



Ewhurst Green

Distance: 4¼ km=2¾ miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

Date written: 8-nov-2020

Author: Zweigknospe

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Refreshments: picnic, or later in local inns

Map: Explorer 134 (Horsham) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Parkland, hamlets, woodland, green meadows, bluebells in spring

In Brief

This is a gentle country walk in southern Surrey through some imposing landscapes, dominated by oaks, the luckiest sheep in the county, woodland and quiet meadows, with very few ploughed fields and, apart from those sheep, no livestock.

The author did this walk clockwise, which was not the intended direction and, once back home, wrote it “backwards”.

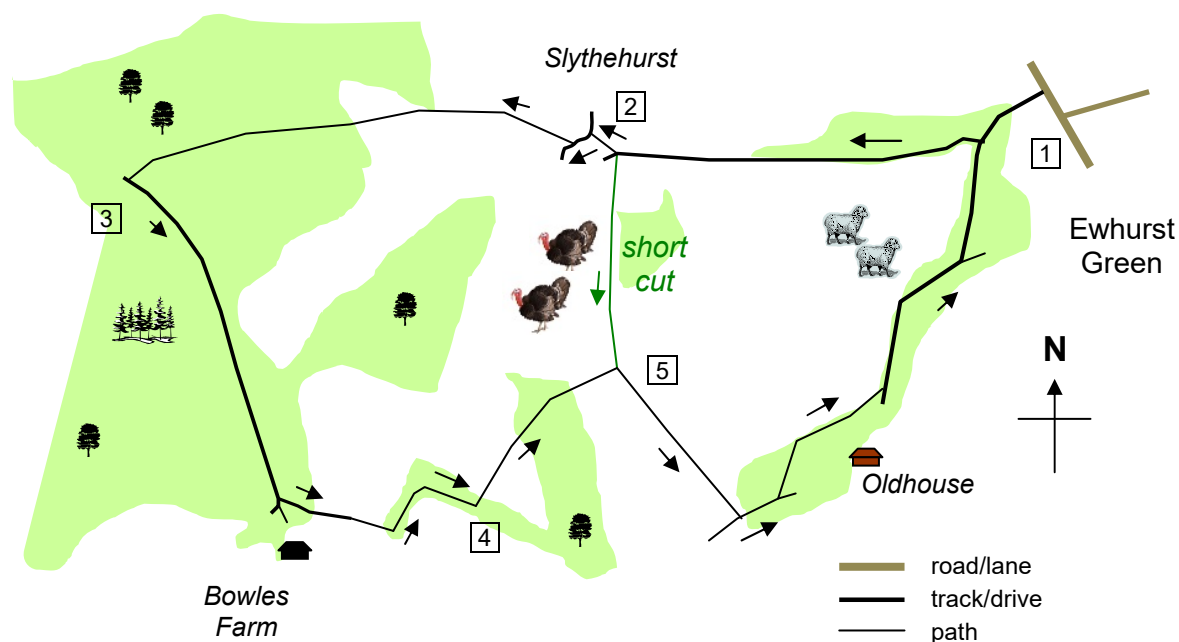


The paths along this walk are almost entirely well-made tracks or driveways, with a few grassy paths across green pastures. So the only concern is possible winter dampness when you need sensible walking shoes. The stiles seem to have a “dog gate” (or just a gap) so your dog should be happy to come along.

The walk begins in **Ewhurst Green**, Surrey, nearest postcode **GU6 7RS**, www.w3w.co/overpaid.avoid.bonus. Visitors usually park in the side road Plough Lane, on the grass verge. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

There's a brief history of Ewhurst and its church in the adjoining walk “Ewhurst”.

The Walk



- 1** If you parked in Plough Lane, go out to the main road and turn **right**. Walk along the main road, northwards towards Ewhurst, for only 50m. Turn **left** at a sign for *Oldhouse* by a fingerpost for a public footpath. Follow the tarmac drive for 100m, ignoring a signed path into the trees on your right, to reach an animal grid shortly after. Turn **right** just *before* the grid, past a large metal gate, onto a wide shingle drive. The drive passes some beautiful parkland on your left, dotted with oaks, enjoyed by grazing sheep. Ignore a stile and yellow arrow on your left, staying on the drive under a line of great oaks. As you approach the hamlet of Slythehurst, go through a small metal gate (not needed if the adjoining big gate is open). Ignore a modern kissing-gate on your right and continue 50m to reach a junction of paths and tracks in the hamlet.

It is worth making a quick there-and-back excursion **left** here on a short grass path for a sly peek at the great 16th-century timbered *Slythehurst Farm House*.

For a *very short* (1½ mile=2½ km) walk (not officially recorded on this site), you could continue onwards after the house. The path narrows and takes you through a modern kissing-gate, past a yard with free-range chickens (and, if you are close to Christmas – turkeys!). Keep straight on, over a stile, along the left-hand side of a meadow, over a stile, between crop fields to a large metal gate. Go through the small metal gate, out into a meadow and keep straight ahead. Now pick up the return leg from section **5**.

