



Tyndalls Wood and Nutcombe Down

Distance: 5½ km=3½ miles

moderate walking

Region: Surrey

date written: 14-aug-2015

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Refreshments: Punch Bowl Café

Map: Explorer 133 (Haslemere) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Woodland, views

In Brief



This curious little expedition takes you from the Punch Bowl café in the opposite direction from other walks to explore the magnificent woodland and communities on the other side of the Haslemere Road.



There is some limited undergrowth on this walk, so long trousers are usually better. Good walking shoes or trainers should be adequate. Apart from the two crossings of the main road, this is a good walk for your dog too.

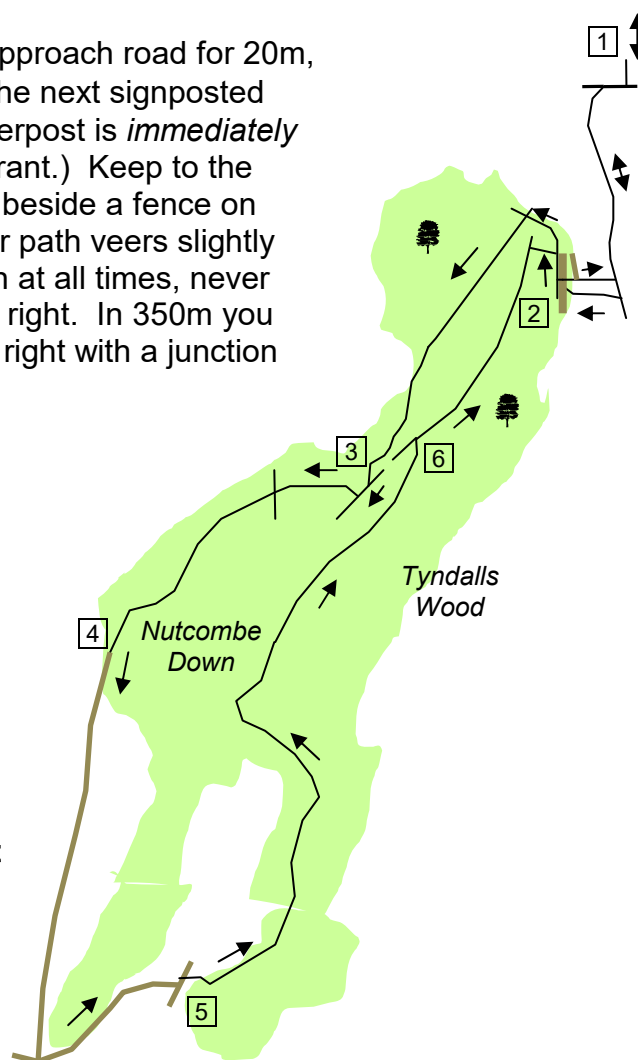


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The walk begins at the **National Trust Punch Bowl** car park (postcode **GU26 6AB**). There is a small charge to non-NT members (as 2016: £4 or £2 if you spend £10 or more in the shop/café). For travel details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

