



The Clandons and Hatchlands Park

Distance: 9 km=5½ miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

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Refreshments: East Clandon, West Clandon

Map: Explorer 145 (Guildford) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Villages, meadows, woodland, parkland

In Brief

This walk is truly in the spirit of this website because it takes a most unusual route through these two Surrey villages, making use of the outer perimeter of Hatchlands Park. As an optional extension to this walk, a visit to the garden and house of this historic country seat makes a perfect day out (free to NT members).

There are two of the best Surrey inns on this walk, both very popular. (To enquire at the *Onslow Arms*, ring 01483-222447. For the *Queens Head*, ring 01483-222332.)



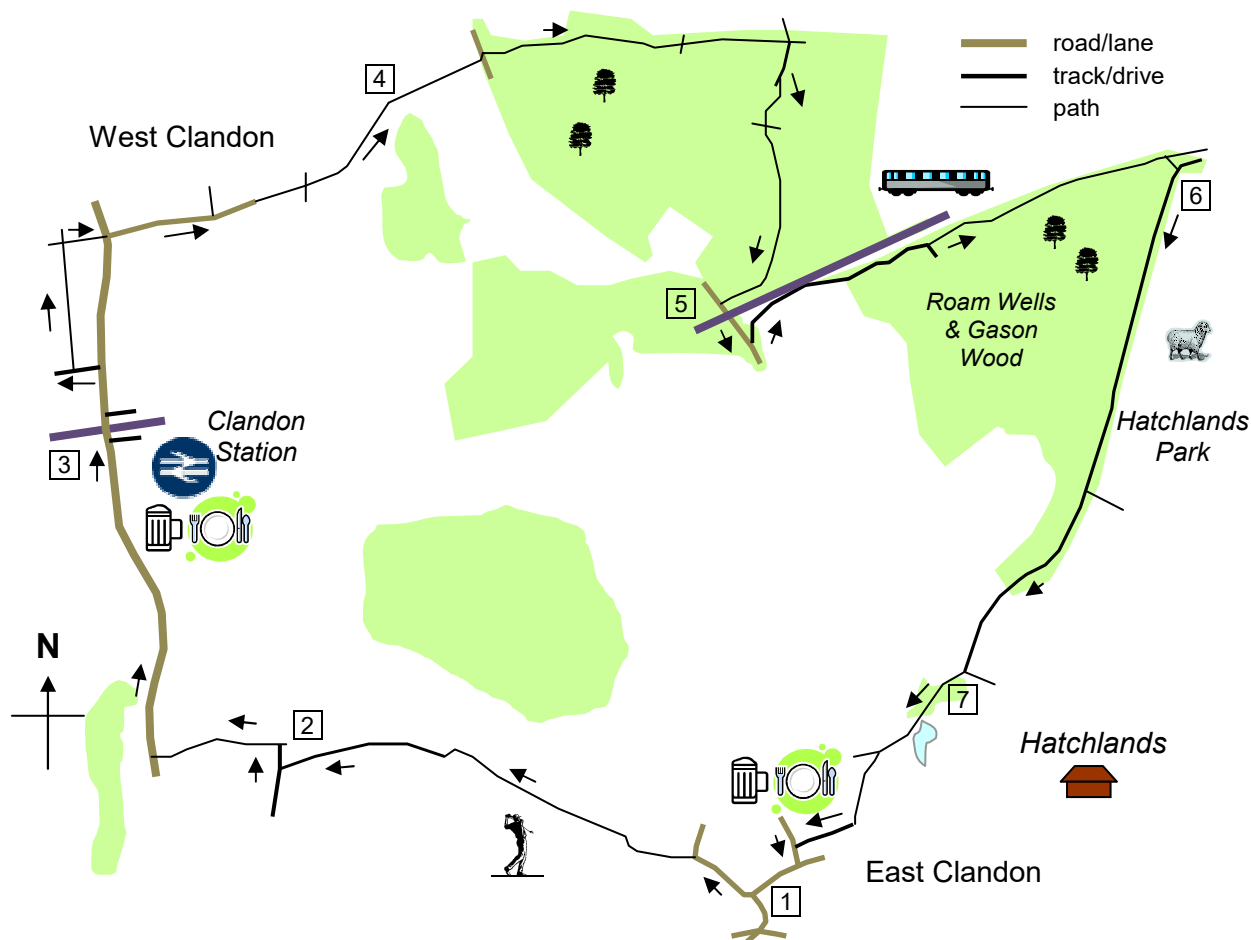
There are no nettles or brambles on this walk, so any kind of attire and sensible walking shoes or boots are fine. Your dog is also welcome on this walk but please note, he is not allowed in the dining room of the *Onslow Arms*. The *Queen's Head* is dog-friendly however.