- 2** Keep **right** onto a narrow signed footpath, going through a wooden gate. The path bends left in 50m to take you through a small wooden gate to meet a tarmac drive at a bend. Turn **left** on the drive and, in only 30m, turn **right** through a large wooden gate with a green *footpath* sign. The footpath goes over a bridge across the Coneyhurst Gill, with a hopping-stile on each side. It runs between fences and shortly crosses a gravel drive. A 150m-long narrow section between wire fences takes you through a large metal gate. You now have a 500m walk through Lower Canfold Wood. Follow the winding path, avoiding several plausible turn-offs, always keeping to the

same general direction. Finally a short grass section leads to a T-junction with a wide tarmac drive.

- 3 Turn **left** on the drive. After 400m through woodland, ignore a footpath on the right. In a further 150m or so, you reach a junction of drives with the large barns of Bowles Farm visible straight ahead. Turn **left** here on a farm track, passing the farm building on your right. Where the farm track turns into the farm, keep straight ahead on a narrow footpath through bushes. In less than 100m the path ends at a stile. Turn **left** along the edge of a large oak-shaded meadow. Your path bends **right** just before the corner. Continue for 100m under more oaks to reach a modern kissing-gate on your left.
- 4 Turn **left** through the kissing-gate and over a stile into a large meadow. Now follow a path straight ahead across the centre of the meadow, verging a fraction right, heading for a line of trees on the other side only 100m away. Here you will find a tall gate. Go through this gate onto a woodland path running between wire fences. The path ends at a similar tall gate, followed by a small metal gate, leading into a meadow. Keep straight ahead along the left-hand side of the meadow until, in 50m or so, you meet some metal gates. **Ignore** the gates and instead turn abruptly **right** on a path down the centre of the meadow. (By turning round here, you have a great view of the North Downs.)
- 5 Go over a stile beside a large wooden gate in the corner and continue downhill in the next meadow, heading for the bottom left corner and a small (broken) wooden gate. Turn **left** here on a path through trees, close to a pond belonging to *Oldhouse*, another well-named Tudor listed building which you may glimpse on your right through the trees.

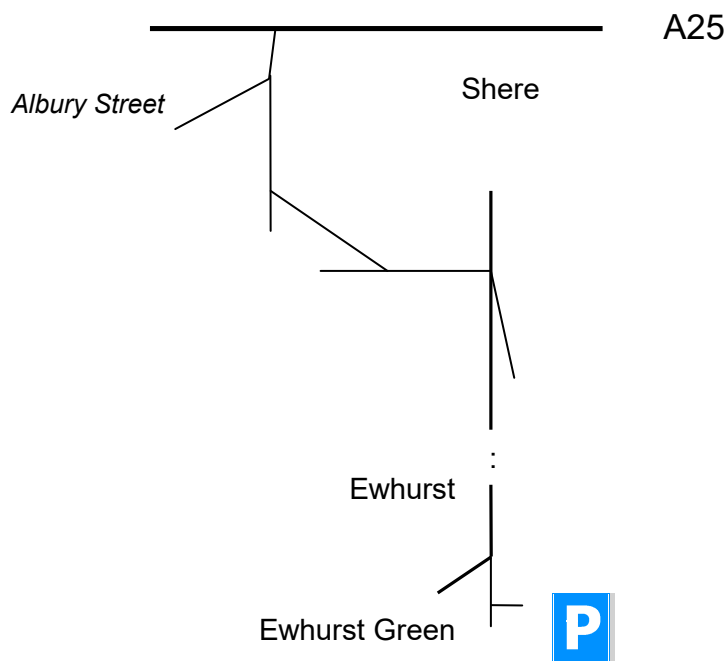


Oldhouse was originally called Ryde House after the local family of yeomen farmers who were prominent in Ewhurst's from the 1300s onwards and built the house about a century later. In the 1920s the house was bought by John Horniman, of "tea" fame and later by Sir Eric Miller who funded the Ewhurst village school.

In 50m, at a 3-way junction, turn **left** on a path between fences. It leads up, via a stile, out into the parkland with sheep that you saw at the beginning of this walk. Keep **right** under trees for 150m, glimpsing on your right the ornamental gates of *Oldhouse*, until you meet a tarmac drive near an animal grid. Go through a gate here and veer **left** on the imposing driveway. Follow the drive for a total of 500m, ignoring a footpath on the right after 250m, finally going over an animal grid (or through the adjoining small gate for safety's sake). Keep straight on, quickly coming out to the main road in Ewhurst Green, where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: the most attractive (and easy) route to Ewhurst Green, if you live in the London or M25 area, is via Shere. Spare the quiet village by taking the Albury Street / New Road / Park Road “bypass” and then simply follow the Hound House Road over the Greensand, straight through the village of Ewhurst. Where the main road bends right for *Cranleigh*, keep straight ahead as for *Ellen’s Green*. In less than ½ mile, park in Ewhurst Green, such as in Plough Lane on your left which has a wide grass verge.



By bus/train: there’s a good daily bus to neighbouring Ewhurst but buses to the Green are a bit vague . Check the internet.

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