on the right. Where the path eventually ends, turn **right** over a stile and the disused railway, then **left**, then immediately **right** over a stile into a meadow. Cross the meadow diagonally in the direction of the arrow and cross a table stile on the opposite side. Go through a gate half **right** in the direction of the arrow and cross an orchard with geese and other waterfowl. Go through a gate, straight over the driveway, over a bridge and through a little gate, and turn **right** on a marked path.
- 13 In 150m, at a junction, turn **left** on a path between golf links on the left and a ragged meadow. Follow the overhead power lines straight on past a MOD sign with *Meadowgate Farm* on the right. You are now back on Kingsley Common. At a T-junction, turn **right**. The track curves left and comes to another T-junction. Turn **right** again. When the track reaches a gate with another MOD sign, turn **left** uphill on an unsignposted very sandy track.
- 14 The track joins another sandy track coming from the right. Stay on this very wide sandy track avoiding lesser branches and crossing paths until the track descends to cross a very wide sandy space. The track continues directly on the other side, although less sandy now. Follow this track for some distance across the Common and under power lines always keeping to the main track. Eventually you are aware of a cottage over on the right and the path curves left. There are two lesser paths here on the right, which you ignore. Within about 50m, you are back at the car park where the walk began.

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Getting there

The walk begins at a small local car park on Kingsley Common, Hampshire. To get there from the London area: take the A3 past Guildford and turn off for Thursley. After Thursley and a double bend, at a T-junction, turn **left**. From here you follow signs for **Churt**. When you meet a major road coming from the right, join it. A little further, take the right fork, signposted to Churt. At Churt cross straight over the A287 and continue for about 1½ miles. You need to look out for an unsignposted lane on the right called **Spats Lane**. This is about ½ mile (700m) after a farm shop on the right advertising ice cream. There is a small grass triangle by a cottage aptly called *Old Cottage*. Follow this narrow lane for about a mile (1½ km) to a major road and cross straight over, signposted to Kingsley. In another mile, you reach the A325 at Sleaford. Turn left and immediately right at the traffic lights. Follow the B3004 road for about 600 yds (700m) round a curve and away from houses. Just as a point of reference, look out for a sign on the right, similar to a modern road name, indicating **Inverallen Yard**. Shortly after this, but on the **left**, is what looks like a wide lay-by. Turn left here on a sandy track. Don't worry about MOD signs saying *Danger MOD Training Area* and *FRP*. In 20 yds (16m), fork right into a sandy area used by locals as a car park, opposite a fine white house called *Coldharbour House*.



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