



-  Walk Route
-  Railway
-  Road
-  Greenwich Meridian

6a
TO THE
BRICKMAKERS

Stocks &
Kingswood Farms

6
Ashen
Plantation

7
Crowhurst
Church

CROWHURST

TO OXTED
& TANDRIDGE

TO
LONDON

Homefield
Farm

8

Mansionhouse
Farm

9

Old Chellows

Crowhurst
Place

4

Site of
Crowhurst
Brickworks

Orchard

10
Four churches
visible

Moat Farm

3

BOWERLANE

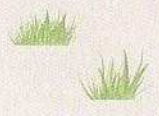
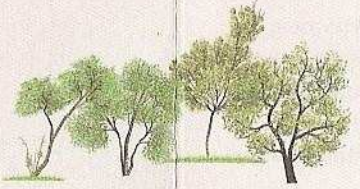
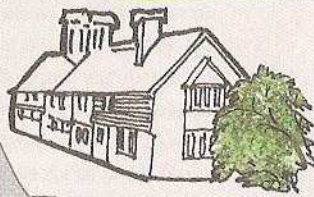
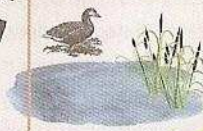
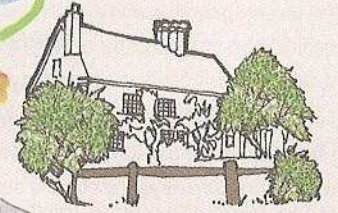
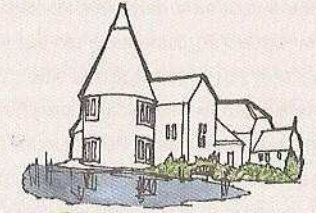
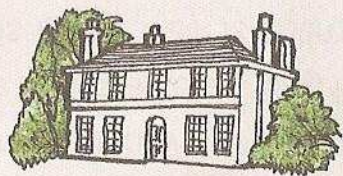
CROWHURST VILLAGE ROAD

PARK ROAD

PIKES LANE

CHELLOWS LANE

CATERFIELD LANE





LINGFIELD & CROWHURST

Age to Age Walk

Please:

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to public footpaths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise



These notes are intended for use in conjunction with the map and with the way-markers along the route.

This 7 mile walk is entirely on public footpaths or other rights of way, so can be followed on Ordnance Survey maps. Allow 3-4 hours walking time.

1 THE LINGFIELD OAK

The **Lingfield Oak**, thought to be around 400 years old, and healthy despite its hollow centre, is at the beginning and end of the walk.

St Peter's Cross, dating from 1473 and therefore predating the oak, marks the boundary between two manors. **The Cage**, added in 1773 to confine local miscreants, was last used for that purpose in 1882.

Follow Vicarage Road down to the Vicarage, then enter the **Lingfield Nature Reserves** (gate to the right). Cross the first field, to the centre of the hedge and pass through the gap (not over the bridge) to Beacon Field, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through a young copse and straight ahead to a kissing gate, entering the lane by **Coldharbour**, an old farmhouse on your left.

2 SUGHAM FARM

Follow the lane to Lingfield Common Road, turn left, then immediately right into the track up to **Sugham Farm**. Bear right as you pass the farm buildings following the footpath signs to the right until you cross the footbridge over the river. Aim straight ahead to a gap to the right of the oak tree then keeping the hedge and pill box (one of many in the Lingfield area) on your left, cross the next stile into a large field. Head for the stile in the far right corner and continue for 200 metres along a narrow field to another stile on the right.

3 MOAT FARM

Turn right, joining the road around **Moat Farm**. While walking round the right hand side of Moat Farm, built in about 1800 to replace an earlier house and now only partly moated, note the abundance of Norway maples around the bridge.

Turn right opposite "The Barn" and follow the wide track along the line of telegraph poles away from Moat Farm (you are now walking

along the Lingfield/Crowhurst parish boundary). Turn left over a stile, keeping the hedge on your left. Two rising fields later turn right when you reach the hedge, but don't miss the fine view back towards Lingfield. The path now follows the hedge, crossing one stile, until turning left through a kissing gate into **Crowhurst Place**. Bear right and head for a small oak woodland. At the junction in the woodland go straight on and the path soon crosses the Crowhurst Place drive 100 metres from the house.

4 CROWHURST PLACE

Crowhurst Place is an important house in private hands dating from the early 15th Century. Although extensive restoration was sympathetically carried out early last century, much of the old house remains. The dovecot dates from about 1920.

Having crossed the drive, continue on the footpath keeping the hedge with some fine oak trees, on your right. At the bottom of the hill, cross the bridge over the stream. Looking right you can now see your first target – **Crowhurst Church**.

5 STOCKS & KINGSWOOD FARMS

Turn half left, away from the church, to cross the field diagonally towards the single oak, in line with the group of buildings around **Stocks** and **Kingswood Farms**. Continue on the unmade drive to the farms. Immediately after the farm cottages, turn right and head for the right hand corner beyond the buildings.

6 ASHEN PLANTATION

From there, walk diagonally left to the corner of Ashen Plantation ahead. Cross the stile and after 300 metres on the woodland path turn right.

