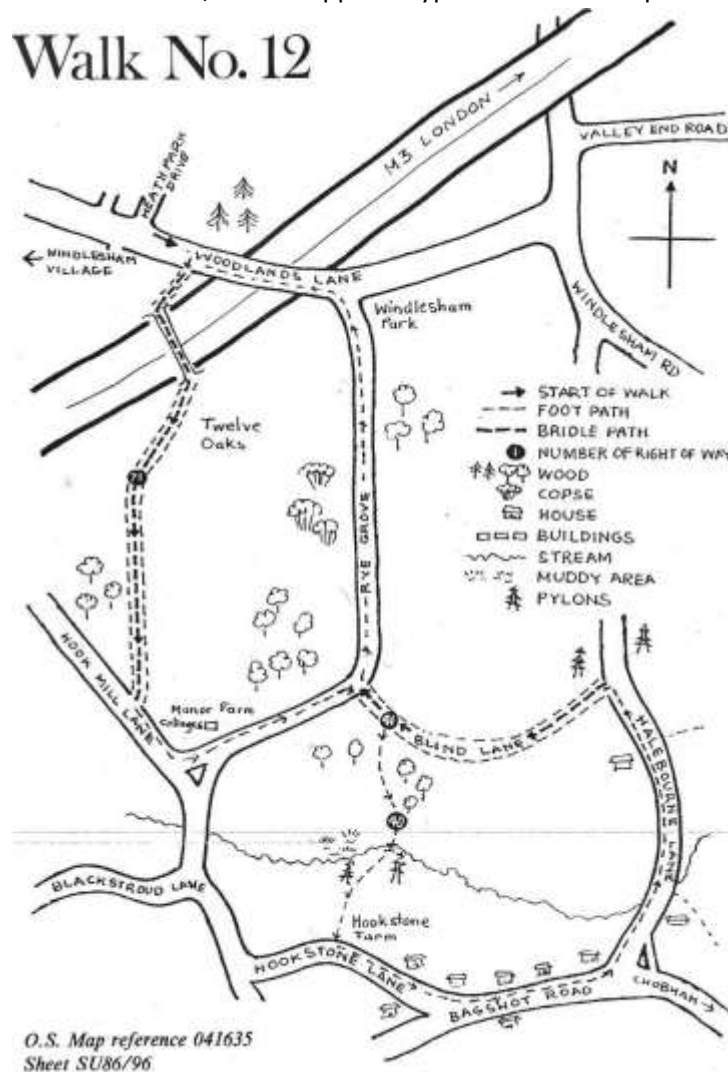


WINDLESHAM WALKS Walk No.12

Start/Parking: Woodlands Lane and Heathpark Drive.

Distance: 6.4km, 4 miles approx. Type of walk: Some parts can be muddy in wet weather.

Walk No. 12



The walk starts from the end of Heathpark Drive at the junction with Woodlands Lane. Turn left, walk along the road for about 150 yards then turn off right through a gate into Scutley Lane (Bw.71). Follow the gravel track, crossing the motorway by a concrete bridge. Fork right at the entrance to Twelve Oaks Estate which is on the left.

Continue straight ahead where the bridleway winds pleasantly between long-established hedgerows. Here hazelnuts, elderberries and acorns provide food for the wild creatures who make their homes in the sandy banks along the path.

After crossing three drainage ditches by means of sleeper bridges, the bridleway reaches Hook Mill Lane.

Now turn left. In the paddocks on the right hand side ponies can often be seen grazing. Passing the stable yard the road bends left, where Mill Cottage can be seen at the corner of Burnt Pollard Lane. Keep straight ahead into Rye Grove, passing Manor Farm on the left. Where Rye Grove turns sharply left, turn right into Blind Lane (Bw.41).

Follow this track for a few yards, then turn right again through a hinged wooden gate leading into a footpath (Fp.40). Follow the path running between a deep drainage ditch and an old willow plantation.





The ground is generally marshy, but in dry summers deep cracks show that there are also areas of clay. Cross a concrete bridge, now turn sharp left and follow the stream. The path opens out to an area beneath the humming overhead pylon wires. After crossing a ditch by way of a wooden footbridge, another bridge with tubular guard rails will lead you to a stile/footbridge crossing the same winding stream.

The footpath now crosses several open fields separated by stiles. Hookstone Farm comprising buildings dating back to 1350 can be seen across the field. Turn left and observe the footpath on the right which arrives at Hookstone Lane.



Keeping left follow the lane to the A321, turn left again and follow the pavement on this busy road and after 500 metres turn left into Halebourne Lane.

The road runs a short distance alongside the Bourne on the right. Great care must be taken on the next bend as the pavement ends where the road narrows.



Observe Roebuck Farm Cottage on the right. Pass Higher Park Farm and continue on, passing Halebourne Manor then turn left into the other end of Blind Lane (Bw.41).

The lane generally needs attention and can become boggy in places, however it winds pleasantly between fields and woods. Sheltered by a great variety of trees and creepers either side. Towards the end of the bridleway the wooden gate leading to Fp.40 will be seen on the left before arriving at Rye Grove.

Turn right along Rye Grove, a quiet lane running increasingly uphill between fields and woods for about a half mile before reaching Woodlands Lane.

Turn left, crossing the M3 motorway, pass the end of Scutley Lane arriving back at Heathpark Drive.



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