



Walks round Peaslake for you to undertake! The walks are mainly over footpaths, sometimes cross over stiles and farmland, or through the woods and over tracks in the Surrey Hills. Extensive views to the North Downs or South Downs can be enjoyed.

Each walk takes one and a half or two hours to complete

Starting Point: Hurtwood Inn, Peaslake

Walk 6 – Circular walk round Pitch Hill

Pitch Hill is 834 feet above sea level. Views from the top of the Hill allow you see the Weald of Surrey and Sussex as far as the English Channel - a distance of more than 25 miles.

With the Inn behind you, walk to the pathway between the Cycle shop and the Old School Room (Church notice boards outside) Follow this paved road to Peaslake Cemetery, go left past the Cemetery's wooden arched entrance gate and follow the fence to pass by the side of a wooden barrier. A wide firebreak stretches in front of you. Follow this, ignoring right hand tracks until you see a stone 'Cairn'. Turn right along the track indicated by the Cairn.

Go straight - the wide firebreak allows an easy walk along the ridge of the hill, the path rising steadily to meet another wide track coming steeply up from the right. Here you cross over to a slightly narrower track. (approx. 20 mins.) The track twists, right and left, through woodland. The ground rises gently and the track narrows. Pass straight through a crossing of tracks. Keep walking forward as the track bends before emerging onto the Ridge above Holmbury St Mary. Extensive views to the LHS can be seen.

The track bends to the right (keep a marker post for the 'Greensands Way' on your left) before a flat area appears. Here, a metal seat allows you to rest and to enjoy great views to the South Downs.

Walk on bearing Right and then enter a narrow Footpath to the left (Footpath Only sign) to climb along the edge of the Ridge. A short distance brings you to a large flat area.

Here you will find some seats, a wooden notice board with a map identifying major sites on the South Downs and a white concrete site of a 'Trig point' This area at the top of Pitch Hill affords beautiful views towards the South Downs

After spending some time enjoying the views, walk across the flat area past the white Trig Point and enter the RH track to descend from the Hill.

The ground falls slowly to begin with, then descends steeply to arrive at Car park No 3. (above the Windmill Pub, situated on the Ewhurst Road)

Take care to keep to the track – a fenced area to the RHS encloses a Quarry where Hurtwood Stone was extracted.

From Pitch Hill Car Park No. 3 Walk away from the road, keeping to the right hand side of the parking area, to enter a track by a wooden notice board. 'Cyclists give way to Pedestrians' (The ground sometimes muddy as this area can become a stream bed) A firmer, mud track a little way ahead follows the bottom of the valley. Walk through mixed woodland to emerge at a grassed area, next to Walking Bottom Car Park No 2. *This section from the car park will take about 25 mins.*

Go through the Car Park to turn left towards the village of Peaslake.



WELCOME TO THE HURTWOOD PITCH HILL



The Hurtwood is home to a wide range of edible and poisonous fungi so foragers need very reliable reference guides. Do not touch the bright red Fly Agaric, Death Cap or Panther Cap. Destroying Angel or The Sickeners. Safe to eat are Shaggy Ink Caps and Chanterelles, Penny Buns and, surprisingly, Amanthyst Deceivers.



Lowland heath was created by Bronze Age settlers some 4,000 years ago who cleared forests and began farming. Lowland heathland supports breeding populations of rare birds, such as the Dartford warbler woodcock and snipe. It is habitat for the six types of reptile native to Britain, the adder, grass snake, common lizard, slow worm, sand lizard and smooth snake.





PLEASE SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF THE HURTWOOD





Slow-Worms are actually legless lizards as they have eyelids and can shed their tails, even though they look like small golden grey snakes. Males are pale with blue spots and females are larger with dark sides and a dark dorsal stripe. The Hurtwood is a perfect habitat as they love heathland, woodland edges and ridges where they can find food and a sunny spot for basking. They hibernates in winter, waking up in April.

Nightjars arrive in the Hurtwood in late April to mid May, their chattering song best heard at dusk on warm, still summer evenings, when they can be seen hawking for moths and beetles. These rare birds have poetry wings, long tails and grey brown plumage mottled, streaked and barred - providing vital camouflage as they lay their eggs on the bare ground. As their name suggests, they are nocturnal! Legend has it that they steal milk from goats at night, and goats certainly used to be a feature of the Hurtwood before WW2!