



Hascombe and Hydon's Ball

Distance: 8 km=5 miles

easy walking with short steep sections

Region: Surrey

Date written: 7-mar-2009

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Refreshments: Hascombe

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Maps: Explorer 133, 134 and 145 (mainly 133) (but hopefully not needed)

[Problems, changes?](#) *We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org*

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Woodland, wooded hills, views, sheep meadows, bluebells in spring

In Brief

This is a varied walk with one or two steep ascents. It passes through some of the most delightful woodland. You can do this walk with the *Around Hascombe Hill* walk in the same series as a figure-of-eight. It is fine at any time of the year, but especially in the spring because of the lambs and the bluebells.



During a wet summer you may find some dense patches of nettles on the narrower paths. In winter, there is one muddy stretch, but otherwise the route is dry underfoot. Your dog is welcome, with a lead of course.

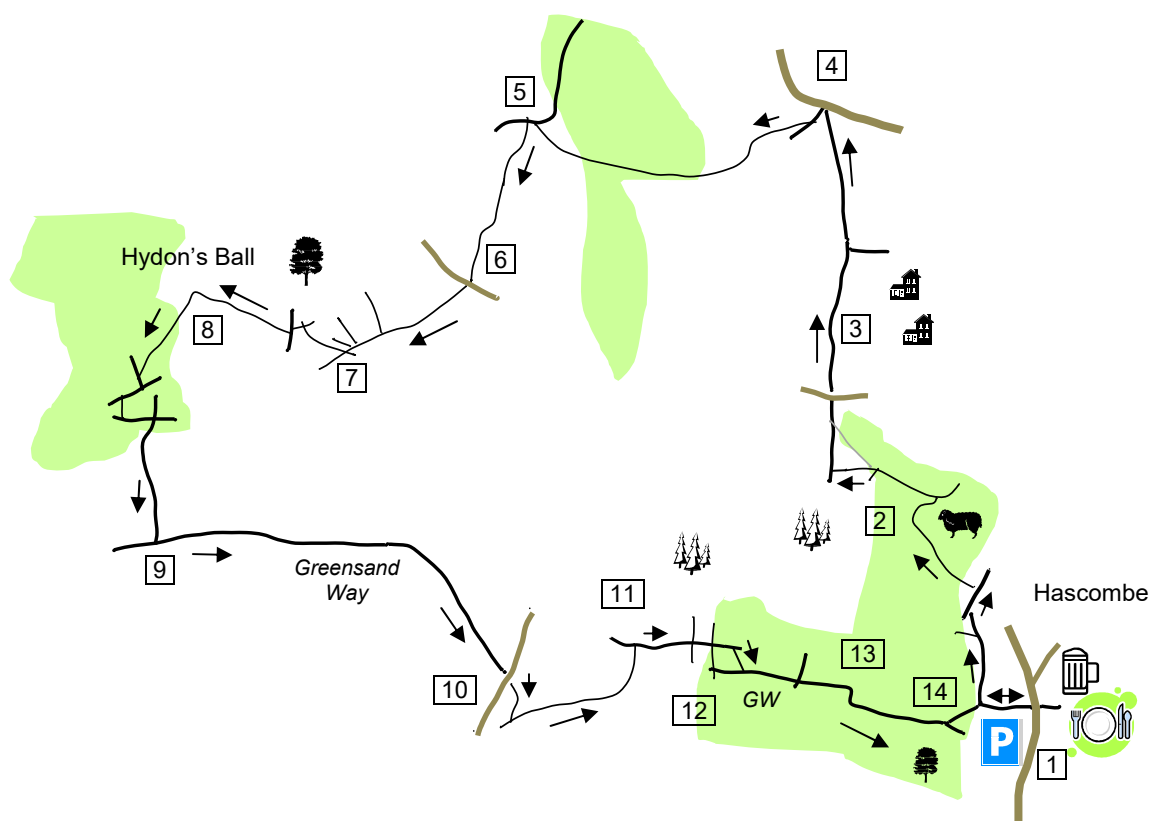


The walk begins at the car park opposite the **White Horse pub** in Hascombe, Surrey, **postcode GU8 4JA**. For more details and for alternative transport see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

