



Rudgwick: The Mucky Duck (pub walk)

Distance: 5¾ km=3½ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex, Surrey

Date written: 24-jun-2011

Author: Moussehaine

Date revised: 17-aug-2018

Refreshments: Tisman's Common

Last update: 3-may-2023

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

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

Public rights are restricted to printing, copying or distributing this document exactly as seen here, complete and without any cutting or editing. See *Principles* on main webpage.

Woodland, heath

In Brief

The *Mucky Duck* was “The Cricketers” in past times and the new name suits it better. This is a rather bright trendy pub offering premium T-bone steaks and much smaller bites on its bill-of-fare board. Drinks are a bit cheaper than in the posher gastro outfits. The pseudo Tudor is strangely endearing and you could easily spend a happy few hours here. The garden is smaller than average, on the side by the lane, but charming enough. Note that the kitchen closes at *2pm sharp*, after which not even a sandwich is to be had (but see note at end).



This circular walk starts and ends at the pub and 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.

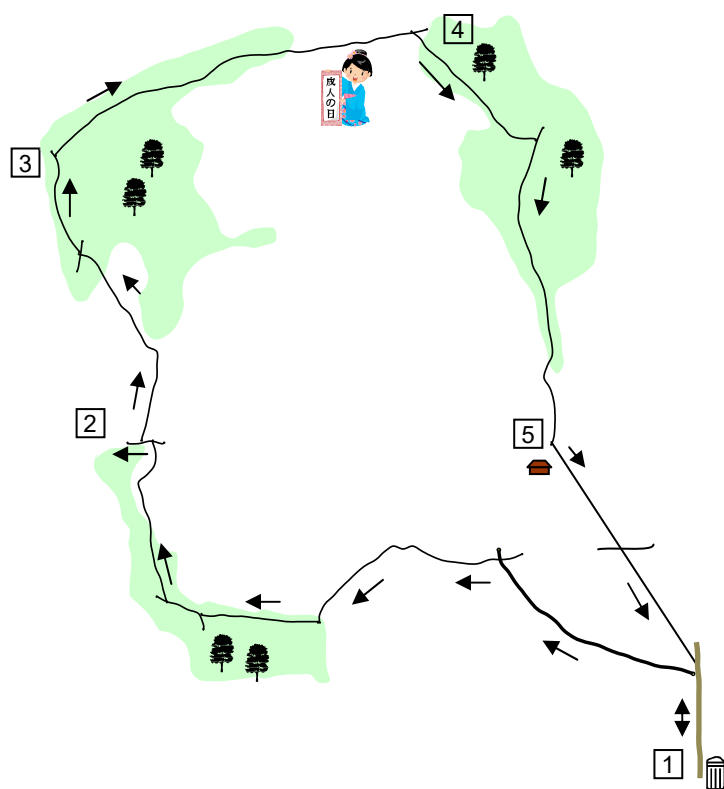


Your dog can come too and the *Mucky Duck* welcomes him.



The walk begins at the **Mucky Duck Inn, Tisman's Common**, near Rudgwick, West Sussex (postcode **RH12 3BW** grid ref TQ066323). It is best for walkers who are not immediate clients to park neatly in the side lane to the left of the pub. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk



- 1 Continue on the side lane (Hornshill Lane) to the left of the pub. In 250m, 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, 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 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 (very overgrown by quite walkable) 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.



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 shortly to the pub where the walk began.



As an alternative spot 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

By car: the *Mucky Duck* is on 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 the *Mucky Duck* is nearly 1 mile=1½ km along the road.

fancy more free walks? www.fancyfreewalks.org