



Old Woking and the Wey Path

Distance: 9 km=5½ miles or 3½ miles=5½ km

easy walking

Region: Surrey

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Refreshments: Send

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, canal, water meadows, grass paths

In Brief

This is a flat walk along the canals and water meadows near the River Wey. Although there are no gradients, there are wide views all along the course. You will see water fowl and, on a popular day, a host of colourful canal boats.

There is a good pub on the walk with open-air dining and a view of the canal. (To enquire at the *New Inn*, ring 01483-762736 or book online.) There is also a traditional pub in Old Woking, the *Crown and Anchor*, although its future was uncertain in 2021 and their website has just now (Nov 2021) been spruced up.

You can shorten this walk to 3½ miles=5½ km by taking the short cut just after the *New Inn*. This walk can be combined with the *Ripley and the River Wey* walk, making an easy but bracing 10½ mile jaunt.

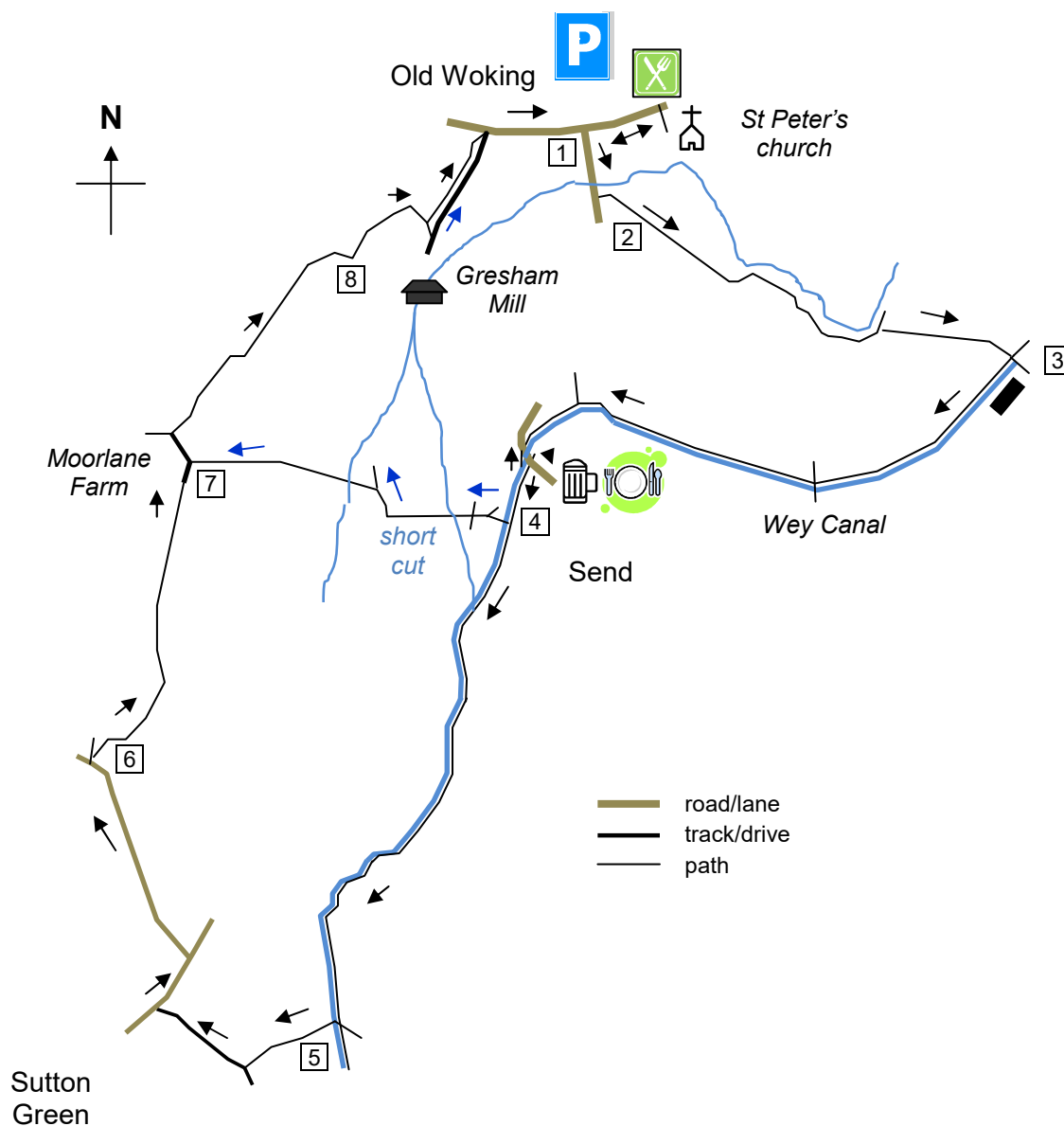


In early spring this walk was free of nettles and undergrowth, but in the summer months there is significant growth by the river in section 2 and in the area of the farm in sections 6 and 7. At these times you will be glad to have covered your legs. Although this is an area plied by several streams, all the paths are reasonably dry and well-made, so that boots are recommended but not absolutely necessary in dry weather. But in winter or wet conditions, there are one or two brief spots with standing water. This walk should be fine for your dog if he is not too large: there are four stiles along the route (two on the shorter route).

