

Walk B10

Binsted , South Hay and Wyck Ponds

Start at Binsted Recreation Ground (parking for several cars)

Cross road and take path towards church

Before the path meets the lane, turn left onto another path and follow this to Hay Place

Turn right and follow path across field

Go through gap in hedge and descend a steep bank [1]

Cross the field to the lane [2]

Join lane, turn left and follow lane S for nearly a mile

Turn right onto path across a field [3] (this is about 0.5m S of South Hay and there are no other paths before it)

Follow path across field and turn left onto track which heads broadly W, then NW and finally SW

After a wide concrete bridge, turn right onto a field path which passes Wyck Ponds

Bear right, then left into a coppice and cross a stile

There are now two possible routes: either ahead (over another stile) and across a grassy field or slightly right to follow a bridleway [4]

Both routes converge at the NE corner of Great Wood; follow the track quite steeply uphill [5]

At the top, turn sharp right onto another path and follow this across the field NE and then N to gain the edge of the hanger

Follow the hanger edge until the path descends (via a series of steps) [6]

Turn right and then left [7]

Follow path northwards past ponds and take path on right * which descends into the valley, crosses the stream on a plank bridge, and ascends on the E side via a few steps [8] **The turn may be obscured by undergrowth and the finger post is missing*

Cross the field ahead, turn right and then left and continue ahead to enter the churchyard

Leave the churchyard, cross lane and take path opposite which leads back to start.

Risk assessment and general comments

This walk has some nice views and goes through quiet countryside. There is one quite steep ascent but few stiles (and all in good condition)

[1] The wooded bank may be a tricky descent in wet conditions

[2] The field can sometimes be wet and marshy

[3] Fine in dry conditions, but probably best avoided if weather is very wet

[4] The bridleway appears to be an ancient route and is fine in dry conditions but should be avoided if very wet as horses have cut up the surface

[5] A steep ascent on a good track

[6] Care needed on this descent. There are several low steps

[7] The track in the valley bottom can be very muddy in wet conditions

[8] A few steps to be negotiated on both sides of the valley

Distance is 3.5 miles

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Consequences	Management	Applies to this Route
Road Crossing	Walkers and drivers	Collision	Inform walkers prior to setting off that they are responsible for crossing roads themselves.	X
Road without pavement	Walkers	Collision	Obey Highway code	X
Uneven ground - pavements, drains, tree roots.	Walkers, especially those with poor or partial sight	Falls resulting in injuries.	Warn walkers of hazard and remind walkers along the route when necessary.	X
Muddy paths and wet leaves.	Walkers	Walker slips and injures themselves	Inform walkers of hazard and caution. Remind walkers at appropriate times.	X
Overhanging branches	Walkers	Whiplash of branch onto another walker or walking into branch.	Warn walkers before setting off and at hazard	X

Thorny and overgrown vegetation	Walkers	Skin lesions and stings from thorns and nettles.	Warn walkers, carry secateurs in summer	X
Walking next to water	Walkers	Falling into the water	Advise walkers and remind walkers at hazard	X
Golf course	Walkers	Being struck by golf ball	Obey all notices posted by golf club	
Stiles	Walkers	Knee, hip or back problems	Advise before leaving and take alternative route if necessary.	X
Steps	Walkers	Fall resulting in injuries	Warn walkers before setting off and at hazard	X
Railway crossing	Walkers, Rail Passengers	Walkers being hit by a train, injury to rail passengers	Use extra caution when crossing and inform relevant rail personnel if a very large group is crossing.	
Cyclists	Walkers, Cyclists	Cyclist/walker could collide with each other	Inform walkers before and during walk	
Dogs, cattle, horses, bulls, livestock, etc	Walkers and animals	Bites, stampeding, kicks and other injuries	Avoid entering fields with bulls and be cautious with other livestock/animals	
Ploughed fields with undefined paths	Walkers	Fatigue, tripping and falling	Warn at start of walk	X