

THE HOLLINGBOURNE CIRCLE

Walk Overview

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Time: 2.5 - 3 hours

Description: A chance to view and explore the landscape around the Habit and the village of Hollingbourne, Pilgrim's Way, North Downs Way and surrounding fields and hills.



The Dirty Habit
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1. The railway crossing



2. The path through the fields



3. The trail on the hill



4. The track before the T-junction



5. The gate on the hill



6. Heading toward Pilgrim's Way

Leave the Dirty Habit, turn left and walk down the lane until the road bears to the left and you can see a church right in front of you. Continue straight onto the church property and walk along the pavement around the church itself. Keep walking along the pavement through the field until a road. Turn right onto the road, go under the railway bridge until you come to a crossroad. Follow the station signpost, turn right onto a smaller road and carry on until the station. From the front of the station keep walking straight up the hill and along the trail. Climb over the stile, turn right onto the track and continue straight until the railway crossing (pic 1)

Cross the railway tracks (BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL - STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, trains are quite frequent here) and turn left. Follow the path down the hill and over the small footbridge. Keep walking along the path, diagonally through the fields (and follow the posts with yellow arrows (pic 2) until you see the village of Broad Oak. In the corner of the last field continue along the hedge and go through the gate into a garden. Walk diagonally through it and through the next gate leading to the road.

Turn left onto the road and walk for about 70 yards until a crossroad. Turn right onto a smaller road (in the direction of 'Hucking') and keep walking up the hill for about 0.5 miles until a wooden signpost and steps on the left (ignore 'public footpath' signpost in the middle of the hill). Turn right, walk up the steps and follow the 'North Downs Way' signpost in the direction of Hollingbourne. Keep walking along the way (pic 3) until a track.

Turn left onto it and continue for about 0.15 miles until the second footpath crossroad (there is a wooden gate with a yellow arrow and NO information board at this crossroad). Turn right onto a small discreet trail and walk through the bushes and around the gate into the field. Keep walking straight along the track (pic 4) for about 0.8 miles until a T-junction of tracks. Turn right and follow the track for about 50 yards until a gate on the left. Turn left, go through the gate and keep walking straight (through one more gate) until a road.

Turn right onto the road and walk for about 0.2 miles until a 'public footpath' signpost on the left. Turn left, go through the gate and continue along the trail until a small crossroad of trails. Turn right, enjoy the views to the countryside and keep walking down the hill until a wooden gate (pic 5)

Go through it and follow the path diagonally through the field until a stile. Climb over it and turn right onto a track. Walk along the track for about 0.2 miles until a stile on the right (pic 6). Climb over it and follow the path diagonally through the field. At the end turn right onto a small tarmac road (it's the famous Pilgrim's Way) and walk for about 0.3 miles until you see some buildings. Walk a little bit further and you will be back at The Dirty Habit.

