

A circular walk from Whitemans Green



Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty an unspoilt medieval landscape.

This is a delightful walk with some spectacular views across the High Weald. It passes close to Borde Hill gardens and some of the route follows the High Weald Landscape Trail, a long-distance walkers' route between Horsham and Rye.

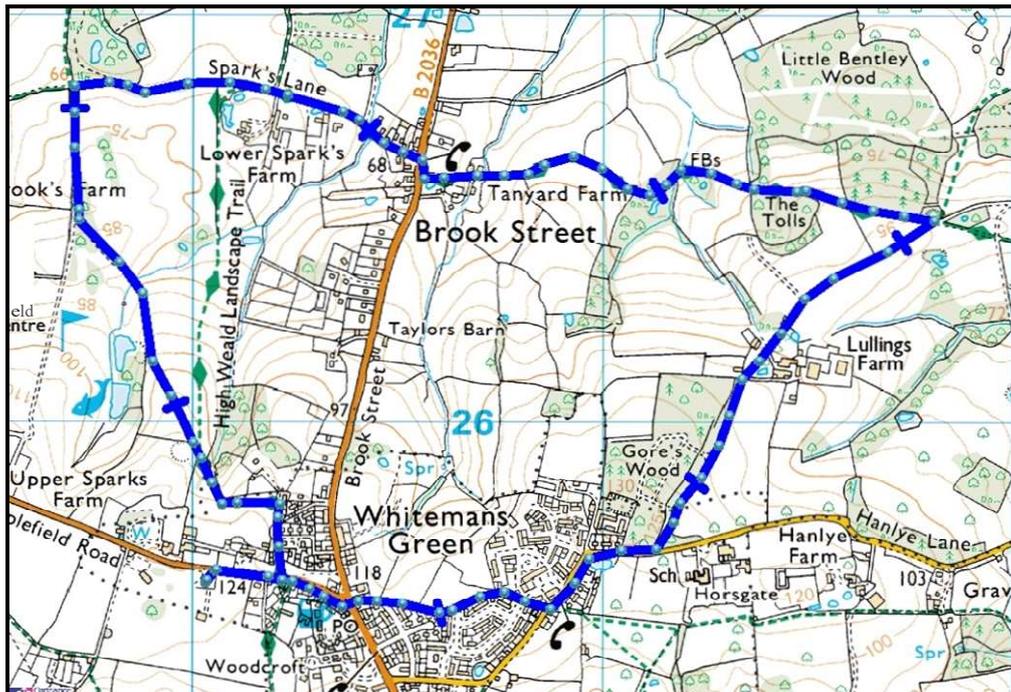
Distance and duration	3.9 miles / 6.3 kilometres 1.5 to 2 hours
Level	Moderate
Start point	The sports ground car park on the B2115, Staplefield Road, at Whitemans Green, RH17 5HX
Map reference	TQ300256 OS Explorer maps 135 and OL34 What3words: ///appraised.dare.swooned
Other information	Several stiles, all in a good state, and a few gates. 100m of ascent

I-Spy - Things to look out for in the landscape



The walk

From the car park return to the road and turn right, crossing the road when a pavement appears on the other side. After about 150 yds turn left along a signed footpath, along a track signed to Blakeney House etc. Just before the entrance to Trolls Dell, turn left on a signed path and go through a metal gate and carry on ahead on an obvious path along a right-hand field edge. The path bears right downhill to another metal gate and passes through a wooded dell, bearing right where the path forks, soon after entering the trees, to emerge in an open field.



Pause here and admire the lovely views northwards across the Ouse Valley. When the trees are not in full foliage, the magnificent Ouse Valley Viaduct carrying the London to Brighton mainline may be glimpsed, striding across the valley away to your right. Take the left of two signed paths which drops downhill to a golf course and crosses the fairway – watching out for flying golf balls! The path is clear, but you need to be careful to avoid straying onto a golfers' path. To help, you pass two dog bins and there is a waymarker post at one point. Follow the direction indicated by the waymark, ignoring the golfers' gravel path, dropping downhill to cross a mud bridge between two golfers' footbridges. Cross the stream and carry on uphill, passing another waymarker post. The path enters trees and carries on downhill to a three-way junction of paths, bearing right where a track comes in from the left to join our path. After 300 yds there is a four-way junction where you should turn right along the obvious track, which becomes a road (Spark's Lane). Follow this out to the B2036 at Brook Street.

Cross this busy road with care and turn left on the signed track alongside Chapel Gallery, passing a cottage on the right and Tanyard Farm, now converted to an enviable dwelling, on the left to a stile to the right of a metal gate. Go over this and continue ahead uphill, keeping the hedge on the left, to encounter a stile, awkward to cross when it is overgrown. At this point dogs need to be on a lead as pheasants are raised in this area. Bear left along the field edge to eventually enter a wood. Go left again when a track joins from the right and pass a pond on your right. Cross a wooden bridge and then emerge into a field.

Continue ahead uphill, with the wood on your right, as indicated by the waymarker post. When you get to where the trees continue round to the right you need to proceed more or less straight ahead, rather than in the direction indicated by the fingerpost, and not following the vehicle track. You should shortly see a stile and post to the left of some tall conifers, to which you head to cross the stile and enter another short stretch of woodland.

Leave this woodland by another stile and continue straight ahead uphill, with more trees on your right (The Tolls). Again, when the tree line goes round to the right, you want to continue more or less straight ahead. You should see a stile and fingerpost ahead and you need to cross the stile and proceed along the same line, heading to where the solid woodland to the left comes to an end, passing a lone oak tree to the right of the path. Leave the field by a small wooden gate and turn sharp right onto a tarmac track. Follow this track for a little under a mile to join Hanlye Lane close to the former Cuckfield Hospital.

Cross Hanlye Lane to the pavement opposite and turn right along the pavement which is initially separated from the road by a hedge. Turn left at a mini roundabout onto Ardingly Road and soon after you pass the bus shelter, cross the road at a zebra crossing and take the signed surfaced tarmac which leads, eventually and after passing through a gate, out to the mini roundabout by the old The Ship Inn, now a convenience store. From here it is just a short walk along the B2115 back to the starting point of the walk.

The original version of this walk was produced by Les Campbell and appeared in Sussex Living magazine, published from 2005 to 2010. It was then brought together by Tony Osmand of Mid Sussex Ramblers in a book "Sussex Walks by Les Campbell" (1 of 27 walks) with the kind permission of Sussex Living.

Update August 2022

Please follow the Countryside Code:

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures

Wildlife, including nesting birds, may have moved into new areas and land managers may have provided extra protection for wildlife. Be vigilant and comply with these protective measures so that you do not disrupt the local wildlife