



The walk begins at the car park opposite the **White Horse pub** in Hascombe, Surrey. For more details and for alternative transport see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

## The Walk

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- 1 Take the path leading from the car park away from the pub over a field. After crossing a stile turn **right** on a crossing path that runs between a hedge and a meadow. Go through a wooden gate into woodland and, in 20m, fork **right** to a driveway. Follow the driveway away from the house for 60m and then **left** go up some wooden steps into a meadow. *If you come in springtime, you may find the lambs here quite tame, probably because they are used to the children in the adjoining house. They can sometimes be stroked and will nibble your shoes, your rucksack and anything else they can reach.* Continue through a gate at the top **left** of the meadow.
- 2 Turn immediately upwards **right**, almost doubling back, crossing a stile or gate onto a narrow path uphill through the woods. Soon the path emerges from the wood at a junction where you turn **left** on a wide grassy path. Follow this path through beautiful woodland with occasional tall pines. In about 200m, ignore a wide path left and continue a little further until there is a path forking **right**. Take this path downhill through woodland which in spring is carpeted by bluebells. *Bluebells are often indicators of the most ancient woodland. Their scent and colour are one of the great joys of springtime. The bluebell seen in suburban gardens is often the Spanish bluebell which has larger, paler flowers and no scent and is regarded as a serious threat to the native species.* The path leads down to a stony track bordering a field where you turn **right**. Cross a lane to another track and follow it up to a gate.
- 3 Through the gate, there is a culture shock. You are now in a road leading past expensive dwellings, many fenced off from view. *The 172-acre Hascombe Court (on the right soon) is one of DJ/TV presenter Chris Evans and Billie Piper's former homes and they were often seen visiting the White Horse. He sold it for £10 million in 2004. The new owner is believed to be Russian billionaire Boris Berezovsky.* There are fine views left and the good road surface makes the going easy. Ignore all turnings off while the road bends a few times and reaches a long straight stretch with tall pines and leads to the main road.
- 4 Do not cross the main road but turn sharp **left** almost looping back. This drive leads to houses (*The Old Dairy and High Barn*) just before which you veer **right** on a darker signposted straight path. Stay on the path as it curves round a lovely valley and rises again. The path gradually drops to the bottom of a wooded valley, after about 1km total.
- 5 Here you take a narrow path going very sharp **left**. (This path is about 40m after the end of the meadow on your left. It may be a bit obscure and overgrown at first. There may be an arrow on a tree.) The path goes steeply uphill and runs alongside the boundary of the meadow on your left. The path joins a wide path coming in from the right, flattens out, passes through a young coppice (trees cut down to the roots), curves right and meets a road.
- 6 Cross the road to a footpath into the woods directly ahead. You are now on Hydon Heath. The footpath leads for some distance through coppices. In

about 200m you go through an earth bank. You now need to look out for a very definite end of the coppice where the path enters thick natural woodland with holly and tall pines. At this point, there is a wide path right which you ignore. In 50m, just after a double bend, ignore a path right and, a few paces further on, ignore a path left. Go another 50m, ignoring some very minor paths left and, just after a rather muddy patch, reach a narrow but well-defined oblique crossing path. Turn **right** here at an angle through bracken.

- 7 Follow this narrow winding path for about 100m to a T-junction with another narrow path and turn **left** on it, immediately coming out to a broad sandy track. Almost directly opposite is another broad track leading uphill which you follow. This leads steeply upwards to Hydon's Ball where there is a stone seat and good views across the Weald and west to Black Down. Hydon's Ball belongs to the National Trust.
- 8 Turn **left** and go to the left of a triangulation pillar on a wide sandy path downhill. At the very end of the path, at the bottom, you meet a T-junction where you turn **left** for a few paces reaching a T-junction with a main track and a National Trust sign. Turn **right** on the main track for 40m and turn **left** on a track leading towards a field. In just 15m turn **left** again so that you are walking alongside the field on your right. In 120m, you meet a crossing with a sunken path ahead.
- 9 Turn **right** here between fields. (In case this path is waterlogged, it is possible to scramble past through trees and roots on the left. Alternatively, go back and turn left round three sides of the field.) This track goes for some distance and becomes a darker sunken trackway. Eventually it emerges at a T-junction with a wide open track. Turn **left** here. *You are now on the Greensand Way, a long distance footpath which runs from Haslemere in Surrey to near Ashford in Kent.* The track curves right and reaches a farm and a house, *Little Burgate*, at a road.
- 10 Go over the road, opposite the house, and take a narrow unmapped path which bends right parallel to the road. In 50m, this path meets another narrow unmapped horse path where you turn **left** away from the road. This narrow path leads up through a moist wooded valley. Stay at all times on the main path and follow it as it turns sharply **left** near the top. It emerges into beautiful open woodland where you continue straight ahead on a grassy path. At a T-junction with another pleasant grassy path, turn **right**.
- 11 You are now in the Hurtwood and nearing the end of the journey. In 230m, the light wood and sparse saplings give way, at a broad crossing path, to a much darker mature coppice. Continue straight ahead with the coppice on your right. In another 200m, at the next wide crossing path, turn **right** between two coppices. In 100m, go over the next small crossing path and in another 80m turn **left** at the second crossing path which is very broad and unmistakable, being fringed with translucent birches.
- 12 You are now back on the Greensand Way (although you wouldn't know this as there are no "GW" waymarkers for the moment). The path crosses another broad path where there are blue arrows. Avoid a broad right fork later. The rather rutted path eventually leads downwards until you can see a steep descent ahead.
- 13 Turn sharp **right** here in the direction of the "GW" arrow. Don't miss this turning. After a few paces turn **left** again with the GW and immediately

