

ENTIRE DISTANCE

HASLEMERE TO HINDHEAD

- You start today's adventure on the Greensand Way for a short while. It starts/ends in Haslemere, on the West side of the High Street, roughly opposite the sweet shop. Head off down the twitten; (which as you will no doubt know is a narrow path between walls or hedges). This one has a sign on the wall telling you the Greensand Way is 55 miles long.



OR



- Keep going straight for 3 or 4 minutes, emerging on another road, (Church Lane). Go Left and over the railway and up past St. Bartholomew's Church, which will be on your Left. You are now on High Lane. A hundred or so yards later, Left onto a path, (GR902336).
- A few moments later, cross another road, (which happens to be Weydown road), so called I suppose because it goes down to the River Wey. Don't do that though; straight over and drop down to Bunch Lane and do a Left and in a 100 yards, a Right.
- CARE HERE. Not much in the way of signage. Turn Left **before** the buildings. If you find a sign called Muirfield (like I did !) turn around; you've gone too far.
- You will shortly start a long climb, initially on tarmac and then in a sandstone gully. Keep pressing on and you arrive at a lane having passed a few houses at the top of your climb. Turn Right onto what is Farnham Lane, (GR 891340).
- After a couple of hundred yards leave the Greensand Way and the lane by turning Left onto a bridleway. Initially steep, it calms down and comes out on an anonymous lane by a house.
- Turn Right onto it and follow it through a Right, Left, Right curve sequence. Just after a house with some eccentric statues (don't miss the horse peering through the hedge), turn Left onto a narrow path between gardens, which climbs, ultimately with steps and pops out on the main Hindhead:Haslemere road, A287 , (GR 887350).

- Taking care, cross the road and turn Right onto the pavement. After a few yards go Left onto a path into Craig's Wood, (National Trust sign). Bear Right and go parallel to the "A" road for about 5 minutes. Keep alert and you will find Miss James' Walk (logos with arrows on posts). This is the first of 4/5 way-marked routes in the Hindhead area.

CIRCULAR ROUTES AT HINDHEAD



- Turn Left onto Miss James' walk and simply follow the signs. It drops down hill through woods and turns 90 degrees Right, at the bottom and Right again. Keep following the signs as the path climbs out of the valley and cross Miss James' bridge, over the new A3. The signage is a little odd at the other side of the bridge. As soon as you cross the bridge, turn Right on a broad path and drop down; at the base you will see areas of water over your Right shoulder. Flood avoidance attenuation ponds for the new A3, I believe. If having crossed the bridge, you arrive at the car park; turn round and go back towards the bridge, as you have gone astray, (like I did).
- You should now be about GR886355, by the water "features". The path climbs through woods. When you get to the top take a very short path (20 yards) to the Left and rejoin the main Hindhead:Haslemere "A" road. **Do not complete the Miss James' circuit;** (you have only missed a hundred yards or so).
- Cross the main road. Go up to the junction and turn Right onto the old A3. Continue past Barons the BMW/Mini Dealer and past the National Trust cafe.
- You now have a choice to make if you haven't already made it; do the Hidden Hindhead trail, followed by the Highcombe Hike or do the ROAM639 route
- Assuming the first option, look for the enormous finger post you can probably see from the Space Station with the logo:



- Take this 3.1 mile circular walk and hopefully enjoy the views. Things to look out for are the Sailor's Stone, the retrieved milestone from the original turnpike road, Gibbet Hill, the Celtic Stone and the temple of the Four Winds; all comprehensively covered in my supporting documentation, which you have no doubt read. Being circuitous, arrive back at where you started. It is very well signposted.
- Now head off on the Highcombe Hike, for 2.8 miles; more of a banana than a circle:



- The Robertson Brothers' memorial is a good story and later the ancient woodland that's been around since 1600 AD is quite a special part of this walk.
- The ROAM639 waymarked route is a half a mile longer than the combined distance of the two walks above, at 6.39 miles. It is basically the outleg of Highcombe Hike with a slightly longer route back, over the other side of the valley, followed by Hidden Hindhead. Or the other way round, if you prefer.



- Back to the cafe, no matter what you picked

HINDHEAD TO GRAYSHOTT

- then Right onto the old A3. Go down a few yards to the junction and turn Right, towards Churt and Farnham. Go past the stores and petrol station and past Tower Road. Very soon greenery appears on your Left. Go onto it, into the wood and look for the Golden Valley sign :



- You should now be at GR884361 Take the Left fork of the Golden Valley route. You are not going to do the entire 2 mile circuit. After about 10 minutes or so take a path on the Left, leaving the Golden Valley Route. This is marked by white dots and arrows on trees. The path turns back on itself and descends. At the bottom, look for a path sign with 2 yellow signs clearly visible. This is at about 10'oclock and at GR880355. Go to the sign and turn right; you are soon on a track/road, which brings you out by the Co-op in Grayshott.

GRAYSHOTT TO THE PRINCE OF WALES

- Having visited the waypoint at Keats in the square to your Left, Turn Right walking down the main road through the village until you get to the junction by the Church. Turn Left down a track, passing Grayshott tackle which is on your Left.
- After about 150 few yards and by a white house with black timbers, go Right on a steep:sharpish bend and then immediately Left; sharp bend again. Forward for a few yards and then Right onto Bridleway. Follow this as a track/road, degenerating to a path, by what looks like a substation. Stay on the Bridleway to Waggoner's Wells. From the tackle shop to the lakes is 1 mile

- Having done a circuit of the ponds, (circa 20 minutes), and with your back to the Car Park entrance at Waggoner's Wells, walk across the car park and leave it on a slightly indistinct, unmarked path; the lakes are to your Right.
- Persevere for about 4 minutes and the path drops down to a track. Turn Left and climb away from the lakes which are now behind you. About 5 minutes later you climb up into the open at Bramshott Common.
- Take the broad path at about 1 o'clock and follow it towards the A3. It is distinct because after a while it has what appears to be railway ballast on it. Keep following it as it curves and dips, then rises, and it soon comes to a very straight and flat metalled road, to your Right, left behind by the Canadian Armed forces 70 years ago
- Turn Right onto the metalled road and you will see a car park right at the end. About 200 yards before you get there, turn Left onto another ballasted path, between two trees, heading for the A3. Follow this and arrive at the underpass; cross it and find the Canadian War memorial.
- With your back to the A3, go Left and very quickly Right. Follow this until it turns into a long straight path with power lines above.
- Follow this about halfway to a T-junction of power lines. Turn Right and drop down the hill to the Prince Of Wales.

