

Withyham Walks 2011

Walk no. 7 3 miles – 1½ hours

Groombridge Football Field to Motts Mill, Rocks Wood & back via Sherlocks Farm
(a variation of Walk no. 3)

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 left-hand one across the field to a stile into a small meadow. Cross this and bear right to another stile into a long narrow meadow with a wood on your right and stream to the left.

Walk up the meadow, keeping to the right side. At the other end, go through a gate into a wood. In spring this is a carpet of bluebells and wood anemones. In a few yards the path forks. Take the left path, staying on the level, parallel to the stream, until you come out on Motts Mill Lane. Turn left up the hill, taking care of traffic around the bends.

At the top of the hill the lane turns sharp left, with a track going off to the right. Take this track, which is a permissive path through Rocks Wood, so take extra care to respect the landowner's good will. Pass the cottages on your left, then shortly after take the right fork downhill on a well-defined track. Follow this until it exits into a field via a gate that you must shut behind you. You are back on a public footpath; turn right along the edge of the field, to a stile and bridge in the corner.

Cross these, and take the right-hand path to climb to Motts Mill Lane again. Turn right and almost immediately left onto a narrow path between holly bushes. Follow this into a field and carry straight on uphill, aiming for a pair of brick houses ahead. When you reach the track in front of them, turn right to Sherlocks Farm. Follow the yellow waymarks through the farm into a field. Go down the right side towards the railway and the cattle arch in the distance. Rejoin the original path to return to the start point.