



Effingham and Polesden Lacey

Distance: 13 km=8 miles, easy walking

Region: Surrey

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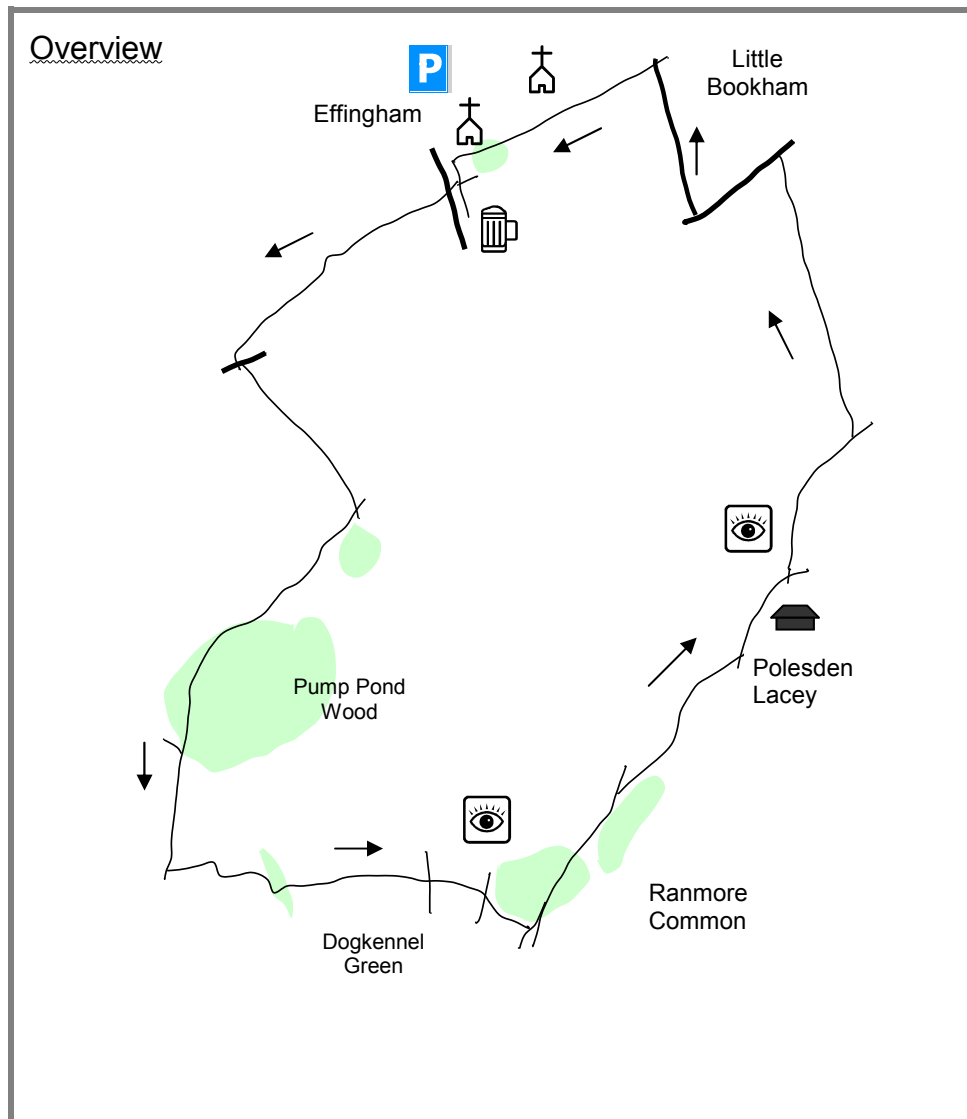
Refreshments: Effingham, Polesden Lacey

Map: Explorer 146 (Dorking)

Problems, changes? *We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org*

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Woodland, grassy meadows, views, historic house



In Brief



This is an easy walk for any time of the year. It takes you from the cosy villages of Effingham and Bookham in quite rapid changes to the much wilder forested area just below the North Downs. On the way back, it passes by one of the great historical houses of this area.



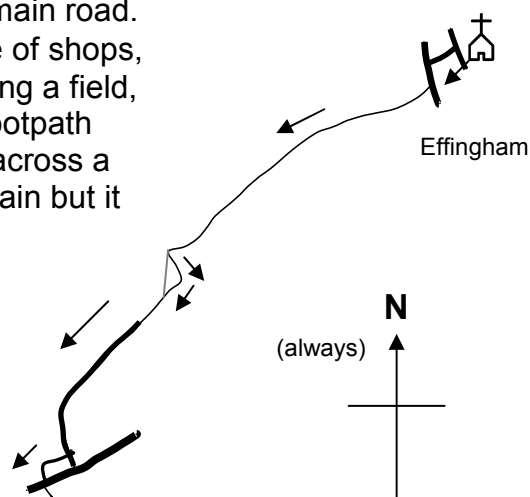
Normal walking shoes are adequate for this walk as it is quite dry. There are no nettles and the stile count is average. You could also take your dog.