PRINCE OF WALES TO HASLEMERE

- Leave the pub car park and turn Left. Follow the road until you encounter the “T” junction of the main Haslemere:Liphook road. Cross it and take the path at about 2 o'clock which is in a gully. It climbs gradually and curves Left, passing the edge of the Hammer Hill Estate, to your Right.
- Continue straight on this path, ignoring deviations and about 25 minutes after leaving the POW, you arrive at another “T” junction and the Sussex Border Path. Turn Left onto it at what should be GR878312. You will follow this all the way to the centre of Blackdown, so you may as well get used to the signs, which look like this:



and this



- Cross a lane; continue on track by side of field and then on road between houses. Bear slightly Right into wooded area on a footpath, (The Sussex Border path sign temporarily disappears and shortly emerge on Marley Lane. Turn Left onto it and then swiftly Right into car park.
- Go through the car park and ahead on footpath through common. At a meeting of five ways continue ahead following a blue Public Bridleway sign. Continue North East across National Trust land ignoring side tracks and descending gradually. Just before path drops more steeply, fork Right, and shortly, at next junction, drop down steeply Left in hollow way.
- Soon bear Left down steps and through another twitten to road. Turn Left and cross A286 road (GR 895315) to Fernden Lane
- Follow Fernden Lane round sharp bend and in 50 yards turn Left along track which in 300 yards joins tarmac drive. Continue east along drive to reach road. Turn Right and follow road/drive round Left bend.
- Pass through brick gateway and pass house on Left, then at end of fence on Left, turn Left on path running down to a boardwalk over a damp area. Turn Left again at corner and follow narrow enclosed path out over plank bridge on to drive to 'Valewood House'. Turn Right along it and soon pass the delightful 'Valewood **Farm** House' on your Left, (GR905316).



- In another 150 yards take the first track on the Left (no obvious sign), gently uphill on clear track to gate. Pass through the gate and immediately turn Right to follow the well trodden path steeply up the grass field to a field gate at the top. I lied. You have very briefly Left the Sussex

Border path; you regain it at the top of the field. Pass through gate and continue on trodden path across centre of field, with excellent views to the South West behind you, to gate into woodland, (GR909313).

- After a slight climb on track, go through gate and continue to follow the Sussex Border path, by bearing Right, initially in woodland and then it climbs onto heath land, as you have reached Blackdown. In about a mile you will be at a junction of five paths, with a grassy triangle in the middle. Turn Right; you should be at GR 918302. You now leave the Border path.
- Follow this with hopefully glorious views to your Right. Go past a bench, with attendant bronze plaque, identifying the places you can/might see. Continue on this hard sandy path, which climbs gently and turns more rocky. Follow the wooden sign to the Temple of the Winds, (GR 920292) and the curved bench.

***“You came and looked and loved the view
long known and loved by me,
green Sussex fading into blue
with one grey glimpse of sea.”*** Lord Tennyson (who lived down his lane)

- They say the South of England is overcrowded, (which of course it is); but that doesn't quite resonate with this view. Try counting the houses you can see.
- Retrace your steps for a few yards but now bear Right, onto a bridle way heading North. Ignore a fork to the Left and walk through a Beech hanger. Just after a bridleway merges from the Left, take a 90 degree Left at 920303, onto a path, for just a very few yards. Then Left back onto the Sussex Border path and about a minute later you are back at the complex junction with the grassy triangle. You should be at GR 918302 again.
- You need to turn Right onto a track which descends this mini valley. In less than a mile you will have gone through “Boarden Door Bottom and have passed through Black Dog Copse, (no, I don't make this up). You emerge by a house on your Right and go Right onto Chase Lane.
- As it quickly curves Left, take the footpath to the Right (GR914312) and climb past the boundary of a house to your Left. Soon the path crosses the bottom of the gardens of three properties to your Right. At the last one turn Right up their drive, (it is the unsigned footpath), arriving at Tennyson's Lane

- Turn Left and then shortly Right, before the Give Way sign and onto a footpath. Very soon take the path at 10 o'clock, descending Haste Hill. Turn Right onto the lane and follow it for a couple of hundred yards to the main Haslemere:Petworth road; the B2131. GR 914325
- Turn left and immediately cross the road, to footpath sign, directing you to the Right. Descend, kinking Left and Right on the path. Continue straight ahead through two gates that are close together You now enter Witley Copse and Mariners Rewe; No, honestly you do, (see the National Trust sign). **Do not** go straight ahead on the circular route that it mentions; but turn Left, thence passing over a footbridge like this:



- Cross some fields and you will encounter "Speckled Wood" to your Left; an eco building erected in 2012 and where young National Trust volunteers stay. Turn onto the main drive and after a few minutes, leave it on the Right, going into an open field. Follow the path as it climbs slightly towards Haslemere High Street
- Through a kissing gate and then on past benches to Haslemere's well. It is somewhat surprisingly still in use today; well, I saw a frog in it. Join the High Street:



➤ **THANK YOU & WELL DONE**