

PUTTENHAM

A gently undulating walk starting from Puttenham Common, passing through farmland and woodland. The walk passes the Palladian mansion Puttenham Priory, and through the village of Puttenham along the foot of the Hog's Back ridge, which extends from Guildford to Farnham.

Start point: Puttenham Common Top car park
Grid ref: SU 919462
Ordnance Explorer 145 Guildford and Farnham
Survey Map:
Distance: 5 km (3 miles)
Typical time: Approx 1½ hours
Footwear: Stout shoes, boots

Transport: For help with planning your journey by public transport please visit www.traveline.info.

Parking: Puttenham Common Top car park, off Suffield Lane, opposite Top Rodsall Cottage.

Refreshments: The Good Intent pub in Puttenham village at point 4.

This walk follows public footpaths and bridleways which cross private and public land. Information is included for your interest, but PLEASE respect people's privacy, keep dogs under control and remember the Countryside Code.

Walk Directions:

Surrey Wildlife Trust manages the 263 hectares of Puttenham Common. Constant grazing over the centuries maintained the open heathland which developed on the acid sandy soil. When grazing ceased trees, especially birch, invaded parts of the heath. However it is still an important area of now scarce lowland heath and part of the common is a site of special scientific interest.

From the car park there is an extensive view south to the sandy heights of Hindhead and Blackdown. This is a popular spot for picnicking.

- 1 From car park entrance cross road (Suffield Lane) and go past Top Rodsall Cottage on your left, then turn left to go along path behind the cottage. At junction, turn left along sunken track and almost immediately turn right and go up path. Keep ahead on path through woodland edge to reach kissing gate, then continue ahead along field edge. At the end of the field, bear right and go over stile, then keep ahead over two further stiles to reach road.
- 2 Turn left along road for 150m. Turn left over stile by gate and bear left along field boundary to cross stile at top of rise. Bear half right along ridge towards stile. Cross stile and bear left then right along fence. Keep ahead over stiles and along field edge to road.

The Palladian mansion Puttenham Priory can be seen ahead, next to the medieval church of St. John the Baptist. In 1223 the manor of Puttenham was divided between two sisters, one of whom gave her half of the manor to the Augustinian Priory of Newark near Ripley. In 1761 Thomas Parker, the then owner of the manor of Puttenham Priory, built the present house and incorporated some of the older manor house within it.

- 3 Turn right along road to reach T-junction with The Good Intent pub ahead.

The village has some of the last remaining hop gardens in Surrey. Oast houses were built here in the nineteenth century to dry the hops before they were transported to breweries in Guildford and London. The last oast houses were in use until the early 1970s when they were converted into houses. (The oast houses and the church can be seen by turning right at the T-junction).

- 4 Turn left at the T-junction along The Street.

The long street village of Puttenham stands on the spring line dividing the chalk of the Hogs Back to the north from the Greensand to the south. Local chalk and sandstone have both been used in the construction of many of the older cottages.

- 5 Bear left along Lascombe Lane and then left up Highfield Lane.

- 6 Pass houses on left then 160m later turn left on path and cross the field to stile. Keep ahead over second field to stile. Cross drive and go along fenced path and through woodland to kissing gate.

The North Downs Way National Trail crosses the northern edge of Puttenham Common and continues up Lascombe Lane and through Puttenham village. This long distance footpath runs for 153 miles through the Surrey Hills and the Kent Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It starts in Farnham on the Surrey – Hampshire border, and ends at Dover. It is particularly popular with walkers due to the impressive scenery along the route, and Newlands Corner and Box Hill are well-known local viewpoints and picnicking spots.

- 7 Turn left on sandy track, pass cottage on left and continue on track along the edge of Puttenham Common to eventually reach car park on right.