

The Greensand Way

Along and around
the Greensand Way
– A Route Guide



The Greensand Way offers an outstanding day out for all ages and abilities, whether you're a long-distance walker wanting to experience the whole 108 mile route, or fancy a short walk through some of our most beautiful countryside.

The Way follows the ridge of greensand rock across Surrey and Kent, starting in Haslemere and finishing in Hamstreet, just short of the Kentish coast. This sandstone rock, containing the green coloured mineral glauconite (also known as 'green sand'), gives the route its distinctive name.

The late Geoffrey Hollis initially conceived the Greensand Way as a route in Surrey for the Ramblers, opened in 1982. The Ramblers' Association later extended the route into Kent, which was completed by 1989 and they produced the first guide for the route. Grateful thanks are given to Surrey Ramblers who assist with route checking, signage reporting and who continue to provide volunteer help on route repairs on this as well as other Surrey rights of way.

The route through Surrey

In Surrey, the Greensand Way covers 57 miles and can be identified by the letters 'GW' and a drawing of Leith Hill Tower on waymarks found along the route. It has been split into 10 sections of between 3 and 8 miles each (see below). The general route is as follows:

- Starts in Haslemere
- Passes the Devils Punchbowl at Hindhead
- Traverses the main Surrey hills of Hascombe, Pitch, Holmbury and Leith
- Descends north to Dorking, Reigate and into Kent just before Limsfield
- Provides links to other long distance routes such as the North Downs Way National Trail and the Reigate and Banstead Millennium Trail
- For details of the route through Kent, visit: www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Highlights

The route takes in two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the Surrey Hills and the Kent Downs, as well as numerous Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It leads walkers through quiet, remote areas and along paths which, while often hilly, offer unparalleled views across the Weald to the south and towards the North Downs.

There many villages along the route too, offering local pubs and village shops as resting places for weary walkers. And for those looking for easy access, there are excellent links to railway stations and main roads.

Route Map Information

You are advised to use these maps in conjunction with an OS Explorer Series map – numbers 133, 145, 146, 147 cover the entire Surrey section and provide more detail. For a key to map symbols, see the Ordnance Survey website.

Most sections of the walk follow legally defined rights of way. If you experience a problem on a public right of way, please use the Surrey County Council **fault reporting form** to notify us or call 03456 009 009 for our contact centre.

Where public transport is available, information is given in the walk directions. You can get more detailed transport information including bus and train timetables, on our Buses and trains page or by visiting the **Travel Smart journey planner**.

Greensand Way in Surrey distances and approximate timings

		Miles	Hours
Map 1	Haslemere to Gibbet Hill	3.25	1.5
Map 2	Gibbet Hill to Witley Station	7.5	4
Map 3	Witley Station to Gatestreet Farm	6	3
Map 4	Gatestreet, Grafham to Pitch Hill	6	3
Map 5	Pitch Hill to Broadmoor	6.5	3.25
Map 6	Broadmoor to Deepdene	5.5	2.75
Map 7	Deepdene to Reigate Park	6	3
Map 8	Reigate Park to Castle Hill	7	3.5
Map 9	Castle Hill to Oxted Place	5	2.5
Map 10	Oxted Place to county boundary beyond Limpsfield Chart	4.5	2
Mileage total		57	

Waymarking and signing

Waymarking

The Greensand Way waymarks are used to show the line of the route in the countryside. You will see them fixed to waymark posts, or posts of gates or stiles. The walk has been waymarked in such a way that it is possible to walk the route in either direction.

In Surrey the route is waymarked by circular discs with a sketch of Leith Hill Tower and GW around it in the centre of the directional arrow. These are yellow on black for a public footpath, blue on white for a public bridleway and red on white for public byways. (see below).



Signing

Where the Greensand Way crosses or leaves a metalled road there are small brown and white Greensand Way notices attached to the wooden public footpath, bridleway or byway signposts indicating that the Greensand Way follows the signed route.



How to use our downloadable guide

We have divided the route into 10 sections of between 3 and 8 miles, as downloadable pdfs. Each pdf provides a map, step by step walking directions, mostly following rights of way and in an easterly direction only, as well as a guide to the interesting features you may discover en route.



Take note of the Countryside Code

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

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