

# The Greensand Way

Gibbet Hill (SU 899360) to Witley Station

7.5 miles, allow 4 hours plus

map 2

**A**

Walk ahead past the Celtic Cross. Start downhill then bear left into a beech wood along a broad surfaced track. Continue downhill on an unsurfaced track for 875 yards to where the old A3 road used to run (now a surfaced path).

Cross over and bear right up a broad track then follow the main track along the side of the Devil's Punch Bowl. Continue over the heath, gradually descending for 950 yards down a very rough stony track. At cross tracks just before trees, go ahead along a sunken path, beside woodland, to the road.

**B**

Bear right along the road. After 400 yards, turn left through the gate to the right of Hedge Farm. Where the main driveway bears left, go ahead along a narrow path. Continue round the garden hedge and turn right, going over stiles. Follow the field edge for 450 yards, crossing a stile half-way down.

Cross a stile at the bottom of the field, bear left, then right and go down a narrow lane to Smallbrook Farm.

**C**

Turn right into the field opposite Smallbrook Farm and walk towards a kissing gate stile in the right-hand corner. Continue ahead, crossing kissing gate, then follow the fenced path to Thursley churchyard.

**D**

Bear right past the church. Climb over steps in the churchyard wall to reach the road. Turn left down Highfield Lane. Where the road bends left, walk up the track ahead. Turn right at the top, then go left through a metal swing gate into a field. Bear right across the field to a swing gate, then turn left along a fenced path to a service road.

**E**

Turn right along the service road signposted Greensand Way and horse margin. Turn left through the underpass and cross under the A3. Turn left along service road and continue down to the gates of Cosford House. Turn right towards Cosford Farm. After 500 yards turn left to pass Cosford Farm and continue along a grass track with a pond on your right. 90 yards past the pond, bear left up stone steps beside a wall. When the wall ends, continue uphill, crossing two broader paths, to the kissing gate at the edge of a field. Cross the field, over a stile and through a kissing gate, to reach the road.

**F**

Cross the road. Go through a gate ahead, then walk between trees towards Heath Hall. Cross stile and turn left, then follow the field edge for 220 yards. Turn left, down steps, to a lane. Go through the gate opposite, walk ahead across two fields, then go over a stile and through a gate to reach the driveway at the entrance to Lower House.



**G**

Go ahead through a tall kissing gate and down a field path into parkland. Cross onto a sandy drive. Follow a broad track up through parkland for 310 yards. Turn left immediately after a gateway. Go through a metal kissing gate. Bear right to follow a woodland path downhill to a kissing gate. Turn left onto the road and walk for 440 yards to the road (A286 Milford to Haslemere Road), 330 yards to the north of Brook village.

## H

Cross the road. Walk ahead up a track through woodland. After 400 yards, turn right at a path junction ignoring path signs to Heath Hills Wood. Follow the footpath for 160 yards, leaving woodland to your right, then bear left into a field and continue for 600 yards along the field edge, again with woodland on your right. Go down steps to the road, turn left and continue for 70 yards.

## I

Turn sharp right downhill at junction of the roads. After 440 yards, after Sebastopol Lane, turn right along a narrow footpath into woodland. At seat and bench, turn left down a steep slope (slippery when wet) to track and Brook Road. Cross this, then head down a broad track marked 'Keithley's'. Continue for 800 yards, over the railway bridge, (Witley station to your right) turn left along track to the road.

# Interesting features

## 8. The Hindhead Tunnel

The longest under-land road tunnel in England taking A3 traffic under Hindhead Commons and skirting the edge of the Devil's Punch Bowl. The Tunnel project has allowed the old A3 bottleneck to be closed and returned to nature, enabling the reunification of the National Trust land either side, creating the largest heathland restoration project in the South East.

## 8a. Devil's Punch Bowl

This huge hollow has been formed over many thousands of years, by water seeping out from the spring line between the Hythe Beds and the Atherfield Clay.

## 9. Hindhead Common

Exmoor ponies and Highland cattle have been introduced to graze the slopes and maintain the heathland as it was created by grazing animals over 800 years ago.

## 10. Church of St Michael and All Angels, Thursley

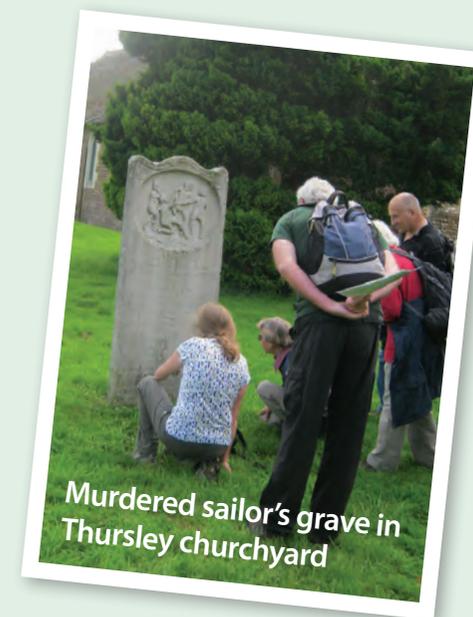
In the churchyard you will find the stone erected in memory of the sailor murdered on Gibbet Hill. Eight chest tombs recall local 18th century residents, more prosperous in their day than the sailor, but less wellknown.