The walk begins in **Church Street** in **Effingham village**. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

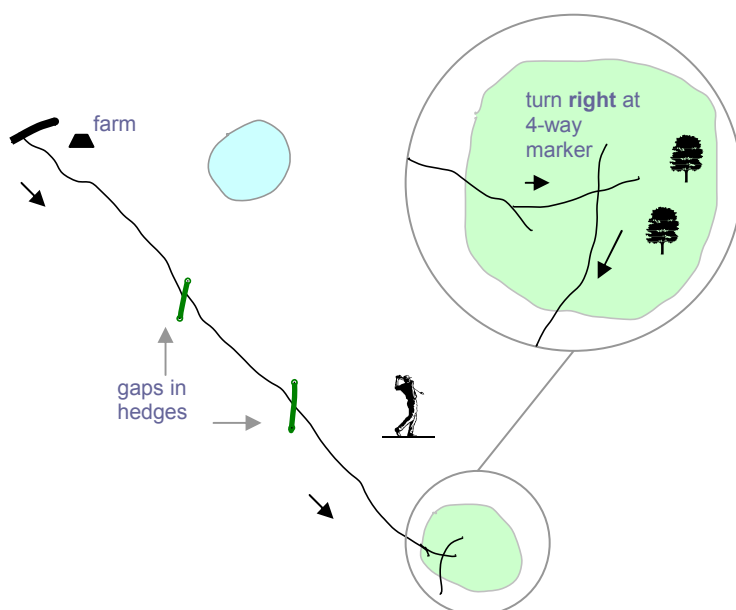
The Walk

Effingham gets its name from a Saxon noble called Aeffing. The church of St Lawrence dates from the 12th and 13th centuries but is much altered.

- 1 Go down Crossways opposite the church, to the main road. Turn **left** on the road for just 10m. Before the line of shops, turn **right** on a signposted track. Soon, on reaching a field, ignore a footpath on the right. Continue on this footpath between fields. Soon the official bridleway goes across a field and veers left to the edge to join the track again but it is easier to turn **left** along the side of the field and **right** along the track in the corner. Eventually you reach a wide track beside houses (Salmons Road). Continue as it curves left towards the main A246 road. Just before the road, turn **right** on a bridleway running parallel to the road. Where the bridleway finally emerges onto the road, turn **right** for just a few metres, cross the road carefully and turn **left** on a footpath next to Milestone Farm.

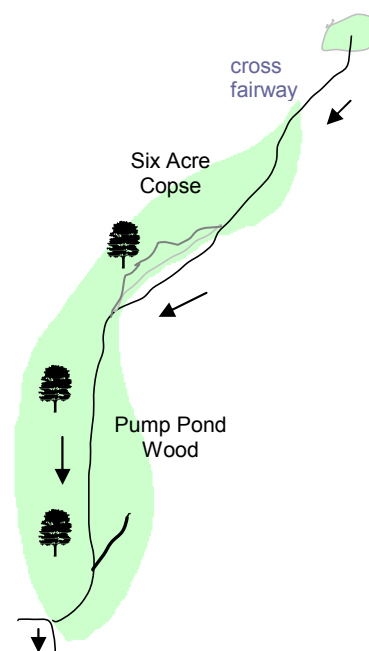


- 2 Follow the footpath round fences and stiles to a field. Cross the field on a clear path. There is a sign telling you to watch out for golf balls. The path crosses straight over a freeway with a large pond on the left, a crossing path, a small bridge and a small field. It then takes you through a gap in the hedge, across another field, through another gap in a hedge and across another field. Aim to pass close to some golf tees on your right. The path now keeps the same direction across a green, as indicated by yellow arrows. The yellow arrows take you over the tee for hole 12 and into a small

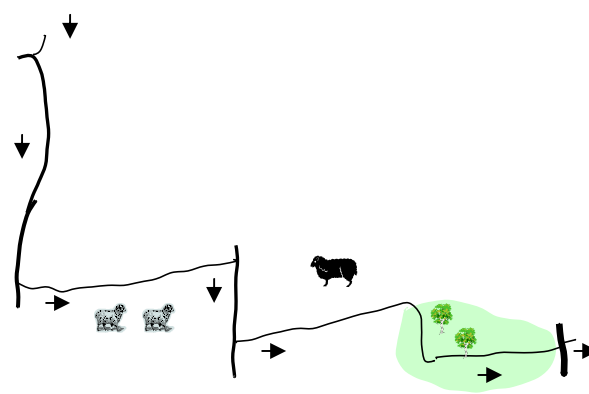


wood. On entering the wood, keep **left** reaching a marker post and a crosspaths in 15m. Turn sharp **right** here.

