



Westcott and Wotton

Distance: 7 km=4½ miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

Date written: 15-jan-2018

Author: Fusszweig

Date revised: 11-apr-2021

Refreshments: Westcott, Wotton

Map: Explorer 146 (Dorking) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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

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Village, woodland, green fields, forest paths, valleys, views

In Brief

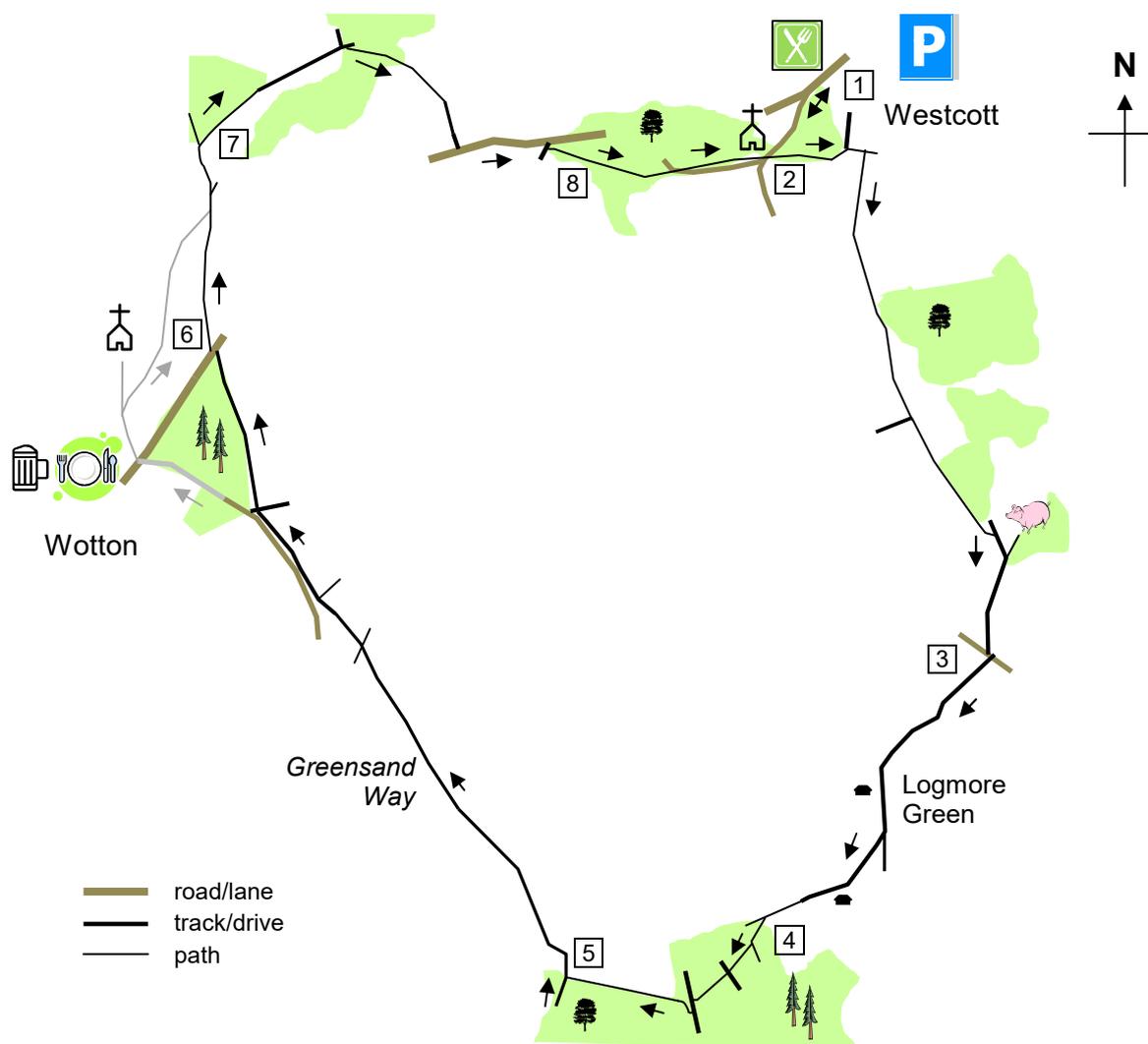
This walk takes you on paths which you may never have trodden before, even if you know the area west of Dorking well. Yet these paths contain some hidden delights: isolated cottages, tree-lined tracks, hidden woodland paths, a lovely high walk and a gradual descent down a long green valley. This is a gentle walk with no ploughed fields to cross, no livestock and no steep gradients.



