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## Walliswood: The Scarlett Arms (pub walk)

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Distance: 4½ km=3 miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

Date written: 12-may-2016

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Refreshments: *The Scarlett Arms*

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

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

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*Woodland, church in the woods, small green meadows, cottages, pub*

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### In Brief

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The *Scarlett Arms* has been the local inn since the 1600s and offers every detail you would expect from a traditional English pub, including roaring fires, flagstone floors, oak beams, plus a spacious garden on one side where you can enjoy the food and Badger ales. The pub kitchen has regular oriental evenings and the pub conducts special events throughout the year such as a conker challenge. Tracey, the landlady, comes from a long Lincolnshire tradition in innkeeping.

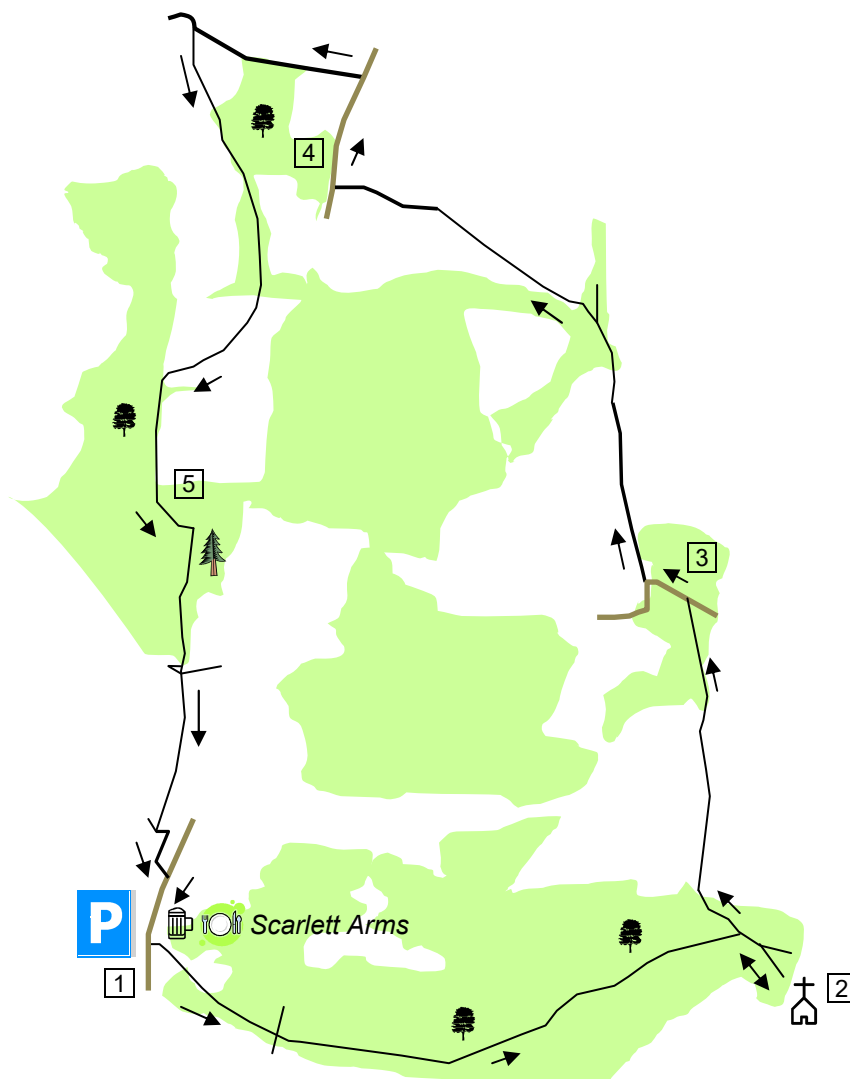
Wallis Wood (two words) is a Surrey nature reserve which you will see on this walk. The village (one word) is a tiny village of widely spread out homes in the nearby woodlands. But the star of this walk is the little church of St. John the Baptist hidden in the woods “a gem in a perfect setting”.



This walk is a gentle stress-free delight. There are few nettles and the going underfoot is easy. In the wetter seasons you may encounter some mud in the woods but nothing to spoil the fun. Your dog will enjoy this walk too.

The walk begins at the large car parking space opposite the *Scarlett Arms* in **Walliswood**, Surrey, postcode **RH5 5RD**. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

## The Walk



- 1 Starting in the car park opposite the *Scarlett Arms*, turn **right** in front of the pub and, in 20m, go **left** through a wooden swing-gate on a signed narrow footpath into woods. Soon your path is running beside a stream on your right. At a 4-way fingerpost, keep straight ahead. This attractive path leads you under tall oaks, then tall beeches (and over one or two tree trunks). About 500m into the walk, in front of a large wooden gate, a yellow arrow directs you **left**. The path is fenced but wider and soon you will be aware of a deep gully on your right. The path descends through Kiln Copse and crosses a stream via a wooden bridge with rails. **Immediately on your left is a second bridge with rails: you will be going sharp left over this bridge after visiting the church-in-the-woods which is a short distance ahead.** Ignore the bridge on the left for now and fork **right** to go over another bridge and up steps. Flagstones then lead you to the front door of the church.

