



Rudgwick: The Mucky Duck (pub walk)

Distance: 5³/₄ km=3¹/₂ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex

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Author: Moussehaine

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Refreshments: The Mucky Duck

Map: Explorer 134 (Horsham) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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

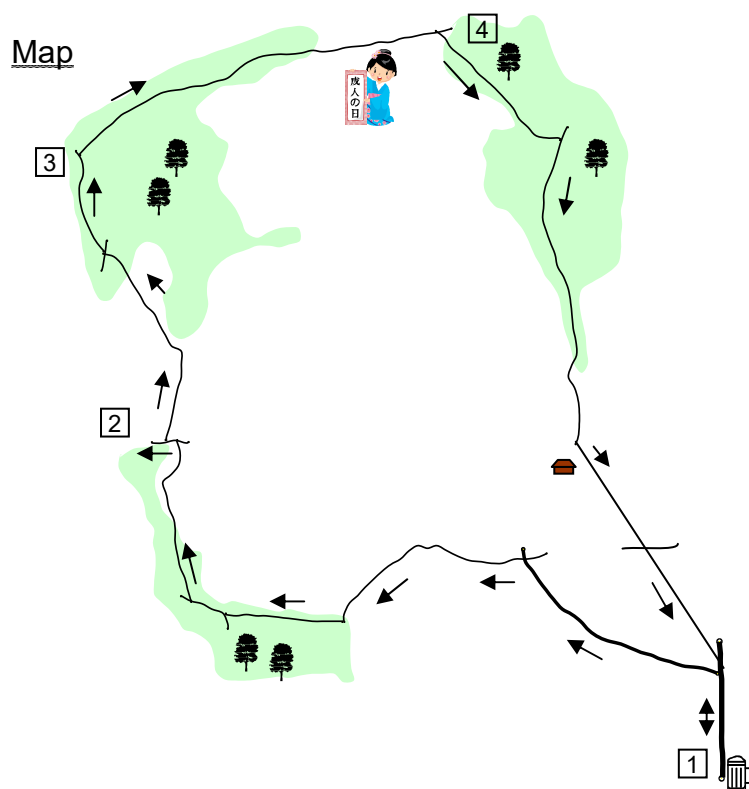
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Woodland, heath

In Brief

The *Mucky Duck* was “The Cricketers” in past times and the new name suits it better. This is a welcoming pub offering premium T-bone steaks and much smaller bites on its bill-of-fare board. Drinks are a bit cheaper than in the posher gastro outfits. The pseudo Tudor is strangely endearing and you could easily spend a happy few hours here. The garden is smaller than average, on the side by the lane, but charming enough.

The circular walk starts and ends at the pub and is pure delight.





There are a few nettle fringes that might catch you on this walk, so be careful in shorts. Otherwise, any sensible shoes and clothing are fine. Your dog can come too and the *Mucky Duck* welcomes him.



The walk begins at the **Mucky Duck Inn, Tisman's Common**, near Rudgwick, West Sussex (**postcode RH12 3BW** grid ref TQ066323). Park neatly in the side lane to the left of the pub. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

- 1 Continue on the side lane (Hornshill Lane) to the left of the pub. In 250m, turn **left** at a signpost on a rough track. At the end of the track you meet a junction with a tarmac lane on the right. Turn **left** here, beside the timbered *Barnsfold*. Follow the track, passing a cottage, after which the track becomes grassy, and entering woodland. Immediately turn **right** by a signpost on a bridleway. (Here and at several points later on there is a parallel path on the left that you can use in case the bridleway is muddy.) Keep straight ahead at a fingerpost where a better track joins from the left. In 60m, fork **right**, leaving the track, onto a narrow path. (This path is unmarked, so be sure not to miss it as it avoids most of the mud!) This path takes you through a beautiful ash wood and rejoins the original track just before coming out into a large field. Keep **left** along the left-hand side of the field. The path curves right beside a pond and, at the end, drops down to a track. Turn **left** on the track.
- 2 In 50m, just before the corner of a meadow, turn **right** on a pleasant grassy path strewn with clover. At the end of the path, go through a gate and continue along the right-hand side of the meadow. At a blunt corner, the path leaves the edge and goes diagonally across the meadow. On the other side, go through a wooden gate, through an area of brambles and young birch and over a 2-plank bridge. When you reach a wide cinder track, turn **right**. In just 5m, turn **left** over a 2-plank bridge. At a 4-way fingerpost, ignore a path forking off left and turn **right** on a path that goes between posts. You have left Sussex and are in Surrey for the next short section. *Note the sign forbidding motor cars and horse-drawn carts.* You soon pass a pond on your left, on a nice clean cinder track. (Any mud here is easily avoided and strictly temporary.) Soon you reach a 3-way fingerpost about 20m before another 3-way fingerpost. Turn sharp **right** at the first fingerpost.
- 3 The footpath veers left where it joins a forestry track. Cross the track and continue on a narrow woodland path opposite, signed as a bridleway. After some distance through fine mixed woods, the path has a fence on the left and goes through a small wooden gate. *Note that you are on the Sussex Border Path (SBP) a long-distance path running from Rye in the east to Emsworth in the west, with another section from East Grinstead down to near Brighton, and passing through some of the most remote and peaceful parts of Southern England.* The path runs between trees and shrubs on a smooth grass strip between school buildings. *The Rikkyo School is a co-educational school for Japanese children from 10 to 18 years. As well as GCSE courses, they also follow the Japanese curriculum and learn in both languages.* On your left are good view of the North Downs. The path crosses a junction of driveways and goes ahead through a double wooden gate on a tarmac drive. In 40m, leave the drive and go **right** over a stile into the woods.

- 4 This narrow path goes up a steep slope and descends through woodland that in late spring is carpeted with bluebells. It crosses a minor path and re-enters woodland on a winding path. Where the path swings left, follow the yellow arrow by turning **right**. You are now in a more open woodland of splendid tall oaks and beeches with a sunken stream on your left. Follow this path until you arrive at a wooden gate into a small meadow. Continue along the left-hand side. The white house over on your right is *Tisman's* from where Tisman's Common gets its name. Go through a wooden gate, over grass, and join a tarmac drive, passing on your left *Greenhurst*, a cottage with a pretty garden. At a T-junction, turn **left** on another drive through a dense avenue of limes which give out their sweet perfume in early summer. At a T-junction with a lane, cross straight over and go through a wooden gate into a large field on a faint path across the centre. On the other side, go through a wooden gate and turn **right** on the lane, taking you back shortly to the pub.

Getting there

By car: the *Mucky Duck* is on the Loxwood Road about 2 miles=3 km west of Rudgwick. Take the A281 Guildford Road and the Loxwood Road turn-off is about 500 yds ($\frac{1}{2}$ km) west of Bucks Green. You first pass the *Fox Inn* and the *Mucky Duck* is nearly 1 mile= $1\frac{1}{2}$ km along the road.

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