There are some patches of nettles or brambles on this walk, especially in summer when shorts are inadvisable. Considering the time of year this walk was researched, it is relatively dry. In fact the author managed fine without hiking boots. There are seven stiles, all of the “simple” type and only *three* unavoidable, probably quite manageable by your small-to-medium dog.

The walk begins in the village of **Westcott**, Surrey, postcode **RH4 3NW**. There is sometimes space around the green and there is always space somewhere on the side roads. There is parking by the church but this is a private space, strictly reserved for churchgoers on Sunday mornings. The *Wotton Hatch* has a good sized car park, usable if you are a patron of the pub on a (rare) quiet day. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk



- 1** With your back to the big triangular green in Westcott, turn **right** (west) on the main A25 road. When you meet a junction with a new apartment block on the left (a desolate reminder of the old *Cricketers* inn), fork **left** on Westcott Heath road, heading for Westcott Church visible ahead. *The Church of the Holy Trinity is early Victorian, built to a design by George Gilbert Scott.* Continue past the church, and, as the lane levels out, turn very sharp **left** on a wide dirt path, the Greensand Way, as indicated by a signpost.
- 2** The path runs level and then descends between banks, coming out to a lane between houses. Continue straight over, beside a garden fence [2021: under scaffolding]. In only 40m, as the path levels out, turn **right** through a concrete and steel barrier on an (unsigned) semi-tarmac footpath. (*Don't miss this right turn! There is a similar barrier straight ahead which is the wrong way.*) Your path runs between gardens and a wire fence and comes out through a similar barrier to a tarmac drive. Cross straight over on a narrow footpath. This fine path runs between meadows with red oaks and beeches and a great view to your right of the wooded ridge near Wotton, part of your return route. You come between wide horse pastures and join a drive

coming from a white cottage on your left. Shortly, you pass on your left the various buildings of Applegarth Farm. Ignore a driveway on your right and continue straight ahead under oaks. Your path zigzags left-right to join a drive coming from a group of stables. You have a wonderful view here of the whole of the Mole Valley, with Denbies Hillside and Box Hill. The drive passes a junction where a narrow footpath joins from the left by a small piggery, near a glamping site. Stay on the drive to meet a tarmac lane, Logmore Lane.



3 Cross over the lane, a fraction left, and take a wide gravel drive, ignoring a footpath into a field on your left. Although unsigned (2020-21), this is a public bridleway. The drive goes over the Pippa Brook and, in 300m, curves left past some of the houses and cottages in the hamlet of Logmore Green. Just after *Knoll Brow*, you see a waymarked junction on your left. **Ignore** the left turn here and stay on the drive (private to motorists only!). You pass the entrance to Logmore Farm with its dainty dovecote, where your path takes you through a small avoidable wooden gate onto a narrower path uphill. In about 70m, you will see a *Beware* notice for cyclists. Fork **left** here by a fingerpost onto a woodland path. *Don't miss this turn!*

4 In 50m, the main path bends away left with evidence of horse tracks. **Leave** the main path here by turning **right** on a very narrow path up through the woods. *Don't miss this junction!* Although unsigned (2020-21), this very minor path is in fact the footpath. It comes, in 100m, through a gap in the wire fence to meet a wide sandy forestry path. Cross straight over to the vestigial remains of a stile and thence through a rather dense fir plantation. The stile at the other side is completely overgrown, so walkers step over the low wire. Cross a sandy path now, leading 10m later to another wide sandy crossing path made of scalplings. This is Wolvens Lane. (It is a byway and therefore legally used occasionally by motorcyclists.) Your route is *straight over the byway*, a fraction right, and over a (bypassable) stile. However, there is a steep bank in your way, so the less stalwart of us need to divert round to the left (or right) to reach the stile. Your path runs down the side of a meadow on your right for 250m to take you over another stile to meet a wide path. This is part of the Greensand Way (GW).

