



Winterfold, Jelley's Hollow, Lapscombe Lakes

Distance: 8½ km=5½ miles

easy-to-moderate walking

Region: Surrey

Date written: 12-apr-2016

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Refreshments:

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picnic, or Shamley Green after the walk

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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Woodland, views, meadows, anglers' lakes

In Brief

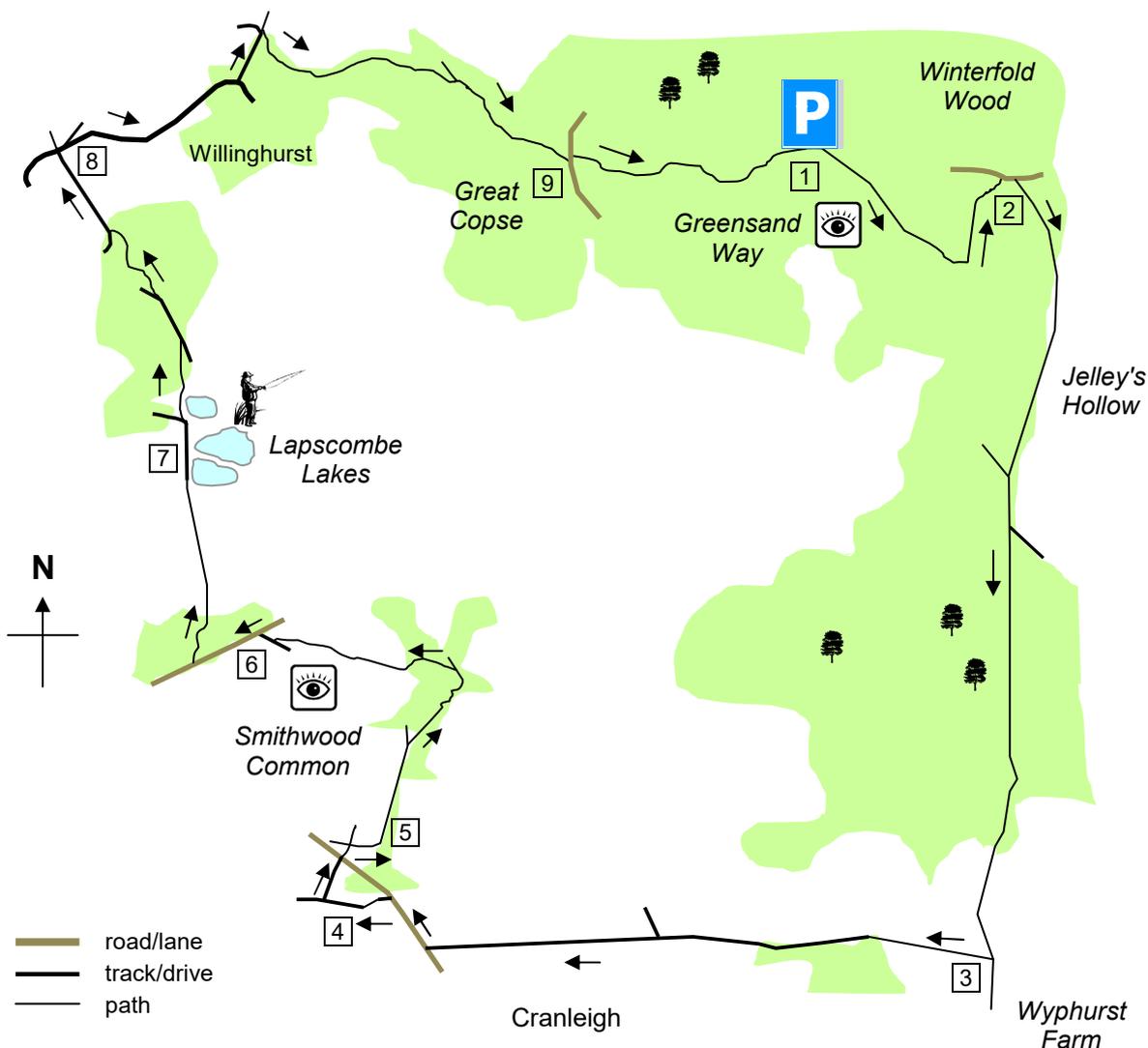
This walk is a short stirring adventure taking you down from the tops of the Greensand Hills southwards down into the valley to make some unexpected encounters along the way, using an unmapped path known only to the locals.