*(Although there are several pubs and tea shops in the centre of Lingfield, there are no places of refreshment directly on the route of the walk. However, a diversion to **The Brickmakers** ^{6a} is possible here. Instead of turning right, turn left, leaving the wood, then immediately right across the field to the stile set in the hedgerow. The path is now confined on both sides by wire fences and shortly emerges into the small community at Crowhurst Lane End. Turn left and the pub is straight ahead at the junction with Tandridge Lane by the traffic lights. This diversion will add about one mile to the walk.)*

Ashen Plantation is carpeted with bluebells in the spring. Look out for the bank and ditch on the left of the track which probably marks a very old property boundary. On leaving the wood go over a stile and Crowhurst Church is soon in view. Continue straight ahead, keeping the fence on your left and entering the churchyard by a kissing gate.

Ashen Plantation was apparently only planted (or perhaps replanted) at the beginning of the last century, though there are some signs that it is several centuries older.

7 CROWHURST CHURCH

Crowhurst Church dates largely from the 12th Century and has close connections with the Gainsford family, from 1338 to the late 1600s. There are many fine tombs and brasses in the church. The Gainsford family also built Crowhurst Place and in 1681 arranged the construction of a stone causeway from the Place to the Church, "it being before a loathsome dirtie way everie stepp". The causeway still exists in some places. The age of the famous **Crowhurst Yew** (at the eastern end of the church) is estimated at 4,000 years, making it amongst the oldest in the country and by far the most venerable member of the community. It has survived many wars, not least the Cromwellian skirmishes which left a cannonball lodged in the trunk until the latter part of the 20th Century.

Crossing the road, the path passes **Mansionhouse Farm**, the route now follows the straight ridge between two large fields and bridges the Oxted to East Grinstead railway line (just before the railway you cross the Greenwich Meridian).

8 HOMEFIELD FARM

Now head for **Homefield Farm**, the buildings straight ahead. Cross the road into the farm approach. The path follows the line of the paddock around the oast house, turning right alongside the grass airstrip and soon passing between a healthy oak and an ash stump, bearing slightly right to the low part of the field and a stile.

Over the stile, the path goes alongside a small copse on the left (which includes several alders), past the site of an old mill, across a wooden bridge and by a pond well populated by wildlife, veering slightly left to cross the next two fields.

9 OLD CHELLOWS

Another gate and you will be in a small paddock by a timbered house, **Old Chellows**. The exit is in the far corner, diagonally across the field by the drive gate. In the lane turn left, then after a few metres right over two stiles into a large rising field, keeping left of the willow trees half way up and heading for a single oak at the top. This is as close as the route goes to the site of the old Crowhurst Brickworks, which closed in the latter part of the last century after more than a hundred years of brick-making - hence "**The Brickmakers**".

Walk alongside the small wood on your right, over another stile, and the path is straight ahead, aiming for the three oaks together in the far hedgerow.

10 FOUR CHURCHES

At this point four churches are visible, East Grinstead, Lingfield, the Mormon Temple and (behind you) Crowhurst. This hedgerow forms the parish boundary and is also the second crossing point of the Greenwich Meridian, so in climbing the stile you are back in the Lingfield Parish and the Western Hemisphere. Turn right, following the hedge down to the next gap, then turn half left and cross the next two fields diagonally.

11 HAXTED ROAD

Climb over the stile and the path turns right again to follow the hedge down to the junction where Bowerland Lane meets Haxted Road.

Follow Haxted Road to the right for about 100 metres, but **please take great care on the road, it can be dangerous**. The path leaves the road on the left, just after a small brick bridge, but before the bridge note a single statuesque hybrid black poplar in the field on the right. Turn left over the first stile and follow the waymarkers past the house and along the hedge/fence, over various stiles, heading for Lingfield church spire. **With extreme care** cross the railway into Rushfords, a cul-de-sac, then at the junction cross the road into Saxby's Lane. After about 150 metres turn right alongside the fire station and the path emerges into the Lingfield Nature Reserves again. Turn left and follow the path past the wildlife pond, bearing left over the bridge. Cross the field to the left of the children's play area in the far left hand corner. The path is now surfaced, passing between garden hedges and crossing Vicarage Road, to the Guesthouse and **Lingfield Church**.

12 THE GUESTHOUSE

The **Guesthouse** dates from the 15th century and is thought to have been built to accommodate visitors to students at the College which was then associated with the church. **Lingfield Church** was largely rebuilt in 1431, though parts of it date from an earlier church. It has many fine brasses and raised tombs, mostly devoted to members of the de Cobham family, who were responsible for the church rebuilding and establishment of the college. The original college was built opposite the west door of the church, where a handsome 18th century house now stands. Do not miss Lingfield's own fine collection of yews, common and Irish. **A brief detour into Old Town, to the south of the church, is strongly recommended.**

Until last century it was a small group of shops and a pub, dating mostly from the 15th to 18th centuries.

The twitten, starting close to the west end of the church, soon emerges into the High Street and a final right turn leads back to the pond and the **Lingfield Oak**.

This walk was inspired by the Tree Council's National Tree Week and was devised by Lingfield Tree Wardens.

For further information
please telephone 01342 833779
or The Lingfield Parish Office
on 01342 835557.

Sponsored by:



Lingfield Parish Council



LINE ILLUSTRATIONS: Trevor Spooner
COVER IMAGE: Heather Francis DESIGN: Ashley Abbott
PRINTED BY: Eden River Press



LINGFIELD & CROWHURST

Age to Age Walk

A seven mile walk through beautiful countryside
between Lingfield & Crowhurst