5 Turn **right** on the Greensand Way, a beautiful high path running under beeches. Soon you can see houses down on your left, after which the path rises and runs beside a crop field on your right. Ignore a crossing footpath here and stay on the GW till it joins some tarmac just before a house. It emerges between two gate pillars onto a tarmac lane. Ignore a footpath on your right here, thus leaving the GW. Instead, keep ahead on a signposted footpath which runs parallel to the lane on your left. In 200m, your path crosses the wide tarmac entrance to Wolvens with its large modern green hangars. (Returning to the tarmac lane on your left will take you in 250m to the Wotton Hatch pub / restaurant, an excellent place for a meal and refreshment, with a country garden-of-delights. From here, you can cross the A25 to a track and fork right to re-join the route.) Take a wide track opposite which runs beside woodland on your left. In 350m, the track ends at the main A25 road.



6 Carefully cross over the A25 road to a small avoidable stile directly opposite. Take a narrow path straight ahead (angled slightly to the right) between wire fences and crop fields. *Up on your left you have a good view of St John's*

† Church, Wotton (for details see the walk “Abinger and Wotton” in this series). Go over a stile at the other side onto a grassy hillside with ponds visible in the valley below. Bear **right** and shortly, at a waymarker, keep right so that you are descending the hillside at a shallow gradient. In about 200m, you meet a grassy path running along the valley bottom. Continue ahead, a fraction left, on this wide level path until you come over a stile by a large wooden gate to a small group of houses with *Vale House* on your right.

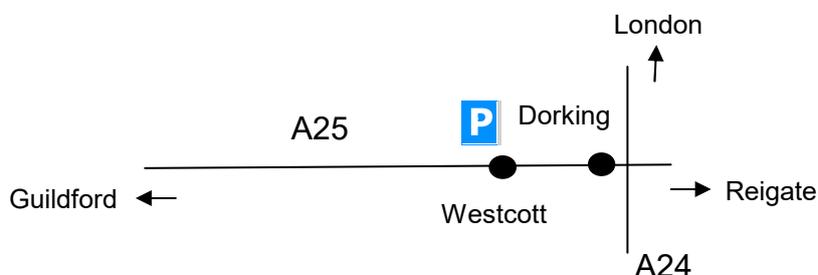
7 Keep ahead to a 3-way fingerpost and bear **right** on a concrete drive. The drive runs beside a long horse pasture with woodland on your left. In 200m or so, a track joins you from the left. As the drive enters trees, it meets a second wide track from the left. Immediately **leave** the tarmac and turn **right** on a much narrower path into woods. Keep following the signed path, between wire fences, and later a rather constricting garden fence. Your path emerges on a driveway by *Woodlands* to reach the main road, the A25. Turn **left** on the road towards the village of Westcott. Pass the junction with Balchins Lane and, shortly after, turn **right** at the start of a tarmac lane, Rookery Drive.

8 Ignore the brick pillars and Gate House of Rookery Drive and instead turn **left** at a fingerpost on a footpath into the woods, up shallow steps. Shortly keep to the right of some wooden edging. In 80m the path forks. The left fork is steep and narrow but you can choose the more comfortable right fork: in this case but be sure to go **left** up a bank in 30m and then **right** to re-join the path. Now keep straight ahead up a gradient, avoiding all side turnings until, in 250m, you come out on a tarmac lane. Cross the lane diagonally, passing a fingerpost, on a path across the heath, parallel to the lane, with houses on your right. In 150m or so, the path meets a tarmac lane. **The Greensand Way, near where your walk began, is directly opposite; so if you are not returning to Westcott or visiting the village for shops etc., go straight over and rewind to section 2.** Turn **left** on the lane, passing Westcott Church on your left. Continue till you meet the main road in Westcott and the big triangular green where the walk began.



Getting there

By car: Westcott is on the A25 Dorking-Guildford road, 2 miles west of Dorking.



By bus/train: bus 32 from Dorking or Guildford. Check the timetables.

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