? There were no nettles or scratchy undergrowth to speak of when this walk was researched in April, but in high summer there may be the usual covering of nettles and brambles. There were a couple of muddy patches along the Greensand Way and one just after Lapscombe Lakes. So, except after a period of heavy rain, this should be a dry walk on the whole. But in the wet winter of 2023-24, for example, boots were definitely required. There is no reason to leave your dog at home.

The walk begins at the small **Hurtwood Car Park No. 5** [[see note ...](#)], known as *Donkins*, at the top of the southern hills in Surrey in Greensand Lane, about 4 miles south of Shere. The *very approximate* postcode for this isolated location is: **GU5 9EL**, grid ref: TQ063427, w3w location: www.w3w/waxing.connected.bedroom. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**). 2016-2018: **Hurtwood Car Park No. 5** is **finally open** after years of forestry work but for 10 cars maximum. As an alternative, **Hurtwood Car Park No. 6** (www.w3w/took.pasting.dries) is straight on, 50 yards on the left, instead of the “sharp left” indicated in the “Getting There” instructions. It is *on your walking route*: begin near the top of Section [9](#).

The Walk



- 1 In the car park, with your back to the road, look to the left for a 1-arm fingerpost. Take the path uphill leading out to a T-junction on the edge of the hill, with great views to Hascombe Hill and Black Down. Turn **left** on a wide path along the hillside. A right fork shortly, not on your route, leads to a remarkable creation by sculptor Giles Miller called "Perspectives", a sheltered circular seat from where you can admire the view south over the Weald. A marker post soon reveals that you are on part of the Greensand Way (GW) long-distance path. The path narrows a bit and you lose the view for a while. After 400m, a GW post directs you **left** up a bank. In 100m you cross a semi-tarmac drive and follow an undulating path through a beechwood. Your path curves left down to a lane, Greensand Lane. Turn **right** on the lane, but for only 5m.

- 2 Fork **right** down a steep gully known as Jelley's Hollow, full of foreboding. The path descends into a kind of ditch and soon you reach, on your right, a large house, also known as *Jelley's Hollow*.

This place goes far back in history, hagridden with the direst stories. Jelley may have been the highwayman who was hanged at the top of the hollow during the 1700s. More recently, two more people hanged themselves here. The house dates back to the early 1500s, with many changes in keeping with the style. One glowering gargoyle is an original; the faux dovecote over the

garage and silver cross over the bin shed are all a recent whimsy. The Buddhist statue and whale fluke overlook an open-air jacuzzi.

Continue ahead past the house for only 5m to take the **right** fork downhill on a narrow path. The path soon turns right and runs beside a meadow on your left. Nearly 500m after the house, you join another path coming down from your right. On your left, you pass the buildings of Coleman's Farm. Bear **right** here on a wide driveway. 100m later, at a 3-arm fingerpost, fork **right** onto the narrower bridleway. This good straight path runs with woodland on both sides, over a stream, with a fine show of bluebells in late spring. Later the track becomes more winding as it rises and passes several large wooden gates. Finally, 1km from the fingerpost, you reach a grassy open space. Your route is immediately **right** here at a yellow arrow. *But first it is worth walking a short distance ahead to admire the remarkably preserved wooden huts and sheds of historic Wyphurst Farm, with its 16th-century house.*