- 1 Go out of the car park, turn **right** on the approach road for 20m, **ignore** the bridleway sharp left, but take the next signposted path on the **left** into the woods. (The fingerpost is *immediately* beside the *Devil's Punchbowl* pub/restaurant.) Keep to the right across the grass and follow the path beside a fence on your right. At the corner of the fence, your path veers slightly left into the woods. Keep to the main path at all times, never very far from houses you can see on your right. In 350m you reach a some large garden gates on your right with a junction on your left. Go **very sharp right** here, almost doubling back, on a narrow path between the a double wooden gate on your left and a large wooden gate on your right. The path runs between rhododendrons out to a road, the A287 Hindhead-Haslemere road. Cross the road carefully and turn **right** on the pavement opposite for only 15m, to a NT sign for Tyndalls Wood.
- 2 Immediately **before** the sign go **left** steeply down a narrow path into the woods. In 10m, at a T-junction, turn **right** on another narrow path which runs quite close to the main road. Ignore a gap on your left and continue for 100m where your path joins a much wider path coming up from the left. Go another 30m where there is a green metal barrier on your right. Turn **left** here on another path deep into the forest. The path runs between bracken and then between tall pines. Your path descends slightly and, after 300m on this path, takes you just above the entrance to the Hindhead Tunnel. (A path on the right enables you to look straight down over it.) Continue, soon with a good view on the right of the A3 road and the tunnel, before the path veers left and dives down into the trees again. The path winds down quite steeply through holly, pine and chestnut and comes down to a much wider path at the bottom of the valley. Turn **right** onto this path.
- 3 In just a few paces you pass a stump with marker arrows indicating that you are on a NT path. Immediately after the stump, turn **right** uphill on a wide path. After a good climb onto Nutcombe Down which seems longer than its 120m, you reach a crossing path with a marker post bearing the symbol of the *Miss James Walk*. Go straight on, passing a bench. At another marker post, keep straight on along a level path. You have great views on the left here, down into Nutcombe Valley. Stay on the level path, avoiding a right fork by an old broken gate, passing another bench. Your path becomes a bit overgrown and veers right under conifers, beside a house and a tall wire fence. It comes out to a junction by some large wooden gates. Bear **left** on a track leading to a tarmac lane, Hazel Grove, at a bend. (On your right is the roundabout of the sliproad from the A3 which you may have seen



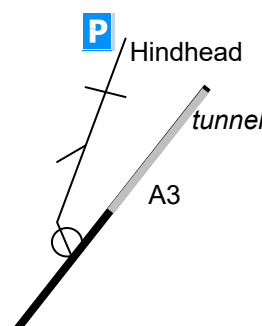
whilst driving.) Keep straight ahead on the lane, passing the entrance to the Royal School.

- 4 The lane takes you past another schools, the Amesbury School (a mixed prep school) which also plays host to the Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy. Continue on the lane, passing through security bollards, arriving at a T-junction with another tarmac lane, Glenlea. Turn **left** on this lane, ignoring a bridleway on the right, and follow it through woodland. It comes out into an open valley, with good views, passing *Nutcombe Cottage* and arriving at a T-junction. Turn **left** on a tarmac lane marked as a cul-de-sac and immediately turn **right** on a signposted bridleway.
- 5 This path takes you through a slightly marshy area and into woods. As soon as you enter the woods, turn **left**, up over a shallow bank, on a path running beside a sloping meadow on your left. The path goes uphill and comes quite close to the main road before veering away, gently downhill. In another 250m it meets a path coming from the right. Stay on this high path, another highlight of this walk with rhododendrons and ferns, then majestic tall beeches, free from the noise of the road. You pass a bench with a marker post bearing the *Miss James* symbol and the path becomes quite wide in more beautiful woodland. After an upward slope and another *Miss James* post, keep straight ahead. At another similar post, you meet a path coming from the left. Veer **right** to join this path.
- 6 Follow this stony path uphill. As you near the top, with the main road in view ahead, you come to another *Miss James* post. Turn **right** here (ignoring the direction on the post) and turn **right** at a T-junction close to the road. In 50m, fork left on a path (familiar from the outward leg) up to the main road. Cross carefully straight over the main road onto a drive for *Shieling* (a subtle change from the outward route). Immediately go through a barrier on the left, up steps. Avoid a residential road on your left and keep **right** along its far end. Now follow a narrow path next to a fence on your left. At a T-junction turn **left** on a wide path, familiar from your outward journey. Follow this path through woods, back to the Punch Bowl car park here the walk began.

Getting there

By car:

Take the A3 and turn off, just south of the tunnel, to **Hindhead**. At the crossroads in Hindhead, keep straight ahead into a cul-de-sac. The car park is on the left. Refreshments are available at the Punch Bowl Café.



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