*Okewood's isolated church-in-the-woods was once on Stane Street, the old Roman road. The church is nearly always open and inside there are many items of interest. For a much more complete account of this remarkable church, see the other walk in this series "Okewood Hill Pub Walk".*



- 2 After your visit, retrace your route back over the flagstones, veering **left** and then turning **right** over that second bridge. The path runs beside a deep stream bed on your left. It goes up a bank and veers right. You now come out of the woods on a path beside an Alpaca Farm on your right. Your path takes you over a stile into woodland, under a treehouse and through woodland to a conifer nursery. Keep to the left round a holly hedge at the end of which your path zigzags right-left over a 3-plank bridge and onwards through more woodland on a nice straight dry path. The path snakes round to meet a tarmac lane opposite *Gatton Manor* (a noted golf hotel). *Only 250m right on the lane is the Sculpture Garden – see note at bottom.*
- 3 Turn **left** on the lane and, in 50m, where the lane bends left, turn **right** on a tarmac cul-de-sac, Trap Lane. Follow the lane past houses, the last on the right being the well-named *Faraway Cottage*. At Benbow Stables, ignore a footpath on your right. In another 40m, ignore another signpost and keep straight on, now on a wide path, soon going through attractive mature woodland. In another 150m you will notice a footbridge with rails on your left. *Don't miss this landmark!* Turn **left** over the bridge. The path veers right over a stile into a large meadow. Walk the length of the meadow, keeping roughly to the centre, heading for the left-hand side of a large newly-renovated house. Join the shingle (or the grass verge) coming from the house and follow it to a tarmac lane, Horsham Road.
- 4 Turn **right** on the lane. In 150m, turn **left** on a minor tarmac lane by a little red postbox. In 250m, just before the entrance to *Woodlands* where the lane zigzags, go **left** over a rather hidden stile. After a narrow mossy path and a small bridge over a ditch (*watch out!*), a stile takes you beside a horse exercise area and over another stile. Go along the left-hand side of a sloping meadow, through a large metal gate and through a bluebell coppice, soon with a good view to your left. *Note the rare magnolia on your left, thoughtfully planted.* The path leads down into a small meadow by a little shed. Go round a large metal gate (which in 2020 had been dismantled), over a stile and up into a horse pasture. Aim to the right of some corrugated farm sheds and continue into the far corner. Here, go over a stile and continue **straight ahead** through a band of trees and along the right-hand side of a flowery meadow.
- 5 In the far corner of the meadow, take a path down into woods, going over a stile and a 3-plank bridge. Follow the path as it curves left through a mixed wood dominated by pines and ferns, soon veering right through the centre of the wood. Pass a thatched roof on your left coated in moss, a bungalow on your right dark as chocolate, onto a shingle drive. The way ahead seems private but your route really is through the pair of wooden gates (or over the stile) on a (in 2020 rather churned up by building work) grass path. Keep straight on past some old huts, along a shingle path past a house with a flagpole and a ring of apples, then straight ahead on a daisy path. Your path zigzags beside more gardens and comes out to a tarmac drive by an industrial unit. Turn **left** and **right**, passing the ancient village well-head and continue a short distance back to the parking area where the walk began.

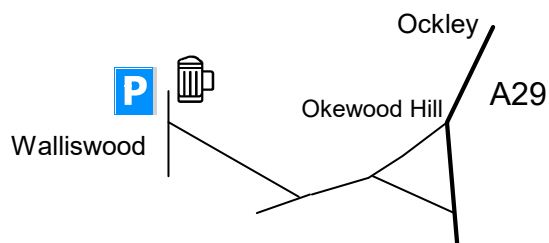
Less than a mile east of Walliswood, just off Standen Lane, is the Hannah Pescher Sculpture Garden, an unexpected gem, consisting of lakes and woodland with a large display of outdoor sculpture by leading artists. Allow time as you can easily spend two hours here. (Compare the Churt Sculpture Garden on the Frensham Little Pond walk). Open April to October, postcode RH5 5QU, modest entrance fee.



## Getting there

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By car: the easiest way to Walliswood is through Okewood Hill (or *Oakwoodhill*) which is signposted off the A29 (Bognor Road), just over 1 mile south of Ockley, about 8 miles south of Dorking. At Oakwood Hill, take the **right** fork, as for *Walliswood, Forest Green*. After 1 mile, bear **right** at a junction. The pub is a short distance on your right. Park in the area opposite the pub.



By bus: bus 545 from Guildford and other smaller rail stations. Check the timetables (or ring the pub).

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