

Walk B8

Binsted to Blacknest Road via Redcap Copse and back

Start at Binsted Recreation Ground car park

Go down to road, cross it and turn left. Follow pavement for 500 metres

Cross the road again and follow track leading north which gradually descends the hillside

Turn right at fingerpost and walk NE along the broad track crossing the fields; look for Telegraph House away to the right

Where the track meets a fence and gate, turn left along the hedge line

At the top of the hanger, cross stile on right and continue through field to another stile; cross this and enter Redcap Copse

The path meanders down through the wood in a broadly NE direction [1]

Where the path emerges from the wood, bear right and follow a faint path around the edge of a grassy field

Emerge onto Blacknest Road and turn right [2]

A short distance beyond this point, turn right onto a track leading to Broadview Farm

Just before the farm buildings, bear right to take marked footpath. Cross 3 stiles to reach the old Bentley-Bordon railway cutting [3] *** These stiles were in a very poor condition on 10 Sept 2013 and an accident resulted to one walker: the problem has been reported to Hants CC and Binsted Parish Council*

Descend some shallow wooden steps and then ascend more on the other side of the cutting

Cross another stile and follow path uphill across a large field: aim for the edge of Home Hanger to your left. (There may be livestock in this field, but there were only sheep at the time of the recce) [4]

At the top of the hill, pass Home Hanger and go through a kissing gate

Go straight ahead across the fields on the broad track, with a distant view of Binsted church

At the right angled junction with another track, turn left and then right again in a few metres

Continue in a westerly direction, turn left at the end and walk down to the road.

Cross the road, turn right and follow the pavement back to the start

Risk assessment and general comments

This walk has several stiles and some steps. There are a couple of climbs and one or two possible areas of mud

[1] The path down through Redcap Copse may be very muddy and slippery

[2] Watch out for fast moving traffic on Blacknest Road

[3] The stiles in this area are quite dangerous: care needed

[4] This is quite a steep climb but the views behind are pleasant

Distance is 2.5 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	
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	X
Ploughed fields with undefined paths	Walkers	Fatigue, tripping and falling	Warn at start of walk	