## 11. Bowlhead Green

A small hamlet between the parishes of Witley and Thursley. Bowlhead Green has a superb collection of buildings, including barn and carthouse, dating from the 16th to the 18th century.

## 12. Banacle Common

Also known as Bannicle Hill, the Common served as one of the Admiralty Semaphore hills for a signalling system devised in 1816 and used between London and Portsmouth.



Murdered sailor's grave in Thursley churchyard

## 13. Sandhills

The artists Miles Burkett Foster and Helen Allingham were among the intelligentsia who discovered Sandhills in the late 19th century and settled here.

## 14. Wormley

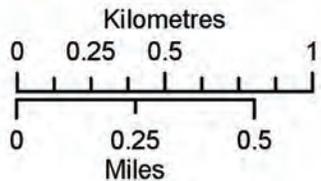
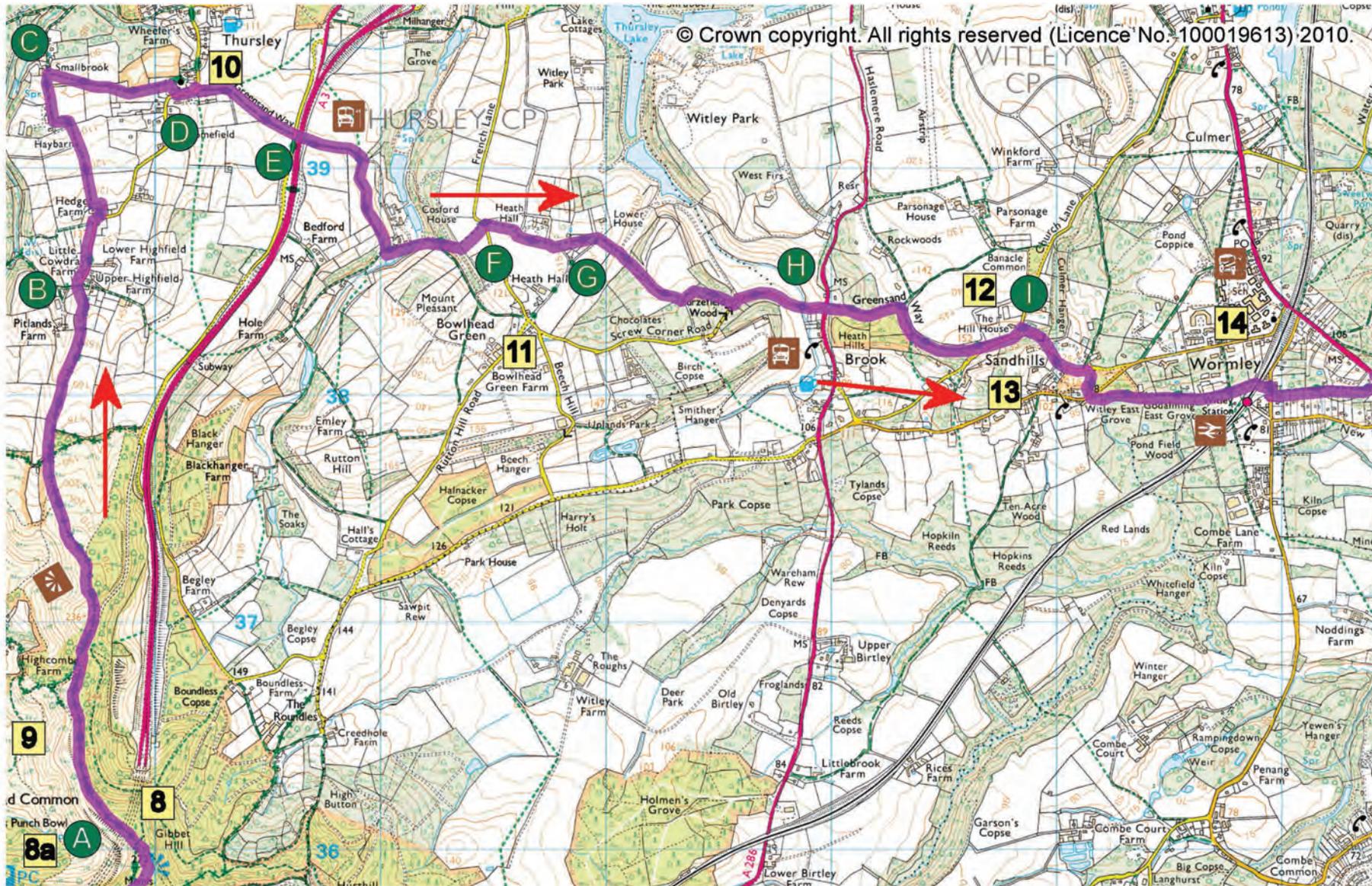
The station, opened here on 24 January 1859 was known as Witley for Chiddingfold until 1947. The village grew further from 1867, when King Edward's School nearby was founded 'for 240 destitute children of both sexes'.

# The Greensand Way - Map 2, Gibbet Hill to Witley Station



SURREY

www.surreycc.gov.uk/explore  
@ExploreSurreyUK



Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 133

**—** Greensand Way **A** Route directions **1** Interesting features