

Directions for the extension walk

For the extension walk do not turn left at **. (A) Continue a little further downhill and turn first right, beside a wire fence, and go through a 'green tunnel' of trees. Follow the fence, ignoring any side paths. (B) Ignore a right-hand fork where you can see some riding stables down in the valley on your left. Continue, passing through broken gate posts at the bottom of the hill, where you turn left towards the lane. (C) Turn right at the gate onto the lane and continue, keeping the road on your left. Soon you will come to a junction of paths and the gates into Windy Gap. Go through the gates and straight ahead on the finger-posted footpath, keeping the road on your left. Dogs need to be on a lead in this grazed area. (D) At the fork, bear right on a path winding gently uphill through the gorse. At the fence line turn right uphill and follow the path round. (E) There is a bench here, where a path joins you from the left, through a gate in the fence. Continue on the path back along the top of the ridge, below the trees. There are three seats on this stretch which make a good spot for a break/picnic with nice views. Eventually the path drops down to a gate. (F) Go through this, ignore the marked path ahead and half-left, and turn right. At the end of the fence go straight ahead on a path through the woods. Continue, ignoring any side paths. The path bears round slightly right, below Whitmore Vale House hidden in the trees to your left. Continue and you will eventually rejoin your original track opposite the riding stables. (G) Turn left and retrace your way back along this path that you were on at the beginning of the extension. Turn left back up the main track (H) for a very short distance to rejoin the main walk, continuing with the directions from **, but turning right at first instead of left.

Follow the Countryside Code

Please

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

Beacon Hill

The village of Beacon Hill grew rapidly from nothing to become a residential area in the 1880s. So far as is known this thriving community has no ancient history. The parish church of St. Alban's was constructed in 1906 to designs by Coleridge.

Hindhead and Haslemere Area

The Hindhead and Haslemere area became popular with authors and artists in the late 19th century, when the railway opened up this part of Surrey. Haslemere is an attractive old market town nestling near the point where three counties meet. It was described in an early visitor guide as the 'fashionable capital of the beautiful Surrey highlands' and now lies within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Much of the lovely countryside around this area is now owned by The National Trust.

Dickens Farm

Very little is known of this farm in the valley. Field systems like this have been used for hundreds of years where there is a supply of water and fertile land. The National Trust is now managing these fields to encourage wild flowers, butterflies and insects.

Lime Kilns

Chalk (limestone) was baked in kilns such as this to produce quicklime which was put on the fields to neutralise the naturally poor acid grassland (due to the underlying sandy geology). When limestone (calcium carbonate) is heated a process called calcination occurs where the carbonate is broken down into calcium oxide (quicklime) and carbon dioxide. The resulting improved pasture contains clovers, richer grasses and other plants which help increase the cattle's milk yield.

National Trust

For information on The National Trust please call 01428 683207 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

For information on the Surrey Hills AONB please call 01372 220653 or visit www.surreyhills.org

Travel & Local Information

For information on Haslemere and the local area and other walks contact:

Haslemere Visitor & Local Information Centre
(Funded by Haslemere Town Council & Haslemere Initiative)
at Haslemere Museum, 78 High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2LA
tel: 01428 645425 www.haslemere.com/vic

For local train and bus information call Travel Line South East on 08706 082608/0871 200 2233 or visit their website: www.travelline.org.uk

There is a selection of shops selling food and drinks in Beacon Hill; also take-aways, restaurants and pubs nearby.

The Woodcock Tel: 01428 604079

Refreshments and accommodation are available in Hindhead and nearby Haslemere.

Beacon Hill Walk



*A pleasant short circular
walk from beacon Hill with
an optional longer extension
through woods and heath*

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Information Centre**

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Beacon Hill Walk

This pleasant short circular walk is 2km (1.3 miles) long and takes approximately ¾ - 1 hour. It starts from the shops at Beacon Hill (off the A287) where you can get refreshments and park nearby. The route is covered by OS Explorer map 133. The extension, which takes you through heathland and woodland, is an additional 2.5km (1.6 miles) long and takes approximately an extra 1-1¼ hours.

Much of the walk goes over uneven or hilly ground; it is therefore not recommended for pushchairs, wheelchairs or anyone with walking difficulties. Please wear appropriate footwear and take care crossing the road. During and/or after wet weather some areas can become particularly muddy. There is a climb at the end of the walk and the extension has one steep climb and a couple of gates to negotiate.

Main Route - - - - -
Additional Route ·········

1 Park in the car park behind the Beacon Hill shops (turn off the A287 into Beacon Hill Road, take the first left, opposite the school, and first left again, signposted car park and recycling centre) and take the alleyway from the car park through to the shops. Turn right along Beacon Hill Road to its junction with the A287, turn right again and almost immediately cross over (taking great care). You are aiming for a path between two large trees to the right of the telephone box (as you look at it from across the road).

3 Turn right up to another bridle barrier and turn left on the wider, main track (Boxall's Lane). Follow it for some distance as it curves downhill. Note the old boundary banks all around this area. Use the path on the left bank to avoid the very rutted muddy stretch if necessary.

2 Almost immediately the path forks by a National Trust post, take the more obvious path to the right of the post. Follow this down through the trees until you join a wider track at a bridle barrier.

7 Continue on the path as it winds uphill and curves left, ignoring any side paths. Note the path is now wider, giving access to the farm, with stones added underfoot for traction. Pass some gates and after a while take a path to your right (slightly back on yourself). At this point you are just within sight of the bridle barrier (ahead) that you passed earlier in your walk. Take the footpath up through the trees, forking slightly left and then right. Shortly you will return past the NT post near the telephone box and back to the road and Beacon Hill shops.

6 After a while you will pass a private lake on your right partially hidden behind a fence. Continue, bearing slightly left and come into a small opening. Ahead of you notice the remains of a lime kiln and one remaining wall of the ruined Dickens Farm to its left. There are also some small fruit trees on the left which were part of the farm's orchard.

5 After turning left follow the footpath through the trees, forking slightly left up towards a field fence. Continue on this path as it winds up the valley, with fields on your left and the stream in the valley to your right. Note the big conifer in Christmas Tree Field.

4 A line of wooden fencing on your right ends just before the lane gets to the bottom (you can just spot a bridge over a stream ahead); 60m beyond the end of the fence (***) turn left (slightly back on yourself) at the break in the boundary bank and a National Trust post.

(***) This is the point where the extension breaks off and returns.