- 1 See map overleaf.** Take the very wide new sandy path leading from the car park away from the pub across a field. On reaching a hedge, turn **right** on a path that runs between the hedge and a meadow. Follow it into woodland and, in 20m, fork **right** to a driveway. Follow the driveway away from a house for 60m and then go **left** up some wooden steps through a small wooden gate 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** corner of the meadow.
- 2** Turn immediately upwards **right**, almost doubling back, going over a stile or through a gate [[Apr 2016: lying on its side](#)], onto a path through hollies and up a bank. In 50m, you meet a wide level grassy path at a bend. Turn sharp **left** here and follow this path through beautiful woodland with occasional tall pines. In about 200m, ignore a wide (rutted) path left and in 20m ignore a path forking right ([blocked in 2015 by many fallen branches](#)). Continue 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. Turn **right** on it, crossing a tarmac lane in 100m, onto another wide 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 was believed to be the late Russian billionaire Boris Berezovsky. [2016: with a large house under construction, nearing completion.]* 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 a 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 them, fork **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 until, after about 1 km total, it reaches the bottom of a valley under majestic tall pines. Continue to a junction at a curve in a wide surfaced track by a post with blue arrows.
- 5 Turn sharp **left** on this wide track and, in only 25m, fork **left** on a narrow path. Your path goes steeply uphill and runs alongside the boundary of a sheep meadow on your left. It quickly levels out, passes through a young coppice (trees cut down to the roots, now partly harvested), takes you through a new wooden gate, curves right and meets a road via another wooden gate.

- 6 Cross the road to a footpath into the woods directly ahead. You are now on Hydon Heath, with Mallard Wood on your left. The footpath leads through coppices, with diversions through the trees in case of mud. In about 200m you go through an earth bank and over a crossing path. Your narrow path continues directly over. [2015-16: obscured by a fallen branch; you need to go round it.] In less than 100m more, the coppice ends abruptly and your path is joined by a path from the right as it enters thick natural woodland with holly and tall pines. In another 60m, you meet a post bearing the symbol of the Octavia Hill Trail, joining a path from the right. *Octavia Hill founded a society in 1876 which became the National Trust.* A **second** post is in 10m and a **third** post in a further 25m. 10m after this third Octavia Hill post, your path comes to a narrow and rather obscure oblique crossing path. Turn **right** here 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 very wide dirt track. Almost directly opposite is another broad track. Follow it steeply uphill, keeping to the right of a green box, to reach 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. *For more details, see the walk in this series "Ladywell, Busbridge Lakes and Hydon Heath".*
- 8 Turn **left** and go just to the left of a triangulation pillar on a wide sandy path downhill. At the end of the path, elbow **left** by an *Octavia Hill* post and continue for another 40m to reach a T-junction with a major track, by a National Trust sign. Turn **right** on the major track for 40m and turn **left** at a post on a track leading towards a field. In just 15m, by a wooden seat, 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 by a post with a blue arrows.
- 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. After 400m or so in total, 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 horse path opposite. This path bends right at first parallel to the road, then quickly curves away from the road and veers left up a bank. It leads up through a moist wooded valley, obviously well trodden by riders. 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 it continues straight ahead on a grassy path. In 50m, 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 coppiced area which has been completely felled (2016). Continue straight ahead with the felled area on your right and some dark green spruces on your left. In another 200m, at the next wide crossing path, turn **right**. In 70m, go over a crossing path [2016: a very messy area due to forestry] and, in another 90m, turn **left** at a major crossing path which is very broad and unmistakable, being fringed on both sides with silver birch (hopefully still intact after the nearby forestry work).

- 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 and a GW symbol. In 180m, avoid a path that forks right, after which your path becomes narrower. The path eventually acquires a new grey and stony surface and leads down to a junction where you can see a steep descent ahead.
- 13 Keep straight ahead steeply down on a wide cinder path. In 50m, fork **right** up a bank on a much narrower path, as directed by a GW waymarker, and shortly veer **left** on a more comfortable level path with forest falling away to the valley on your left.
- 14 At a fork in the path, a GW sign leads you **left** very steeply down with wooden railings to a wooden gate in a field corner. Follow a fenced path along the right-hand side of the field, through a wooden gate at a crossing path, back to the *White Horse* and car park where the walk began.

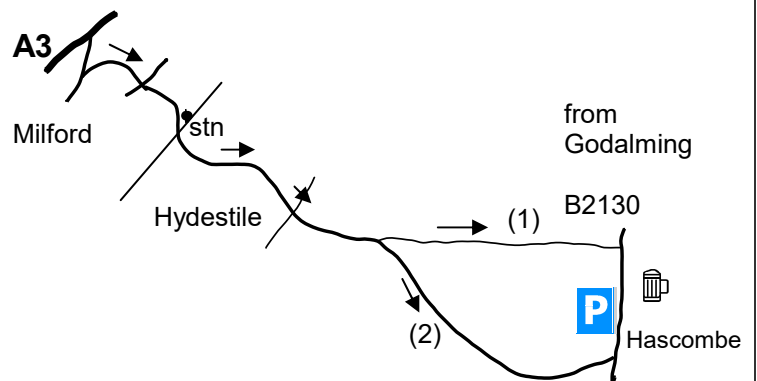
If you have time, Hascombe is definitely worth visiting. It is just a few metres down the lane to the left of the pub. The large pond, the cottages and the church form a pretty picture and a peaceful refuge.

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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