The walk begins at **Clandon railway station** or at the village of **East Clandon**, Surrey, postcode **GU4 7RN**. Park in the Old Epsom Road, especially the west side where there is oodles of space. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

If you are starting the walk at **Clandon** railway station, skip first to section **3**. Exiting on the north side, you have a choice of **right** to the “blue section” or **left** up to the main road and **right**.



- 1** Starting in East Clandon, take Back Lane, a very quiet lane which runs beside the *Queens Head* pub. Ignore a footpath and stile on the left but, 40m later, at a bend, keep **left** on a gravel drive signed as a footpath. Keep ahead shortly on a sheltered path through woodland. Your path soon leads out, past a redundant metal kissing gate, onto the links of Clandon Regis Golf Club. Keep to the right-hand edge till you come through a gap in the trees beside a ditch. Here, your path zigzags **left-right** by two signposts, crossing over a golfer's path. Now pick up a wide green track which runs beside some hillocks on your left, heading up a slope. (There are new trees planted either side of the track, and they will line the route in future years.) Stay on the track, heading for the redbrick clubhouse visible ahead. Finally, your path goes over a little bridge to a T-junction with the main driveway.
- 2** Turn **right** on the drive and, where it shortly turns left towards the car park, keep straight on along a dirt track. In less than 50m, turn **left** on a footpath through trees. The path shortly goes between fences and leads out to the main road in West Clandon. Carefully cross the road (best done here) and turn **right**, using the footway. In just over 400m, on the right-hand side is the *Onslow Arms* pub.



The Onslow Arms is the soul of the village. In 2011 the pub underwent a massive refurbishment. There is a lunchtime menu to satisfy everybody, including highly educated sandwiches in case you don't want the gourmet burger or the calves' liver. As for ales, the Onslow has its own brew, unless you prefer Shere Drop or TEA (that's Traditional English Ale). The pub is named after the Earl of Onslow whose family owns Clandon Park and the pub sign shows the family crest. Tables get booked up at a weekend, so it is advisable to ring: on 01483-222-447.

West Clandon's name means "clean" in the sense of "unwooded". A small village until the coming of the railway, it came to epitomise "leafy Surrey" of commuterland. The church of St Peter and St Paul (south along the road) is a 12th-century gem, close to Clandon Park, the house gutted by fire in 2015.



Continue along the road to the bridge over the railway, with Clandon station on your right. If you came by train, the adventure is finished.

3

Go over the road bridge. There is an optional imaginative alternative here (in blue) below, along a private road, unsuitable for large groups, shifty-eyed drifters or noisy ruffraff who must use the standard route.

After the bridge, turn immediately **right** next to the railway on the approach lane. After the station, continue on a narrow path, then ahead along the high-class residential Oak Grange Road. This is a road with splendid properties on each side, a pleasure to walk through and not at all unwelcoming. The road does a double bend and after a further 300m, turns left again. In 400m, the road turns left at a sign *Dangerous Corner*. Turn **left** with road for just 40m and then go **right** and **right** again, over a brook, doubling back, on a signed footpath. Now skip to section 4. Otherwise ...

Continue along the main road for 150m or so and turn **left** on the concrete Dedswell Drive. (This route requires a road crossing near a blind bend: something to be considered if you have children with you; some walkers stayed on the road.) In 50m, turn **right** at a fingerpost on a footpath. This path runs between garden fences, later with a meadow on your left. After 250m, you reach a crosspaths with a modern kissing-gate on your left. Turn **right** here on a narrow path leading to the main road (*care! listen for sudden traffic - it's best to shift as far as you can to the left first*). Cross over, ignoring a signed footpath on the left, and go through an archway to join a residential road, Lime Grove. In 250m, ignore a signed track on your left. Where Lime Grove ends shortly after, keep ahead through a width restrictor on a tarmac footpath. After crossing a tarmac drive, keep straight on along a signed footpath beside a brook.

