Crowhurst Walks

<u>Walk 2</u>

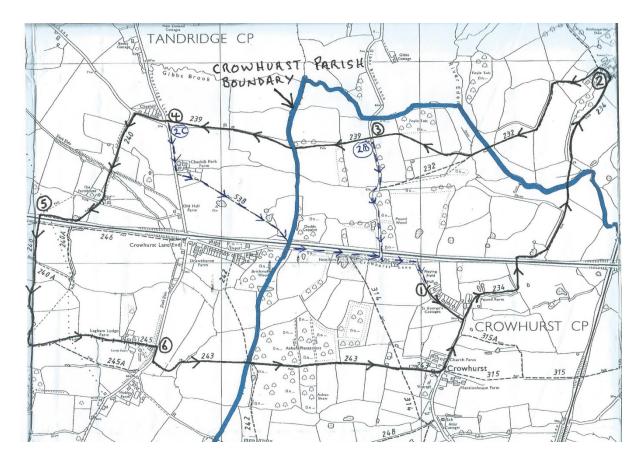
Accumulative distances measured in kilometres

(FP) – Finger Post. (D) – Disc. Follow direction of arrows

Crowhurst is a beautiful, quiet and historic rural parish sometimes called 'the forgotten little corner of Surrey'. *The place name was first recorded in 1189 and means 'crow wood'*. Traffic is generally light but always be cautious when walking along or crossing these country roads or when crossing railway lines.

Distance: 9 Kilometres

Difficulty: Easy and relatively flat but there are a number of stiles to negotiate.



Start: Crowhurst Village Hall. OS: 391479

- 1) Turn left out of the Village Hall car park and walk along Crowhurst Village Road for 300m. Turn left at the bend (FP) and walk down the driveway of Brook House. When you reach the end of the drive continue for 20m and then turn right (D). Walk to the end of the first field and then turn left (D). When you reach the railway line, turn right for 20m and cross the stile on your left and over the railway line (be very cautious). On the other side of the railway line turn immediately right and enter a wood (D). Follow the path through the wood and over a stile and then turn left to walk downhill. You cross the Meridian Line at this point. Go through a gate at the bottom of the hill and continue over a bridge over the River Eden. Continue straight to a stile (D) leading onto a farm track. Walk along the track until you reach Foyle Farm (FP). [Foyle Farm is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 16th century] (1.8K)
- 2) Turn sharp left for 20m and walk around a wooden clad house on your right. Continue along a wide farm track past a pond on your left and then bend left (FP) between two large cattle barns until you reach a gate (FP). Continue along the farm track to a stile. After another 20m the track bends left and you follow the wide track to the end. You cross the Meridian Line again at this point. Cross another stile (D) and veer left to cross a wide bridge over the River Eden (FP). Follow the hedge on your right for 100m and pass through the hedge over a stile on your right (D). Veer left and walk up hill diagonally across a field to another stile and a road (Gibbs Brook Lane). (3.3K)
- 3) Cross the road and continue straight ahead along a wide track towards a copse. Take the path to the left of the linear copse and walk beside the copse until you reach the end of the copse. Continue straight ahead keeping the hedge to your right and follow the path until it joins a farm track at a small barn. Continue straight along the farm track towards a row of cottages until you reach a road (Tandridge Lane). (4.4K)
- 4) Cross the road (be cautious) and walk past the cottages along the pavement. Just after the last cottage cross the road at a bend (be cautious) and walk through the left hand gate. After 20m turn right and, keeping the hedge on your right, walk down hill to a copse. Enter the copse over a narrow bridge and follow the path for 100m to emerge by a pond (D). Cross the stile and head straight ahead for 100m to another stile on your left (D) just before Old Hall Farm. [Old Hall Farm House is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 16th century]. Turn right and walk through the courtyard and through a large solid wooden gate (FP). Turn right for 20m and then left over another stile (FP) towards a pond and railway line. When you reach the railway line cross the stile (D), turn right to follow a path with the railway line on your left for 250m until you come to a railway bridge on your left. Go under the bridge and immediately right through a kissing gate(D). (5.4K)

- 5) Turn immediately left, heading south away from the railway line with a hedge to your left. After 150m go through a gate and continue straight (D) following a wide track. After 600m, at a junction of paths (D) take the left path towards a wood. After 50m the path turns left through a gate. You now proceed east with views to your left of the North Downs. There are four further gates to pass through in a 500m stretch eventually reaching Tandridge Lane again. (6.7K)
- 6) Turn right along the road for 50m then cross the road (be cautious) to go over a stile on your left (D). Turn right and walk down to a fishing pond. Walk around the pond and halfway along the far edge of the pond, turn right over a narrow bridge and high stile into a field. Veer left uphill to a stile and continue straight to another stile on the edge of a wood (D). After 15m ignore the path to your right and continue straight through the wood. After 300m exit the wood over a stile (D). Keeping the wood to your left, continue in the same direction for 800m heading towards St George's Church spire and over a further three stiles. Enter the churchyard through a kissing gate and continue to the other side of the churchyard to emerge onto Crowhurst Village Road again. Turn left and follow the road back to the Village Hall car park. [The church is the oldest building in Crowhurst and is believed to have been dedicated to St George in 1191. There are tombs of the Gainsford family flanking the chancel and the font is Saxon. In the churchyard stands an ancient yew tree, one of the 'great trees of Britain' which some experts estimate to be 4000 years old. Opposite the church is Mansion House which was purchased by William Angell in 1613. His son, John, held royal appointments throughout the reigns of James 1, Charles 1 and Charles 11. Next to the church stands Church Farm House dating back to the 17th century]. (9K)

Walk 2B - Shorter route: (total of 4.2 Kilometres)

At Point 3 turn left to walk south down Gibbs Brook Lane for 500m until you reach Crowhurst Road. Turn left along Crowhurst Road for 300m (**be cautious**) until you reach the Village Hall car park.

Walk 2C - Alternative shorter route: (total of 6.1 Kilometres)

At Point 4 turn left to walk south down Tandridge Lane facing the on-coming traffic (be very cautious crossing the road) for 200m. Just past Chathill Park Farm cross the stile in the hedge to your left (FP). After 50m cross a stile and after another 80m cross a stile into a large field. Walk straight ahead, passing a pond on your right towards the right hand corner of another pond at the far end of the field. Veer right from the corner of the pond towards the railway line. Cross a stile and then cross the railway line (be very cautious) and come out onto Crowhurst lane. Turn left and walk along Crowhurst Lane for 700m until you get back to Crowhurst Village Hall.