

ROWFANT AND CRAWLEY DOWN

A fairly flat walk with few stiles. It includes one of the prettiest stretches of Worth Way (especially in autumn), is varied to include woodland, open pasture and passes Rowfant Mill with its pleasant Mill Pond. The shortest walk takes you through the grounds of Rowfant House. It is best thought of and treated as a separate walk. The 4 mile walk omits the section through Wins Wood.

Distance: 2, 4 or 5 miles (3.2, 6.4 or 8 kilometres) Map reference: O.S. Explorer 135, 323368

[Car parking](#) is at the entrance to Worth Way at the site of the old Rowfant railway station.

From the car park go through the gate leading onto Worth Way (i.e. westwards) and follow the old railway track to the road and turn right.

Point (1) After about 150 yards at the bend in the road between two chevrons a fingerpost is rather hidden in the hedge on the right near a wooden gate. Avoid using the private drive to Compasses Lodge close by.

Go through the gate and follow the track for about 200 yards to where the track divides. Here on the left is a footpath sign directing you into the field on your left. Cross a stile and go straight over the field to a track leading through woodland. Where it emerges you will cross a further stile into an enclosed track heading north to Ley House Farm.

Point (2) Go straight ahead through the farm yard which is very well way-marked. You pass Ley House on your right. Turn left and follow the drive to a T-junction and bridleway. Facing you to the right is a holly hedge and Ley Lodge.

Turn right and follow the lane to Rowfant Mill passing the pond on your right. Carry on along the main track past the houses and slightly uphill to pass a concrete track on the left (leading to piggeries) until you reach a bend in the lane at Old Rowfant. Go right round the bend then almost immediately left round a second bend and follow the track all the way to the Home Farm.

At the T-junction turn right. Follow this lane with buildings on your right and a field on the left until you reach the bend in the lane at Hill House.

Point (3) This is the point where you meet the path from Rowfant House.

Your route is opposite Hill House following the grass path which runs alongside a hedge on your left. Ignore the concrete track on the right.

This grass path leads to yet another lane. Go slightly to the left then right to follow a lane in the same direction with a field on your left. When level with the end of the field, if you are following the five mile walk, turn left here and go to the paragraph marked, point (4) for your further instructions.

To follow the two and four mile walks, continue to follow the lane to pass a thatched cottage and a few houses on your left until you reach a lane turning off to the right. Follow this downhill to meet Wallage Lane (near the railway bridge) at the bottom. This is point (6). The five mile walk also comes to this point, and also the short two mile walk.

The two mile walk is very pleasant as it passes through the grounds of Rowfant House (now a country club with a residential area) and through a small wood where in spring the wild daffodils are in bloom.

Start this walk by turning left into Wallage Lane at the entrance to the car park. It is a quiet lane, never-the-less it is necessary to walk along the right hand side of the road in single file. If you look ahead you will see a red post-pillar box which is at the entrance to Rowfant House. Go through the gateway and turn right along a grassy track to a two-finger footpath sign. Turn left to follow the main drive towards the house. This is in the Tudor style and was once the home of the Locker-Lampson family. It was famous for its splendid library.

At the bend in the drive turn right to continue towards the archway ahead, and pass through it. Keep to the right still following the footpath fingerposts along a wide track which turns towards the left to enter woodland. At the fork keep to the right. Wild daffodils bloom here in the spring time. The track continues now uphill to emerge out of the wood on the bend in a wider track. On the map this is shown as point (3). Your further instructions will be found in the paragraph numbered point (3).

Point (4) Having turned left to follow the five mile walk, continue along the narrow enclosed path with woodland on your right and a field on your left. You now enter Wins Wood and along this path you will cross three boarded walkways. In the winter the path may be muddy.

In about a quarter of a mile you cross a small wooden bridge over a ditch and turn right to follow this path out on to the road.

You are now in Crawley Down. Cross the road with care and turn right. Follow this road for about a quarter of a mile, passing shops and Sandy Lane on your left. Now watch out for the entrance to a lane on the right-hand side of the road leading to Huntsland. There is a footpath sign to help you recognise this path.

Turn into it and follow it through a farm yard passing over two stiles and on to where there is a fingerpost on the right and a lane leading off on your left. This is point (5). Follow this left-hand track out to the road, past a pool on your right and on to point (6).

Point (6) Cross the road and go up the flight of steps in the bank opposite. At the top you will be on the Worth Way. This is the disused section of the old railway line from Three Bridges to East Grinstead. Turn right.

After approximately a quarter of a mile the Way drops down to cross a concrete track and up again on the other side. Continue along the Way until you reach the site of old Rowfant railway station. The car park is opposite.

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