4

In 200m, a barrier and a stout bridge lead to a stile (squeezable if you are of slim build) and out into a meadow. [May-Aug 2020: there was a low electric fence round the meadow: step over it or look for the sections insulated by plastic sheeting.] Keep straight on across the centre, between two trees, finally over a stile beside a large metal gate, leading onto the Ripley Road. Cross the road and a small (avoidable) stile and take a footpath through woodland. *The compound on your left is HM Prison Send, a closed women's prison run on enlightened principles.* 500m from the road, as you pass the centre of a meadow on your left, ignore an unmarked crossing path. In 150m, the meadow gives way to woodland and shortly after you meet a crossing track, marked (with a very faint blue arrow) as a bridleway. Turn **right** on this track. In 100m, just before a gatepost marked *Private*, keep **left** on a narrower winding woodland path. In 150m, you meet a wide crossing track. Go straight over, still on a narrow woodland path. In 350m, your path begins to curve right and finally leads out to the road. Turn **left** under the railway arch.

- 5 In 100m, next to two large metal gates go **left** on a footpath. [2019-20: the signpost has fallen over.] Go immediately **left** and keep left on a track that runs beside the railway on your left. As your track rises, the railway almost disappears in a cutting. On your right are the impenetrable woodlands of Roam Wells and Gason Wood. Where the track suddenly bends right, keep ahead between posts on a wide path. You pass a small relay station [Aug 2020: negotiating some fallen trees and branches]. Finally, over 1 km from the road, the end of the woodland approaches as you pass a redundant stile [2020: gone?]. A sheep pasture and a farm can be seen ahead. Here, go **right** through a small metal gate or over a stile, passing a National Trust sign for *Hatchlands Park*.

The estate at Hatchlands was listed in the Domesday Book and was owned by Chertsey Abbey till the Dissolution. Henry VIII gave it to Sir Anthony Browne (the man who was “never more dismayed in his life” after being sent to escort the future fourth wife, Anne of Cleves). Successive owners had it landscaped: Admiral Edward Boscawen (siegemaster of Jenkin's Ear) and George Holme Sumner who engaged Humphry Repton.

Boscawen engaged the wonderfully-named architect Stiff Leadbetter (“a second generation Palladian”) for the house. The Sumners sold it to Stuart (1st Baron) Rendel and his family lived there till 1959. He added the large Music Room which has an organ. The next owner, Francis Mathew, printed the Times newspaper at Hatchlands during the print union strikes of the early 60s. The house is now host to the Cobbe Collection of harpsichords and pianos and each room boasts several instruments. The house is open Tue, Wed, Thur & Sun in the warmer months.

- 6 Veer **right** on a wide woodland path marked with pink arrows. This is part of the Long Walk which does a circuit of the grounds and is especially popular at bluebell time. The paths round the boundary of Hatchlands are constantly used by locals, hikers and dog walkers without restrictions. However, if you wish to explore the rest of the estate, the garden and the house (all very highly recommended) you must check in at the entrance near the house and pay or show your NT membership. Stay on the main peripheral path, ignoring any gates on your left. After more than 1 km, the woods thin out and you have a good view of the house. Finally, you meet a large metal gate on your left with the routemarker arrow pointing left.

- 7 **Ignore** the metal gate on your left by keeping straight ahead, thus leaving the Long Walk. [May 2020: there was a large tree trunk across the path (and no easy detour); someone had installed a makeshift step to make climbing easier.] You are now on a rather rougher path through trees, soon passing a pond on your left. Shortly after, you come through a large metal gate and immediately you reach a junction on your left. Turn **left** here on another path. It leads out on a dirt drive passing some converted barns. Note the “swallows” wind vane. The fields on the right were donated to the village in 1948 by the owner of Hatchlands who did much for the villagers. (For more details of the village see the sister walk “East Clandon and West Hanger”.) Turn **left** at the road and **right** at the T-junction, passing the church and reaching the *Queens Head* pub, near where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: **East Clandon** is off the A246 Leatherhead-Guildford Road. You can also reach it by a gentle route via Hungry Hill Lane / Ripley Road from Ockham and the A3. The Old Epsom Road cul-de-sac is the **first** road to the **left** after turning into East Clandon (if coming from the A246) or the **last** road on the **right** just before the main A246 (if coming through the village).

By train: frequent from Waterloo every day to Clandon station. Check the timetables.

By bus: no. 463 from Guildford.

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