

Bolney Wood walk

Description :

A walk of about one and a half hours, which passes the village church, local woodland and includes one stile. You could stop off at the Eight Bells pub on the way back !!. This route can be muddy in places.

Route :

From Bramble Cottage turn right down The Street, and turn left at the church steps which are just past The Post Office, on the left. Climb the steps and through the churchyard to the school. Continue northwards past the school, and follow the path along the side of the field. Leave the field through the kissing gate, turn right into Ryecroft Road, and immediately cross the old London Road.

Pass Chantry House (formerly the Queens Head Pub), on your right & walk down the road underneath the main A23 trunk road. Look for a footpath sign on your left by the steps. Climb the steps, and in approx. 100 metres look for a footpath sign and stile on your right. Climb the stile and enter woodland (Bolney Wood). Follow the path between two fences, cross a wooden footbridge, and still following the path, climb the hill. Shortly emerge onto a public road (Buncton Lane), turn right and follow the road downhill for about 700 metres.

Footpath fingerpost on the right, enter woodland and very shortly cross a wooden footbridge. The path now climbs steadily, levels out, then drops gently to another wooden footbridge.

A short steep climb brings you to an obvious wide track. Bear left along this track and in a few metres you are back at the steps alongside the A23. Continue under the bridge, pass the Chantry House, and cross the old London Road into Ryecroft Road. Turn left through the kissing gate and follow the path along the side of the field, past the school into the churchyard.

Leave the churchyard via the Lychgate. Lychgates were built from around 1500 – it was the custom for the priest to conduct the first part of the funeral service from here. During medieval times only the rich were buried in coffins- the poor were carried to the lychgate covered in a shroud and placed on a wooden/stone table before burial.

You will see The Eight Bells opposite if you want to stop for refreshment. Continue back up The Street to Bramble Cottage.

Sherlocks walk

Description :

A walk of about 30/40 minutes, which is a circular route taking you to the north of Bramble Cottage. The walk takes in some lovely views of the South Downs, some superb old village properties, and the local vineyard!

Route :

Exit Bramble Cottage and go left up The Street. Pass the Old Bakery on the left (used to be the village Bakers until 10 years ago), and the War Memorial on the right. There is a bench halfway up the hill, if you feel like a rest already (!), this gives a view of the South Downs between the trees. The road bends sharp right which is Top Street, the footpath leaves the road at this point, onto a farm track straight ahead. Pass Weald Chase and High Gables on the left, continue up the grass track, which goes alongside a field on the left which normally has horses grazing.

Pass under the stone bridge (carries an old farm track), a further 100 metres on at next footpath sign, turn left into fields. Once into open fields, to the left you will see superb views of the South Downs, beyond which is Brighton & Hove and the sea. On the right you will notice a magnificent country house (Wykehurst Park). In the the Second World War, Canadian troops were stationed at Wykehurst.

Continue along path through fields which takes you to the next gate. Through gate and gradual downhill slope towards a small copse.

(On a clear day you might see planes overhead – generally these are banking ready to land at Gatwick – the UK's second largest Airport).

Enter small copse through kissing gate, follow to exit of copse which brings you into another field, on entering field fork left along footpath. You will note there are benches, ahead of you next to the path, and also away to your right under a large tree. Either makes a good resting point as you are now at about the halfway point in the walk.

Continue along footpath through field, which enters a small wood by means of kissing gate. This wood can be quite dark, you could imagine smugglers hiding here en route inland from the Sussex coast where they used to land centuries ago(!).

Exit the wood, small pond on the right, enters into the edge of a private garden (Sherlocks). Make sure you keep left here, as footpath skirts round the perimeter of Sherlocks garden. Leads to a gravel drive, turn left at the drive, which brings you out onto Cross Colwood Lane. Turn left into Cross Colwood Lane, and continue down the lane. Lane passes Oakview Farm on the left. Cross Colwood Lane becomes Foxhole Lane, continue Foxhole Lane, then pass Bolney Lodge on the left. Continue down Foxhole Lane, until you see Bookers Vineyard on the right.

(If you are interested in Vineyards, Bookers offering regular tastings/ trips and sell their own wine from their shop - Veronica or Peter can provide you with more details).

Immediately opposite Bookers turn left down footpath, which runs alongside woods on your left and fields to the right. Continue along footpath which brings you out onto The Street, right next to Bramble Cottage.

Seasonal tips :

- Plenty of blackberries in late August/early September.
- Sheep farming in spring/early summer.