

## GRAYSWOOD CIRCULAR



**Challenging Terrain**

**4 km  
Circular  
1.5 hours**

290415



### Access Notes



1. The walk includes several steady climbs and descents.
2. Part of the walk crosses fields of clay soil, which can become very muddy so stout boots or wellingtons are recommended.
3. You will need to negotiate several gates, some steps and one stile along the way (there is a field gate alongside the stile which is usually unlocked and there is plenty of open fencing suitable for most dogs to pass through).
4. Some of the route follows rural lanes without pavements, so take care of traffic for these stretches.

**A gently undulating 3 mile (4km) walk from the village of Grayswood, passing through woodland and farmland.**

If you would like refreshments, The Wheatsheaf Inn on Grayswood Road is located near to the war memorial close to the beginning of the walk. Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 133 Haslemere & Petersfield.

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

### Getting there

Grayswood village is located on the A286 Grayswood Road between Haslemere and Milford. The walk starts from the parish church. Parking is available at the Village Hall car park, opposite the church. There is also a bus stop opposite the church, on the village green. For help with planning your journey by public transport please visit [journeys.travelsmartsurrey.info](http://journeys.travelsmartsurrey.info).

Approximate post code **GU27 2DB**. Grid ref: SU 917347.

### Walk Sections

**Go** **1 Start to War Memorial**



From the car park or the bus stop, cross over Grayswood Road to reach All Saints Church.

Grayswood was part of Witley parish until 1900. The village expanded in Victorian times and All Saints Church was built in 1902. It was designed by the Swedish

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architect Axel Herman Haig. His memorial stone stands in the churchyard and is shaped like a Viking sail.

Standing on the pavement facing the church, turn left (heading uphill) along the pavement for 430m. You will pass a car showroom on the left and the Wheatsheaf Inn on the right. Continue up towards the brow of the hill to reach the war memorial on the right.

The war memorial records the 17 men from the village who were lost during the First World War, and 3 during the Second. To the right there are extensive views to Keffolds Farm, with the National Trust land of Hindhead Common rising up beyond. The land opposite the memorial is Grayswood Common. It was once part of the waste of common land of Witley Manor, and is now also managed by the National Trust.

## 1 → 2 War Memorial to Holdfast Lane



Continue along the pavement for 30m (to the brow of the hill), then cross the road to turn left onto the signed public footpath into the woodland (Grayswood Common). Pass through the staggered barrier and keep ahead on the woodland path. Stay on the main path which then becomes a lane, passing houses on the right.

Ignore the first footpaths signed left and right, simply continue on the lane passing Rose Cottage on the right. Ignore the next footpath signed right, simply continue climbing on the lane. Near the brow of the hill (with the Sandy Lane road sign on the right), turn sharp left up the lane towards the lodge property, Grayswood Hill. Immediately before the lodge gates, turn right onto the signed public footpath and continue through the rhododendron tunnel.

Follow the path downhill which, further along, becomes a raised bank path beside a lane. At end of the path, go down the steps and keep ahead for a few paces to reach a T-junction. Turn left here, heading down the road (taking care of traffic) for 340m, passing the Manor House on right.

The Manor House is a private residence dating from the seventeenth century. The medieval manor of Imbhams was at one time part of Loseley Manor near Guildford and the old manor house was a moated farm. There is a Victorian post box set into the cottage wall.

Follow the lane as it swings left to reach the T-junction with Holdfast Lane.

## 2 → 3 Holdfast Lane to Pond



Cross over Holdfast Lane and go over the stile directly opposite (or the field gate alongside may be unlocked). Keep ahead to join the fenced track which follows the left-hand edge of the open field. At the field corner, go ahead through the wide gate and continue on the path which swings left to lead you through woodland (note: this path can get quite muddy). Beyond the woodland, the path leads you past Imbhams Farm on the right.

Imbhams farmhouse dates from the sixteenth century. There are iron staddle stones supporting the granary, which is a reminder of the once extensive Wealden iron industry. Imbhams blast furnace is thought to have been built in about 1570, and was 1km to the south-east of the farm (near the present Furnace House). Iron was extracted from iron-rich seams of Wealden clay. Colliers used coppice wood cut in the surrounding woodlands to produce charcoal to fuel the furnace.

Follow the tarmac track left then right to pass a large pond on right.

The large pond is comparatively modern, but just beyond it is the boring mill pond which was used for Imbhams iron works. Large guns were cast at the furnace and the pond provided water to drive the boring mill, where the hollow cast guns were bored out to the required internal diameter by a revolving cutter. The furnace had ceased to operate by 1667, probably due to the difficulties in transporting the produce across the Wealden clay, and competition from coal-based industries in the midlands.

## 3 → 4 Pond to Hedgeline Gap



Just beyond the bungalow on the left, turn left onto the track signed as a public bridleway. Follow this track (with a hedge on the left and an open crop field on the right) for 100m. Here, at a waymarker post, turn left through the gap in the hedge and then go straight ahead, on the path across the centre of the crop

field, to reach the gap in the hedgeline opposite.

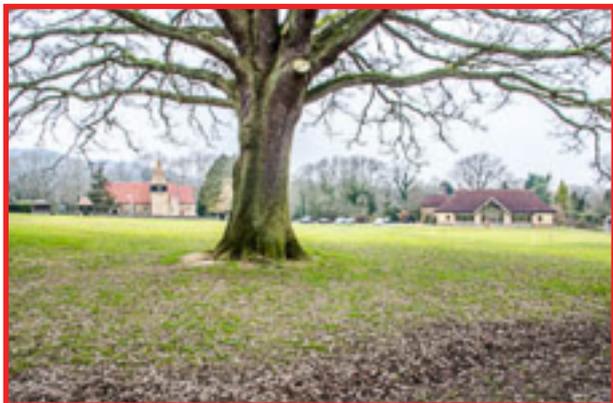
Ahead to the left is Clammer Hill whose trig point stands at a height of 149m. The Haslemere / Chiddingfold parish boundary runs along the hillside and the name 'Clammer Hill' is thought to mean 'clay boundary hill'.

## 4 → 5 **Hedgeline Gap to Belt of Trees**



Go through the hedgeline gap and keep ahead along the field edge with woodland on the right. Ignore the path into the woodland, simply keep straight ahead to reach the woodland corner and a waymarker post. Bear left here (at about 11 o'clock) to follow the path across the field. At the far side, the path leads you through a belt of trees.

## 5 → 6 **Belt of Trees to End**



Follow the path along the right-hand edge of the next field, which leads you through a gateway to join a track. Keep ahead along the track for some distance to reach a junction with the road. Go straight ahead into Lower Road (signed for Brook, Haslemere and Hindhead) and join the left-hand pavement passing village properties on the left.

You will pass a pond on the left and come to a school on the right. As you draw level with the school, cross to the right-hand pavement. Fork right onto the stone path which leads you past the school on the right and the recreation ground playground on the left. After the playground, fork left across the village green towards the church to reach the bus stop or car park where the walk began.

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This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

**Walking Safety**

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking