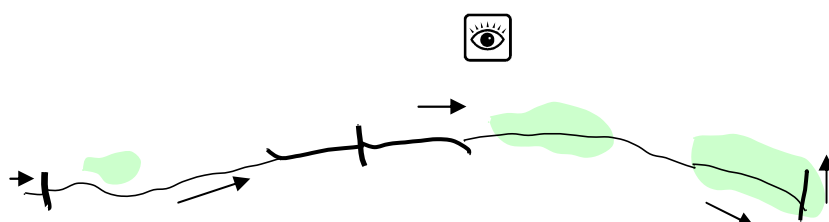
- 3 The path comes out of the little wood. Keep the same direction across the green aiming for a post with a yellow arrow just visible at the tree line ahead. Follow the path deep into Six Acre Copse, ignoring all turnings off, however tempting. In about 300m, you are walking within sight of a meadow on the left. After some distance, over some fallen trees and along a short section between railings, the official path bends sharp **left** to a stile into the meadow, runs along the right hand side and re-enters Pump Pond Wood over another stile. However, there is a very clear, unofficial, twisty path that avoids the stiles. The path is joined by a bridleway coming from the left, curves right and comes out to a drive by a house. Turn **left** on a path with a fence on its right that soon becomes fenced on both sides.



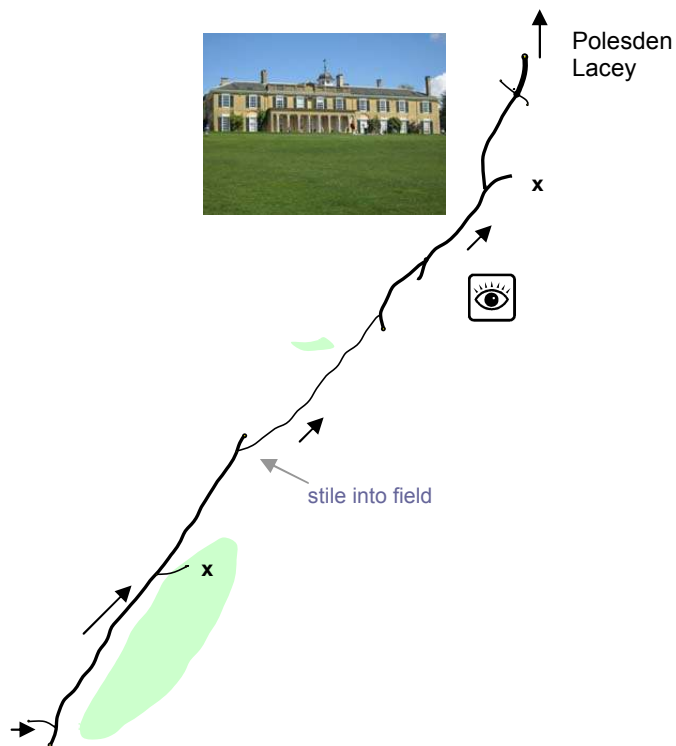
- 4 The path reaches a house on the left and joins its driveway. Just past the second house, *Old Malthouse*, turn **left** at a fingerpost on a footpath. The path goes through a modern kissing-gate up through trees. It then goes through another kissing-gate, along the left-hand side of a meadow and through another kissing-gate to a track. Turn **right** on the track. Shortly, just after passing an open gate across the track, turn **left** over a stile. Go along the right-hand side of a sheep meadow. Just before the next corner, turn **right** through a kissing-gate. Follow the path through trees to another kissing-gate and turn **left** through more trees. Go over a stile and down to a road.



- 5 Cross the road and go through a swing-gate opposite. Go uphill, over a stile and along the left-hand side of a meadow. After another stile, you join a drive which leads down to a lane. Cross the lane to a drive marked *Haneys*. You have a view of London on the left including, on a clear day, *Wembley Stadium arch*. Where the drive bends right, continue straight ahead on an enclosed bridleway uphill and then between meadows. Continue to a lane by *Gatehouse*. Cross the lane and continue on a cinder track, keeping straight ahead at all times. The track becomes a path and soon leads down to a wide stony track. Turn **left** on the track.