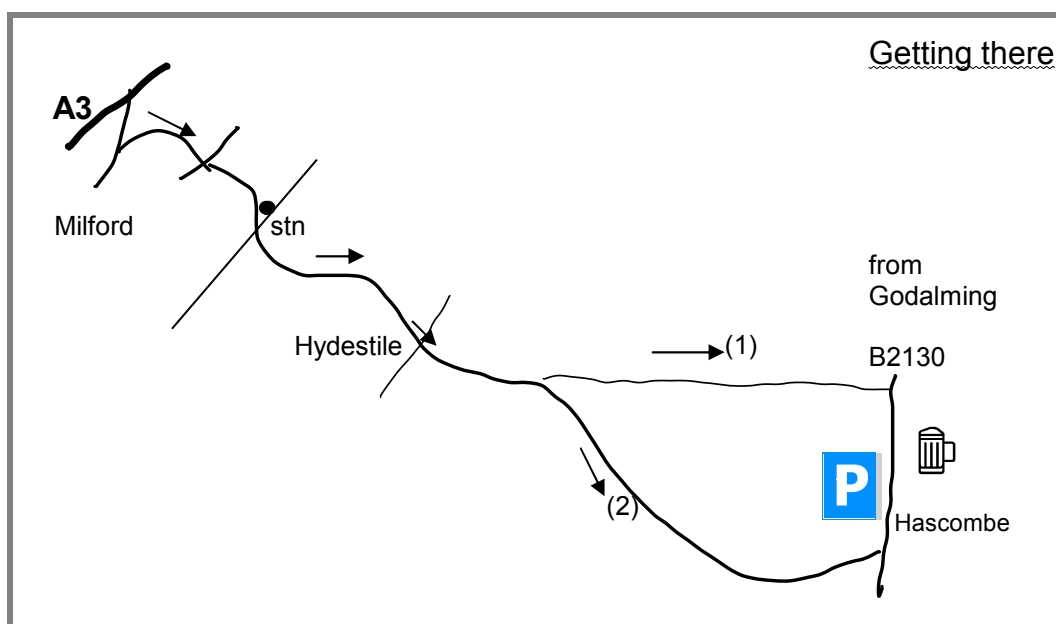
take the first **left** down a very sunken narrow stony path. You are soon on a more comfortable level path with forest falling away to the valley on your left.

- 14 After some distance, the “GW” sign leads you **left** very steeply down with wooden railings to a gate in a field corner. Go along the right hand side of the field back to the *White Horse* and car park, going over a gate and a stile at a crossing path.

*If you have time, Hascombe is definitely worth visiting. It is just a few paces down the lane to the left of the pub. The large pond, the cottages and the church form a pretty picture and a peaceful refuge.*

## Getting there

By car: The car park is the sandy area opposite the White Horse pub in Hascombe, Surrey. To get there: take the A3 through Guildford and later turn off for Milford. At the first traffic lights in Milford, turn sharp left. Along this road on your left is Secretts, a huge farm shop which sells an astonishing range of delicacies as well as organic produce. At the mini-roundabout turn right and then immediately left signposted *Milford Station* and *Hydestile*. Continue on this road for 1½ miles ignoring all turnings off. Cross a major road at Hydestile and continue for just over a mile. You ignore a turning left for Godalming and then pass some fine woods. After ½ mile (800m), where the main road curves right, there is a house on the left called *Mare Pond House*. Here you have a choice:



(1) For the *adventurous* driver, fork left along a very narrow lane. As there are not many passing places you have to hope that you'll meet nothing coming the other way. Eventually you come out to the village of Hascombe. Turn right when you reach the main road. The *White Horse* is close by on the left and the car park is opposite it.

(2) For the *cautious* driver, stay on the main road ignoring the left fork. You eventually come to a T-junction at a main road where you turn left. The *White Horse* is about a 1½ miles on the right and the car park is opposite it.

By bus: Arriva bus 42 or 44 from Guildford or Godalming. Check the timetables.

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