The walk begins in **Old Woking**, Surrey, in a free car park opposite the T-junction in the centre, www.w3w.co/tube.hill.shark, nearest postcode **GU22 9JR**. The car park is on the other side of the main road at the T-junction. The free car park is straight ahead – avoid the small car park immediately to the right which has a maximum stay of 2 hours. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

Old Woking was the original Woking and its big brother to the north a mere modern upstart which took over the name. The name comes from the Saxon chieftain Wocce and his people (the "ing" ending). Old Woking lays claim to the foundation of the Tudor dynasty, for just to the east was Woking Palace, home to the pious Margaret Beaufort, grandmother of Henry VIII. (Substantial remains of the palace still stand and there are guided visits.)



1 Before setting out, it is worth taking a short excursion to St Peter's Church, which is **left** on the main road, a short distance, on your right. *St Peter's is Norman and stands in the oldest part of the town, surrounded by beautiful buildings, some as early as Tudor.* Beginning in the central car park, cross the mini-roundabout, straight over the main road, to the road opposite (Broadmead Road), soon passing the big welcome sign for the village of Send. The road crosses a bridge over the River Wey. *This is a separate branch of the River Wey which flows through Gresham Mill and re-joins the main river, as you will see, at Worsfold Gates. This branch is also known as the **Hoe Stream**.* In 50m, immediately after the last house, turn **left** through a small wooden gate on a [2021-22:unsigned] footpath.

2 Suddenly you are in a wide open landscape. Your path runs beside a wire fence of your right, with a view of St Peter's church on your left. A stile [Nov 2021: collapsed] leads into a narrower section of saplings and tall reedy grass, just as you meet the River Wey again. Stay close to the river on your left on a narrow winding, sometimes very overgrown, path. (The official footpath runs on a straighter course a short distance to your right.) After you have seen more of the river and possibly a family of swans, your path re-joins the footpath. Take the left fork again very shortly to stay by the river. As you emerge from the trees, you have a view to your right to a line of industrial buildings (Send Business Centre). Turn **right** now on a wide path across the horse pasture, heading for the left-hand side of the line of buildings.

3 As you approach the buildings, your way is over a bridge across the river (known here as the Broadmead Cut). Immediately ahead is another bridge over the canal, but not on your route. Your route is immediately **right** along the towpath, with the Wey Navigation canal and the buildings on your left. *First, however, for a charming breather, you will find a little walkway on your right leading to a garden with a group of picnic tables overlooking the water meadows.* Follow this wide dirt path, passing on your left the Cartbridge Basin, a marina for canal boats. Soon you meet a crossing footpath, with a small steel bridge on your left and a line of modern cottages with neat gardens. The canal passes another footpath on your right and bends left in an area known as Cartbridge Wharf, now disused. The canal goes under a main road bridge in the village and parish of Send.



Send was known variously as Sande or Sende. This large parish once included Ripley until that village had its own church. Send has an unexpected link with Cornwall. In 1497, King Henry VII (father of you-know-who) closed down the operation of the Cornish tin mines. Cornwall was already heavily taxed to aid the king's campaign against the Scots. The Cornishmen rose in rebellion and marched to Kent (a traditional destination for uprisings). They met some of the King's militia in Send but, because of the vast numbers of rebels, there was only a brief skirmish. (The rebellion ended badly, it has to be added.)



Immediately after the bridge, turn sharp **right** up steps, **right** on the main road and **right** again on the towpath, this time on the left bank of the canal. *First, however, for refreshments on a large patio overlooking the canal, the New Inn has a good selection of real ales and a range of not-overpriced pub favourites.* In 100m you meet a small black steel bridge over the canal.

Decision point. If you are doing the shorter (3½ miles=5½ km) walk, skip to the end of this text and do the section called Moorlane Transit.