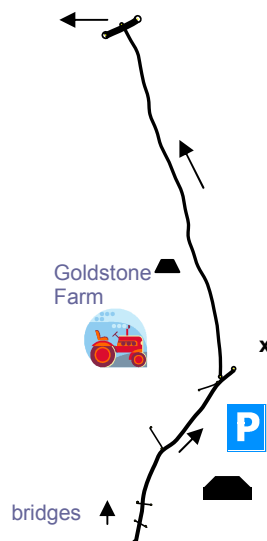


- 6 In 400m, just after a junction on the left, pass a post with a blue arrow on the right and ignore the turning. About 250m further, turn **right** over a stile into a large open sheep meadow. The path goes diagonally up the meadow and runs along the top. Eventually it exits in the corner via a gate or stile. Veer **left** on a wide track coming from the right. The track runs past Yew Tree Farm on the right and joins a track coming from the farm house. *Polesden Lacey* is now visible ahead. Half way down, fork **left** at a fingerpost on a bridleway. The path runs along a fine banked yew avenue. At the end, go straight up the tarmac lane next to *Polesden Lacey*.

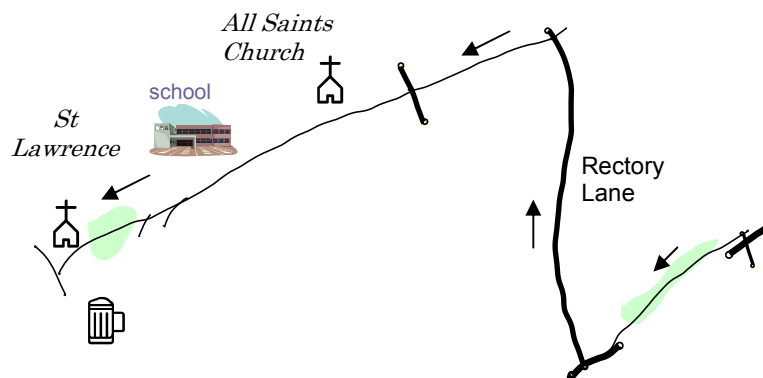


Polesden Lacey is an estate and house belonging to the National Trust. The current house is Edwardian, having been remodelled in 1906 by the Hon. Mrs Ronald Greville, a well-known Edwardian hostess. The future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth spent part of their honeymoon there in 1923. The house is open during all but the winter months, the garden most of the year. It has a good restaurant and tearoom.

- 7 The lane runs under two bridges, the second being a kind of belvedere leading from the garden to the orchard. On reaching an open field, immediately ignore a bridleway left. Shortly after, you pass a junction with a signpost pointing left across the field and a gate on the right into the car park. *If you would like to visit the house and garden, go right through the gate. The farm shop, gift shop, café and restaurant do not require an entrance ticket. You need to return to this point afterwards.* Stay on the main track for another 100m to a major junction. Ignore the track that joins sharp left but, a few metres on at a fingerpost, fork **left** on a well-surfaced track heading for a farm. Follow the track through Goldstone Farm and then for some distance between fields, finally emerging at a road, the A246. Cross the road to a path on the other side and turn **left**.



- 8 The path runs off-road through a grove and re-joins the main road. Turn **right** shortly after at the next road *Rectory Lane*. In about 600m, look out for the entrance on the left to *The Grange Centre*. Just after this, there are footpaths left and right, easily missed. Turn **left** on the narrow path. The path leads to a road. Cross the road *Manorhouse Lane* and take a tarmac path opposite past a sign for All Saints Church. Soon you pass the church, a real gem.



All Saints Church, Little Bookham dates from the 12th century, a simple interior with a modest bell-cote and several interesting original windows. This location on which it stands has yielded several prehistoric artefacts. Unfortunately, the church is usually closed.

Continue past the church heading for modern school buildings. As you pass the school, avoid several paths forking off left and stay close to the buildings, avoiding a right turn at the corner. As the path enters woodland, stay close to the flint wall on the right. Finally the path reaches the cemetery of St Lawrence's Church and the road where the walk began. *The Sir Douglas Haig pub is situated nearby in The Street (down Crossways), a traditional village pub.*

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Getting there

By car: The walk begins in Church Street near the **Church of St Lawrence** in **Effingham village**. To get there, turn north at the traffic lights on the A246 Dorking-Guildford and turn right at the mini-roundabout and right again. Or you could take the following route:

Take the A3 to the M25 junction and leave the A3 there by the slip road, taking the middle lane. At the roundabout, go straight ahead, signposted Guildford, as though you had changed your mind and wanted to re-join the A3. In about 100m, leave the slip road by turning left onto a narrow road signposted Effingham that runs through the forest by a lake on the right. Follow the road all the way to a T-junction. Turn right and immediately left over a humpback bridge and past Effingham Junction station. Follow the road all the way to Effingham village. At the mini-roundabout, turn **left** and first **right**. Park considerably near the church.

By bus: no. 478 runs from Guildford to Leatherhead via Effingham and Bookham (for the station).