- 3 Having turned right on the footpath, follow the path downhill beside a wire fence, over a stile across a small meadow and through a wooden swing-gate. The path leads you straight ahead between two meadows, over a stile and ahead on a wide grassy path which may be deceptively muddy at first. After a wooden sculpture, the path continues on a much drier sandy track which soon runs in the open between fields, with skylarks in summer, giving you a good view of Hascombe Hill and, beyond it, the outline of Black Down. Where the sandy track bends right, keep straight ahead on a more grassy track. At the end, go through a spanking new wooden gate and turn **right** on the road, Smithwood Common Road.
- 4 Go past houses, *including on your right Alderbrook Park, a great country house and estate, eccentrically redeveloped by "an Indian billionaire"*. Only 100m after joining the road, fork **left** on a stony track, signed as a footpath, passing two houses. Immediately keep ahead on a narrow path which meets a driveway running past a line of more houses. You reach a small red post box opposite *Four Elms Cottage*, still showing its unmistakable livery as an ex-pub. Turn **right** here on a short tarmac lane back to the road and cross straight over it onto a narrow path rising up over the grassy slope of Smithwood Common.
- 5 In only 30m, at the first narrow crossing path, turn **right**, going between young oaks. Just before a dense bank of trees, your path wheels left uphill along the right-hand side of the common. In 250m, just before you reach the far bottom corner, keep **right** to stay beside the trees. Your path now enters woodland. Follow this charmingly chaotic but very walkable path, beside a stream, over tree stumps, strewn with woodland plants, round a fallen tree. It suddenly turns you left over a rather skewwhiff plank bridge and a second smaller one, into a somewhat muddy area. Keep to the **left**, heading for the hill ahead where you can see tall beeches. Near the top of the hill, your path contours left and goes ahead along the top of a green hillside affording more excellent views to your left. Keep to the right-hand side, close to a garden hedge and keep straight on along the open hillside. Finally your path takes you past a metal gate to a tarmac drive. Turn **right** on the drive, immediately reaching a lane, Alderbrook Road.
- 6 Turn **left** on the lane. In 170m, just before a driveway, look to your **right** for a fingerpost. Take this path into the woods. It takes you over a 2-plank bridge and later over the remains of a stile onto a path between paddocks. After another stile, follow a path straight on up first between two meadows, then a wilder area. At the top go over a stile to reach Lapscombe Lakes, a huge anglers' paradise, with at least fifteen lakes.

- 7 Take the broad track ahead beside the first two lakes (unseen at first) on your right. Where the track bends left, leave it by keeping straight on on a very narrow path heading for a post with a yellow arrow. Follow the edge of a smaller pond on your right before keeping ahead uphill, as directed by a yellow arrow by a corner of the pond. Your path goes up the left-hand side of a grassy space. At a marker post, go over a drive and straight up into woods. Keep ahead between a large barn and a wooden dwelling on a very wide track. 100m after the buildings, fork **right** at a marker post on a narrow grassy path. Your path crosses a wide service track and continues ahead on a wide path. The path wheels left to meet a broad track. Turn **right** on the track to meet a tarmac drive at the top in 200m.
- 8 Turn **right** on the tarmac drive, avoiding a footpath straight ahead and avoiding a private drive forking left. You pass some converted barns and, on your right, the big green shed of Willinghurst Farm, followed by a white space-age cuboid home. Ignore signed footpaths left and right here and ignore a sandy track on the left. Nearly 200m after the white cube, **leave** the main track where it elbows right and instead turn **left** on a sandy forestry track, by a new metal farm gate, uphill on what *appears* to promise a steep climb ahead. At the top of the slope, where the sandy track bends left, leave it by turning sharp **right** on a wide path marked as the GW. You now have ½ km of agreeable woodland walking as the path gradually climbs through Great Copse, out of the valley. Finally, at a 2-arm finger-post, you reach an oblique T-junction with another wide path (coming from Madgehole on your left). Turn **right** on this path to resume your direction. It takes you past a large metal gate (*note the amazing bridge on your left, made with wooden slats fixed to a fallen tree*) and onwards, for around 150m, to a tarmac lane, Alderbrook Road again.
- 9 Turn **left** on the lane and, in 10m, go **right** up steps, still on the GW. The path leads through trees to the bottom of a car park (Hurtwood Control No. 6, empty in 2022). Keep to the **right** along the short end and pick up the path through an area that has been recently cleared of trees. When your path soon bend left, there is a metal seat on a side path on your right. You can rest here and enjoy the views with your back to the handiwork of the foresters. (The woods are fully protected and this exercise is for woodland regeneration.) Keep straight ahead on the level at all times, passing under wires and ignoring branching and crossing paths. Finally you are back at the open space with views. On the left is the Donkins car park, where the walk began.



For end-of-walk refreshments, the village of Shamley Green is close by (postcode GU5 0UB), with its shop, café-deli and excellent pubs overlooking the green.

Getting there

By car: the best (scenic but narrow) route is through Farley Green. Take the A25 Dorking-to-Guildford road and take the turn-off onto the A248 signed *Godalming, Albury*. At a right bend, leave the A248 by keeping **left** on a road marked *Albury Heath, Farley Green, Peaslake*. Follow the road, New Road, for 1½ miles to the village of Farley Green. At the start of the green, turn **left** on Shophouse Lane (*not* right for Shamley Green). Follow this road for nearly 2 miles, taking a left curve and a right bend, until deep in the woods you come to a junction on the left. Turn sharp **left** here. The Hurtwood Car Park No. 5 is ⅓ mile on your right.

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