

HORSTED KEYNES AND BROADHURST MANOR

Horsted Keynes is a charming little village with cottages, houses and two pubs set around large green verges. It retains a picturesque charm in the heart of walking country, being crossed by the Sussex Border Path. The village has been established over 1000 years and features in the Domesday Book. The name Horsted comes from the Saxon for "horse farm" with Keynes derived from the Norman William de Cahagnes, who was given the rights and monies from the village by William the Conqueror. The village has strong ties with Cahaque in northern France. The church here is the exact replica of that in France and is very unusual in that it is aligned with the Summer Solstice and not East/West as most churches.

The ancient spring in the village was said to cure plague and was a site for ailing victims to bathe in 1348.

On the footpath to Broadhurst Manor you will pass several lakes and ponds. They were once hammerponds used by the iron industry.

Distance: 5 miles (8 kilometres) Map reference: O.S. Explorer 135, 384282

There is usually good free parking in the [car park](#) behind the British Legion Hall adjoining the recreation ground just off Lewes Road and Chapel Lane in the centre of the village.

From the car park you immediately join the Sussex Border Path. Walk past the British Legion Hall and Sub-Post Office over the green and across the road bearing slightly left to lane opposite. Your path goes downhill along Church Lane passing The Old Rectory and on towards the church.

The church is well worth a visit. In the churchyard are the graves of the Macmillan family who lived at nearby Birch Grove House.

Bear left past the church and ignore the footpath going off to your left. Continue along lane bearing left past metal gate and down to lake on your right.

Continue along passing more lakes on your left until you approach a forked track and a fingerpost on your left. Take the left track and after approximately 300 yards turn right at a timbered house and on past a high stone wall on your right.

You are now at Broadhurst Manor, home of Carla Lane, the writer and broadcaster who runs "Animaline", the Sanctuary and Rescue Centre for Animals.

Turn left through stone pillared gate and stop to admire the Manor House on your right. Proceed along lane for approximately 350 yards to a T-junction and turn left.

After 250 yards turn right at the top of the newly named Broadhurst Manor Road.

Follow this road for 200 yards to fingerposts left and right.

Before you reach the fingerposts stop to admire the views to your left and note High Brook church spire on the left and West Hoathly spire on the right.

Cross over the left hand stile into field going slightly downhill bearing right alongside hedge. The footpath keeps to the right of the field into the corner then goes to the left until you see a fingerpost on your right.

Pass through gate on your right continuing downhill through a wood and over footbridge then on and up a few steps into a field. Keep to the right passing a fingerpost. At corner of field the path turns left to another fingerpost on your right.

Turn right downhill again through woodland following path to the left and then right over concrete bridge/dam. Care should be taken here as there is not a continuous handrail.

Go through gate into field uphill passing a small brick building on your right to a stile in left hand corner and road. At this point you leave the Sussex Border Path.

Turn left along grass verge to end of buildings on your left, just before bend in road. Directly opposite Tanyard Manor is a house called Vox End.

Cross over the road and note concrete footpath marker on the bank. Proceed along paved drive which becomes a grass pathway passing alongside garden. Keep to hedge on your right and turn left at fingerpost and over stile into field.

Look to the left for a fingerpost near large oak tree and then on to a kissing gate in the left corner. Go through gate and keep to the left passing three oak trees on your right to another fingerpost and stile.

Your path now goes straight ahead with views to the South Downs and on to another fingerpost and stile.

You are now at a bridge over the Bluebell Railway. Do not cross the bridge but continue over the lane and stile opposite into field and walk southward following the track of the railway line on your right. After approximately 200 yards you cross the railway track. Look out for trains. Having crossed the track do not take the path straight ahead which leads to High Brook but turn left and follow the path alongside the railway line until you see the railway bridge ahead.

Turn right at fingerpost and over stile. Follow path bearing left through newly planted trees to another fingerpost and stile.

Having crossed the stile keep left and after 50 yards turn left at fingerpost and cross over stile into fenced path bearing right and up over the railway bridge.

From the bridge you can see Horsted Keynes Bluebell Railway station. Go through gate at end of bridge and follow stone path round to the right. This is the overflow car park for the railway.

After 150 yards turn left up to fingerpost and iron kissing gate in right hand corner. Follow enclosed path with field on your left and woods on your right. There are many nesting boxes attached to trees to be seen in the woods.

Continue along narrow track ignoring a gate on your right but immediately on your left cross stile into field. This is the correct footpath but horses are sometimes in the field and people tend to use the narrow path straight ahead.

In the winter this path is inclined to be very muddy. Either way will take you to the road where you turn right.

After 120 yards cross over road to fingerpost and stile. Cross stile and bear right passing a few oak trees to another stile and fingerpost. You now follow the path through woods down to fingerpost.

Turn right and immediately left dropping down to a planked footbridge. Continue down to another planked footbridge which drops onto a track.

Turn right at fingerpost and along to lake on your left. At end of track you meet crossing paths with fingerpost. Go straight ahead up slope and across another track with fingerpost.

Continue ahead through woods and over stile passing pond on your left. As you emerge from the woods you continue ahead between a fenced path.

Horsted Keynes church will appear on your left as you make your way up to Church Lane.

Turn right and retrace your steps back to the car park.

If you require refreshments the two pubs are highly recommended.

