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## Surrey Greensand Monster

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Distance: 28 km=18 miles

moderate and very long walking

Region: Surrey

Date written: 14-feb-2014

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Refreshments: Coldharbour, Leith Hill, Peaslake, Friday Street

Maps: Explorer 146 (Dorking) and 145 (Guildford)

*Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: [feedback@fancyfreewalks.org](mailto:feedback@fancyfreewalks.org)*

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*Woodland, hills, views, lake*

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### In Brief

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This is a monster circular walk that covers the great sweep of the highest hills in Surrey. It takes you over the three “peaks” (Leith, Holmbury and Pitch Hills). Added to this is a steep descent into the valley on the south side and a section in the shallow woods before returning to the start in the quiet hamlet of Friday Street. There are several ascents and descents on this walk, mostly gentle but making it much longer, in effect, than the given distance.

This walk is divided into four “Treks”. It combines parts of five other walks in this series. You need to browse, print or download the following five additional walks:

[Friday Street, Leith Hill, Coldharbour](#)

[Friday Street, Leith Hill, Holmbury Hill](#)

[Holmbury and Pitch Hills](#)

[Winterfold Wood](#)

[Abinger and Wotton](#)

Each individual guide contains markers for where to join and leave that section of the walk.



**Warning!** This is a long walk and should not be attempted unless you are physically fit and have back-up support.



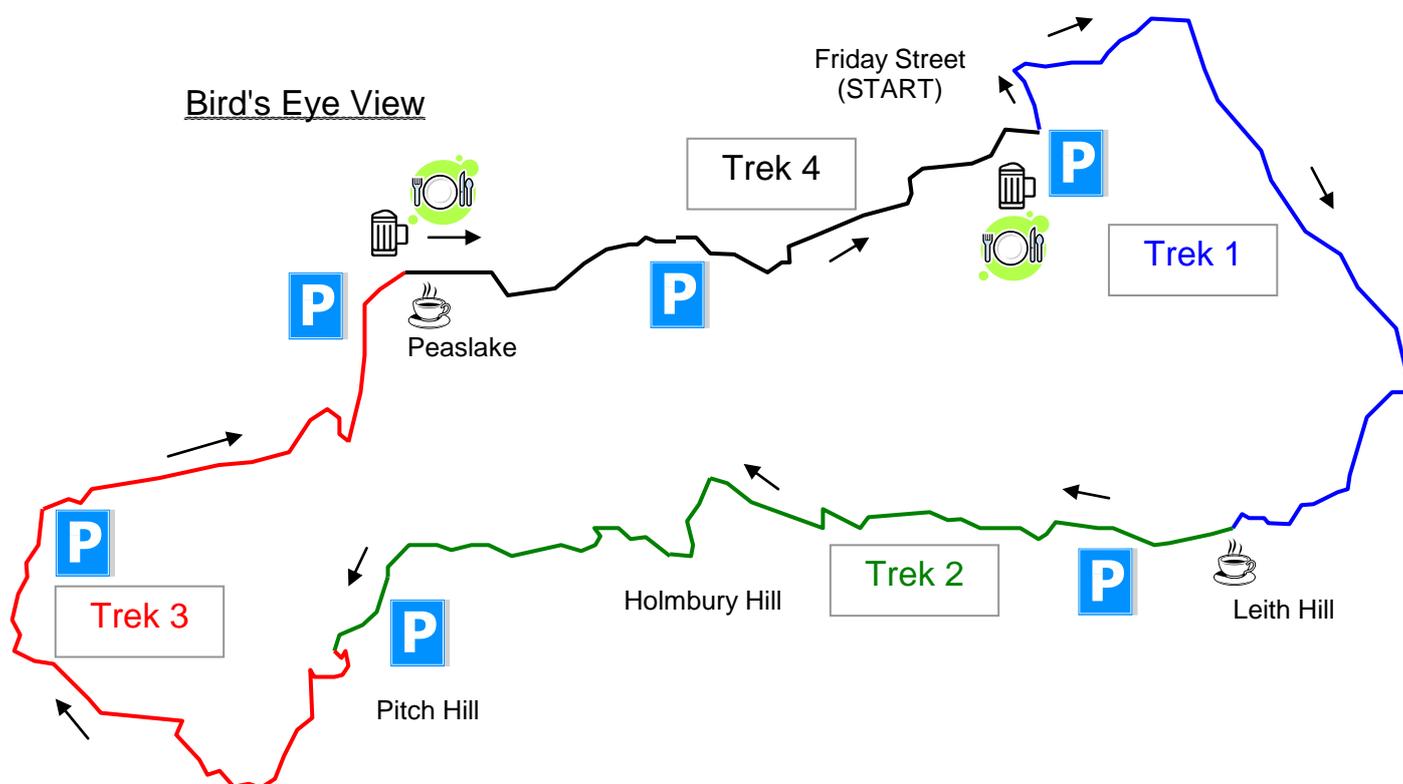
Boots are recommended because of the length of this walk. A walking pole is also recommended. This monster walk is not suitable for your pet.