- 4 Avoid the black steel bridge and continue along the towpath, ignoring a footpath on your left. You pass Worsfold Gates, a lock where the other branch of the Wey re-joins the main stream. Ignore a footpath and boardwalk on your left just before the towpath goes over a raised section between railings. After an especially verdant winding section, your path finally takes you **right** over a metal footbridge into Triggs Lock with its neat little lockkeeper's cottage. In a further 200m you reach a black steel bridge over the river. Your route is **right** over this bridge. (Looking to your left, there is a stile and a footpath across the water meadows leading to Send Church. The path is occasionally closed because of winter floods. The village near the church may be an idea for a future alternative starting point.)
- 5 Having turned right over the bridge, follow the path between fences and lines of trees. In 250m, at a T-junction by Wareham's Farm, turn **right** on a driveway, going past a large wooden gate. At the end, turn **right** on a tarmac lane in the hamlet of Sutton Green. In 150m, at a fork, take the **left** fork, Robin Hood Lane, the wider option. You pass a line of white houses and a large modern dwelling *Fieldsend*. Just after you pass the entrance to Lower Westfield Farm, as the road bends left, turn **right** at a fingerpost .
- 6 In 10m, fork **right** on a narrow path. Go over a stile into a yard and immediately go **left** over another stile. Turn **right** along the edge of a large meadow. In around 200m, at the second corner, go **right** over a stile, a 3-plank bridge, and a step-over. Take a path, as directed by a yellow arrow, along the left-hand side of the adjoining meadow, taking in two more stiles and following a single-wire fence part of the way. After 350m or so, your path leads over a stile next to a large metal gate. A pair of metal gates mark the entrance to Moorlane Farm. Keep straight on past the buildings and, at a fingerpost, veer **left** on a wide track.

[The shorter walk joins the main walk here.](#)

- 7 At a T-junction before some new houses, turn **right**, immediately ignoring a signed footpath on your left. Keep **left** through the farm (*don't worry about the "private property" sign: this is definitely a public footpath!*) and continue on a narrow public footpath between a corrugated barn on your right and a noisy poultry yard. Your path goes through a small metal gate and across a yard. Looking at an angle to your right, you will see a modern kissing-gate. Go through it, followed by another. [Aug 2021 thru Jan 2023: walkers reported an illegal electric fence across the next path – you can bypass it with care.] Cross a small meadow to go through another modern kissing-gate and keep ahead along the left-hand side of a large meadow, beside a watery ditch on your left. After 300m, before a copse, your path bends **right** to take you over a stile next to a large metal gate.
- 8 Cross a flat bridge and shortly keep to the **right** in a long narrow meadow. After a gap in the hawthorn, as soon as you enter a second meadow, turn **right** on a crossing path. You pass a small pond on your left and a notice board which *sometimes* displays info about Millmoor Common. Just before a wooden bridge, avoiding the bridge, turn sharp **left**. (But, if you would like a comfortable final stretch, go over the bridge, heading for the huge red-brick edifice of Gresham Mill, turn immediately **left** up a steep bank, cross the entrance drive and turn **left** on a footway, leading out to the main road.) *Gresham Mill was once a large paper mill, now redeveloped as apartments.* This path leads out into the open space of the Common. Keep to the right-hand side, turning **right** in the far corner, past a redundant stile and **left** through

the columned entrance to Gresham Mill onto the main road. [The Crown and Anchor pub \(if open\) is nearby on your left.](#) Turn **right** on the road, soon reaching the road junction where the walk began.

Moorlane Transit

[Take this short cut if you are doing the short walk.](#)

Go **right** over the black steel bridge. Keep straight ahead, joining a wider path coming from the right. A bridge leads across a creek. Avoid all turnings off, soon going over a wide ramped bridge. (The covering surface of the bridge is in need of attention, so you need to tread carefully. The “footpath closed” notice is disregarded by all locals and walkers.) When you reach a house with tall chimneys, turn **right** and go over a stile into a green meadow. Take the **left**-hand of two possible paths across the grass, curving left, so as to regain your original direction, heading for a footbridge in the distance. The long footbridge takes you over a marshy river and past the remains of two kissing-gates. A narrow path between a wire fence and a line of laurels finally comes out between derelict fields leading to Moorlane Farm. At a T-junction with a fingerpost, in the farm, avoid the first farm track on the right but take the **second** wide track, diagonally **right**.

[Now re-join the main walk at Section 7.](#)

Getting there

By car: the simplest way to Old Woking (avoiding Woking centre) is via the A3 (Guildford road). From the M25 junction, in the Guildford direction, come off at the junction for Ripley. Go through Ripley for 2½ miles as far as a roundabout and turn **right** as for *Send, Woking*. In 2 miles you reach a T-junction in Old Woking. The car park is directly opposite.

By bus/train: buses 462 and 463 run between Woking station and Old Woking. Check the timetables.

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