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## Rudgwick: Tisman's Common

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Distance: 5¾ km=3½ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex, Surrey

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Refreshments: picnic or a local inn

Last update: 10-feb-2024

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, heath*

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### In Brief

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This walk was previously called the *Mucky Duck pub walk*, but since the closure of the pub it had to be renamed. Residents and visitors now take refreshment at one of the many nearby hostelries, such as the nearby *Fox Inn* or the *Kings Head* in the centre of Rudgwick. (The *Mucky Duck* was "The Cricketers" in past times and it was a rather brash trendy pub.)

Tisman's Common is a hamlet of Rudgwick, near the Surrey border, with several timbered cottages dating from Tudor times. *Swain's Cottage* is a former "hall house" (with one large room and a fireplace in the centre) dating from the 1300s. This circular walk is sheer delight.

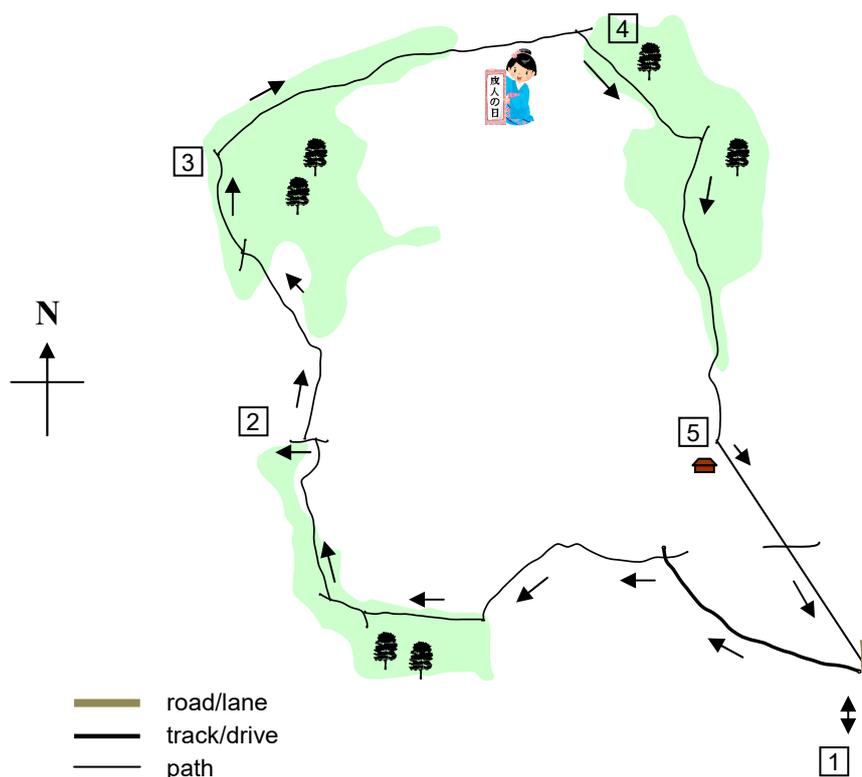


There are a few nettly fringes that might catch you on this walk, so be careful in shorts. In high summer you may encounter thick undergrowth, making a hiking pole advisable. After prolonged damp weather boots are necessary; otherwise any sensible walking shoes and clothing are fine. Your dog can come too.



The walk begins in **Hornhill Lane, Tisman's Common**, near Rudgwick, West Sussex, [www.w3w.co/tadpole.ramming.jacuzzi](http://www.w3w.co/tadpole.ramming.jacuzzi), postcode **RH12 3BW** grid ref TQ066323. Park neatly in Hornhill Lane (it's uncertain whether the old pub's car park is still available). For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

## The Walk



- 1 Continue along Hornshill Lane for 250m and turn **left** at a signpost on a rough track. In 500m, 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 tile-hung cottage, after which the track becomes grassy, and rather muddy in winter, passing between three stumps, entering woodland. In only 10m, turn **right** by a signpost (almost hidden in undergrowth) on a bridleway. In 300m, at a fingerpost, keep straight ahead where a better track joins from the left. In 100m, at a 3-way fingerpost, turn **right** onto a narrower path. This footpath takes you through more woods and comes out into a large meadow. Keep **left** along the left-hand side of the meadow. The path curves right beside a pond on your left, where the surface gets easier, and, at the end, drops down to a track. Turn **left** on the track.
- 2 In 50m, just before the corner of a meadow, by a lichen-covered fingerpost, turn **right** on a (recently cleared) grassy path strewn with clover. At the end of the path, go through a small wooden gate and continue along the right-hand side of the meadow. In under 100m, at a blunt corner, your 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 to reach a wide cinder track. Turn **right** on this track, but for **only 5m**. Now turn **left** over a 2-plank bridge, through a grove of tall oaks, for 80m. At a 4-way fingerpost, turn **right** on a wide path. In 50m the path goes between posts. *Note the sign forbidding motor cars and horse-drawn carts.* You have left Sussex and are in Surrey for the next short section. Follow this nice clean cinder track, soon passing a pond on your left. (Any mud here is easily avoided and strictly temporary.) You

quickly reach a 3-way fingerpost. Turn sharp **right** at this fingerpost, going past a robust metal barrier.

- 3 In 150m, you meet a junction of forestry tracks. Ignore the wide track that forks left and instead go **\*dead straight** over the track into reedy grass and trees (a large oak and a field maple) onto a narrow woodland path which instantly becomes clearer. (The signpost on your right is well hidden in shrubbery.) You now have a pleasant trek for about 500m through this fine woodland. Finally, the path has a fence on the left and goes through a small wooden gate, back into West Sussex. (\*After rain the track straight ahead may be waterlogged. If so, an alternative is to take the **right** fork and follow that track, climbing up to a (bypassable) metal gate and into a large meadow. Follow the distinct track along the left edge of the meadow with good views to the right. At the end of the meadow your path continues in the same direction into shrubland; then, just before reaching the buildings of Rikkyo School, it veers **left** down to join the original path. Turn **right** here to enter the school grounds and continue as below.)



*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.*

*Nearby is a memorial to eight RAF men who died when their two planes accidentally collided overhead on returning to Dunsfold Aerodrome.*



On your left are good views 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. Keep right and continue to the top of the slope, through laurel bushes. The path descends through woodland which in late spring is carpeted with bluebells. In 150m or so, the path crosses a minor path and re-enters woodland on a winding course. Stay on the main path at all times, soon passing a meadow on your right before re-entering more open woodland of splendid tall oaks and beeches. The path suddenly swings left and, in 50m, comes down to a 3-way fingerpost. Turn **right** here on a good path which offers ripe blackberries in late summer. In 150m, fork **right** onto a narrower path, as indicated by a waymarker (black arrow on yellow). Soon there is a sunken stream on your left. Follow this path for a good 400m to arrive at a wooden gate, beside a house and garden, into a small meadow.



- 5 Continue along the left-hand side of the meadow. 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 a cottage, *Greenhurst*. 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 the end, go through a small wooden side gate to a T-junction with a lane. Cross straight over the lane and go through a wooden gate into a large field on a faint path across the centre, following electricity

poles. On the other side, go through a small wooden gate, over a 2-plank bridge, and turn **right** on the lane, taking you back to the point where the walk began.



*For final refreshments, some walkers recommend the “Fox Inn”, which you may have passed on the way, which has a “great menu and very friendly landlord”.*

## Getting there

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By car: Hornshall Lane is off 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=½ km west of Bucks Green. You first pass the *Fox Inn* and Hornshall Lane is on the right nearly 1 mile=1½ km along the road.

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