There are no nettles or briars to speak of.

The walk begins at the **Friday Street** car park in Surrey, postcode **RH5 6JR**. For more details, see **Getting There** at the end of this text.

## The Walk



Trek 1 **Friday Street to Leith Hill.** 7 km = 4½ miles.

This is the beginning of the *Friday Street, Leith Hill, Coldharbour* walk, from the start in Friday Street, ending at Leith Hill.



*Leith Hill has a snack bar.*

Trek 2 **Leith Hill to Pitch Hill.** This is in 2 parts. 7½ km = 5 miles.

**Part 1: Leith Hill to Holmbury Hill.** This is the *Friday Street, Leith Hill, Holmbury Hill* walk, starting from **Leg 2**, including the beginning of the **Holmbury Hill Tour**, and ending at the top of Holmbury Hill.

**Part 2: Holmbury Hill to Pitch Hill.** This is **Leg 3** of the *Holmbury and Pitch Hills* walk.

Trek 3 **Pitch Hill to Peaslake.** This is in 3 parts. 8 km = 5 miles.

**Part 1** is the *Winterfold Wood* walk, from section **3** to the Hurtwood Control Car Park 10 at the end of the guide.

**Part 2** is section **1** of the same *Winterfold Wood* walk. This takes you to the bridleway that runs between Peaslake and Pitch Hill.

**Part 3** is a bridging section taking you into Peaslake, as follows:

Ignore the instruction to turn right on the bridleway at the end of section **1** and instead turn **left** on the bridleway. After a long woodland walk, you eventually reach the Walking Bottom car park just outside Peaslake.



*Peaslake has a village store that also serves snacks, plus a pub.*

**Trek 4 Peaslake to Friday Street.** This is in 2 parts. 5½ km = 3½ miles.

**Part 1: Peaslake to Holmbury YHA car park.** This is **Leg 1** of the *Holmbury and Pitch Hills* walk.

**Part 2: Holmbury YHA car park to Friday Street.** This is the *Abinger and Wotton* walk, sections **6** to **8**, taking you back to the car park where the walk began.

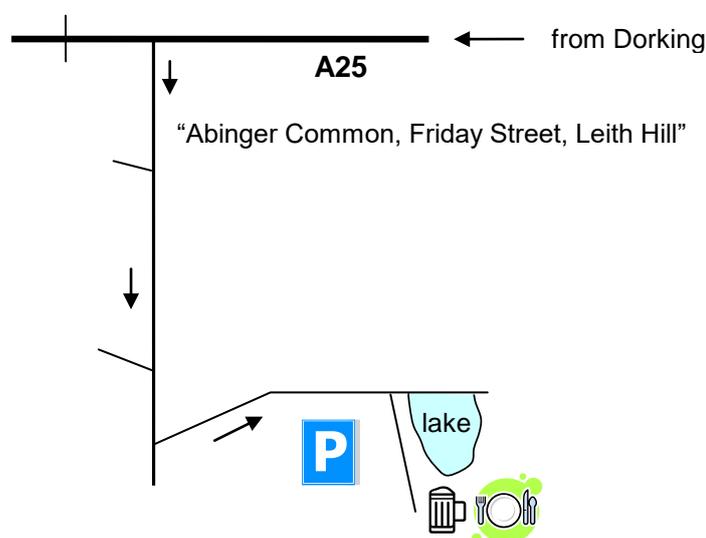


*The Stefan Langton pub in Friday Street is a short distance south beside the lake.*

*Geological note. The Greensand Ridge is part of the Weald Dome. This is a series of layers (or “strata”) that were formed during the Cretaceous Period (the time of the great dinosaurs). A layer known as the Gault Clay was deposited on top of it, followed by the chalk of the North and South Downs. As the Weald Dome rose, its upper slopes became deformed or broken by faults. This exposed the Greensand (sand with a faintly green colour) in South Surrey with a smaller section on the other side of the “Dome” in Sussex.*

## Getting there

By car: To get to Friday Street: go to Dorking, take the main Guildford road and after 3 miles (5 km) take a left turn marked "Abinger Common, Friday Street, Leith Hill". After passing houses on the right, going through a rather dramatic cutting, passing a road junction on the right, a footpath on the left and reaching a large house on the right, take an extremely sharp left turn signposted **Friday Street**. The signpost is somewhat hidden in the trees and this turn is very easy to miss. After about 400m, look out for the car park on the right, before the lake.



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