

## Withyham Walks 2011

### Walk no. 6. 5 miles – 2½ hours

Groombridge Football Field, Sherlock's Farm, Cherry Gardens, Hunts Farm, Balls Green, Summerford Farm, Weald Way, Ham Bridge, and Forest Way back to start.

Start/Finish in Corseley Road by the football field (Grid ref. TQ529364)  
Ordnance Survey Explorer map no. 135 – 'Ashdown Forest' is recommended.

Cross the stile into a field opposite the entrance to the football ground, and aim for the cattle arch under the railway. At the other side of the arch are two paths. Take the right-hand one up the field Sherlock's Farm. Follow the yellow waymarks through the farm, then onto the farm track.

Follow the track to just past a pair of brick houses on the right. Very shortly after them turn right on a path along the edge of a field, then through a gap on to a drive. Follow this to the B2188, where you turn right and go down the road for 70m, then turn left into Cherry Gardens Farm. Follow the driveway to the right of the farm shop, and past houses on your right. Go through two gates (or over stiles next to them), and through an orchard to a metal pedestrian gate into fields.

Keep straight on down the edge of the field, and up the other side, to Hunts farm. Cross the drive to left of the garden, through a squeeze stile into a meadow. Continue in the same direction towards the left corner of the field, keeping a hedge on your left. The views in front of you are some of the finest in Withyham.

Go through another squeeze stile, and continue keeping a hedge on your left. Where this turns sharp left, bear left to go diagonally across the field to the opposite corner, where there is another squeeze stile onto the B2110. Cross the road into the field opposite, and bear left across the field to a stile. Go over this into yet another large field, with the roofs of Withyham visible above the woods on the other side. Follow the path downhill to a stile and small bridge in a wood. Turn right down the back of houses, and come out in Balls Green.

Follow the estate road to Station Road\*. Turn right and cross the Forest Way, where Station Road becomes Beech Green Lane. Follow this across the River Medway on a stone bridge, to Summerford farm. Turn right across a stile into a field. Follow the well-marked path along the edge of the valley towards Hale Court farm. Where the path becomes a track, turn right on it, to cross two bridges and pass Ham farm. When the track reaches the road, turn right and cross the road. After a few metres, turn left onto the Forest Way.

Follow the Forest Way eastward, across the B2188 (take care), under the railway and past the waterworks to join Corseley Road and the start of your walk.

\* For refreshments at the Dorset Arms, Withyham (8 minutes detour) turn left on Station Rd and follow it to T-junction with B2110. Turn right downhill to pub. Return by the same way to rejoin the walk.

