



Crowhurst Walk

A walk through the RSPB nature reserve and ancient woodland, and around the village of Crowhurst with its ancient Yew Tree.



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Local Information

The ruins that can be seen today are the only remains of a manor house built in the 13th century. Its builder, Walter de Scotney was the chief steward to the Earl of Gloucester, but after being accused of trying to murder his employer, Walter was executed in 1259. In the church yard beside the ruins an ancient yew tree can be seen. Estimates for the age of this yew range from 1000 to 3000 years.

Essential Information

Distance: 3.5 miles/5.5km
Walk grade: Average
Maps: OS Explorer 124
 OS Landranger 199

Start/Finish: Crowhurst Railway Station
Post Code: TN33 9DD
Grid Ref: TQ 760128

Route Description

- 1) Starting from Crowhurst Station, follow Station Road for a distance of approximately 680 metres (740 yards) to its junction opposite Crowhurst Church. Turn left, and then immediately right to follow the signposted track towards the ruins.
- 2) Beyond the ruins follow the cross field path towards a gate. Continue to follow the path across a second field as waymarked, heading towards the single Oak tree that soon comes into view. Beyond the tree, bear right at the path junction and follow to a kissing gate and footbridge. Continue to follow the field edge path, with the Powdermill Stream on your left, to reach another footbridge. Turn right at the path junction after the bridge and follow the path to a stile on the woodland edge.
- 3) Cross the stile and turn right to enter Fore Wood Nature Reserve, owned by the RSPB (the route now follows a section of the 1066 Bexhill Walk, and permissive paths around the wood marked by white arrows). At the junction, next to a bench, turn sharp left. Follow the main track to reach the waymark post on the right.
- 4) Turn sharp right at the waymark post, to follow a path uphill, through the trees. Turn left at the junction with a well defined track, and follow this, passing straight over at the next path junction, and past a track on the right.
- 5) When the main track descends sharply towards a deep ghyll, turn right and follow the path downhill beside the ghyll. At the next junction turn right and follow until a bench is reached, then continue straight on, following the path that runs just inside the wood. When you reach a pond on your right, ignore the white waymark and head straight towards the stile leading out of the wood.
- 6) Cross the stile and head straight across the field, passing the bottom of a woodland shaw on a well defined track. Head straight across the next field and exit onto the road through a gate. Turn right and follow the road back to the junction with Station Road. Turn left to follow the road back to the Station, and the start of the walk.

Fore Wood RSPB Reserve

Fore Wood is one of the larger blocks of semi-natural ancient woodland remaining in East Sussex. The use of Fore Wood as a coppice woodland dates back at least 500 years. Roman bell pits are found throughout the reserve and reflect the intensive use of the woodland during the peak of the local iron industries. The coppice and open ride system provides a home for many colourful insects, including silver-washed fritillary and white admiral butterflies.

The areas of high forest hold green, greater and lesser spotted woodpeckers, along side nuthatch and treecreeper, whilst the coppices and scrub support marsh tit and migrant warblers such as blackcap. Moorhen and mallard, plus the occasional kingfisher and grey heron, visit the large pond, which also supports large numbers of dragonflies and damselflies.

Please keep your dog under control whilst walking through the nature reserve.



The Ancient Yew in Crowhurst Churchyard