



Fernhurst Pubwalk

Distance: 4 km=2½ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex

Date written: 12-apr-2020

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Last update: 28-may-2021

Refreshments: Fernhurst

Map: Explorer 133 (Haslemere) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

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Woodland, hills, views, sheep meadows, pub

In Brief

Fernhurst, being close to Black Down and Marley Heights and other scenic wonders, is a favourite launching place for some great long walks, several of which feature on this website. By contrast, here is a short stroll for countryside lovers who only want to spend an hour or two walking before settling down for a pint or two or some good grub in the local pub. The *Red Lion* is a Fullers pub and is frequented by walkers and by villagers. The tables at the front embellish the Green with their colourful umbrellas and provide a delightful spot from where to watch village life go by. There is a garden at the back with a barbecue area. The pub is open all day every day but - note - food is not served between 3pm and 6pm.



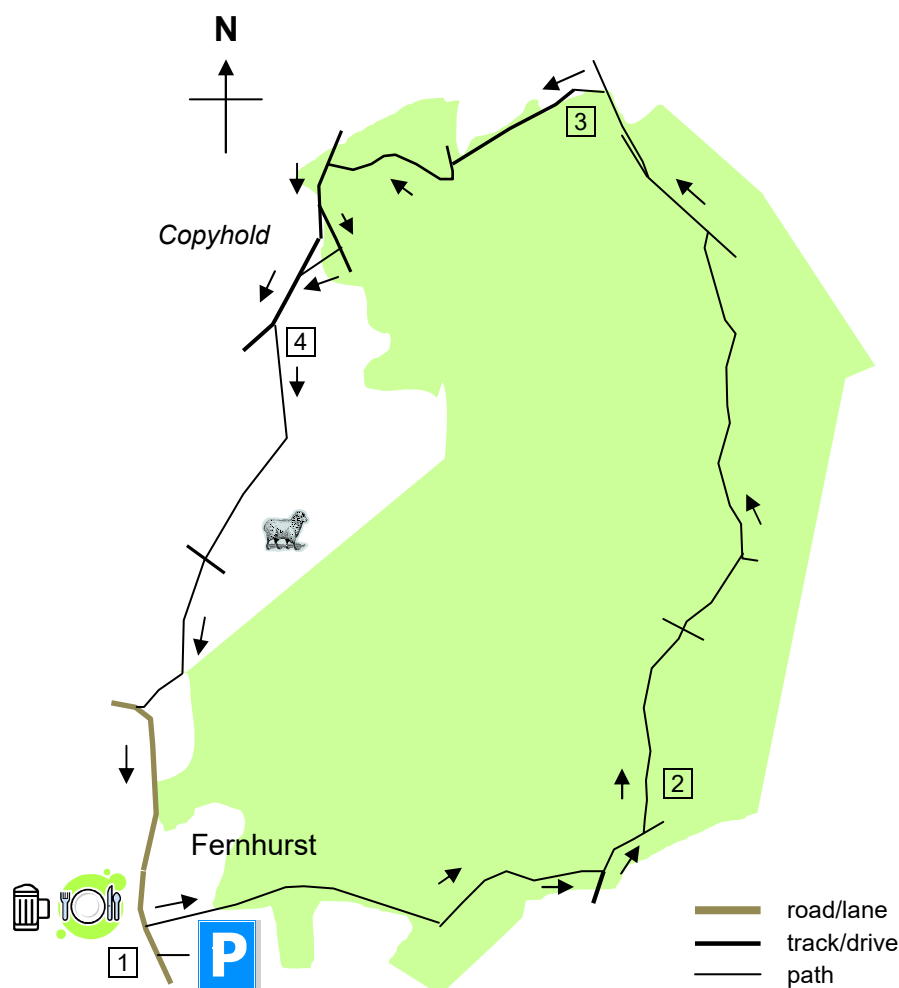
All the paths used on this walk are wide and free of scratchy undergrowth, so shorts are no problem. Underfoot, the terrain can be quite stony in places with some rutted sections. In winter certain parts may be squishy, but the paths are mainly not fenced, so you can avoid the worst. In the summer, the paths are dry, if rather caked. So generally speaking boots are always preferable. There's no reason to leave your dog at home, but a lead will be needed close to that wonderful big lamb pasture.



The walk begins at the free car park near the sports area, by the Green in Fernhurst, West Sussex, postcode **GU27 3HY** (NB *not* the car park signed off the main road), www.w3w.co/passenger.learns.rotation. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

A detailed history of Fernhurst will be found in the longer walk in this series: "Fernhurst and the Temple of the Winds".



- 1 Take a wide passageway which runs between the *Red Lion* pub (on your left) and a house. Tennis courts are soon on the right, with gardens on the left. The track enters Reeth Wood and meets a rather dramatic deep stream gully on your right. Ignore an unmarked footpath on the right soon after and avoid another about 200m further on, continuing straight on with the stream bed down on your right. *There is a fine oak wood visible through the wire fence on the left.* Eventually your main track bends **right** over the stream and in 150m comes to a junction. On the right is *Tanyard Cottage* and its barn but your route is **left** up a wide but rather stony path.

- 2 In 80m, at a signposted junction, turn **left** on a stony path winding uphill. The path flattens a little and runs between old coppices, then up shallow steps. 350m from the junction your path bends right and goes over a crossing path. In a further 150m you reach an oblique T-junction. Veer **left** here. Your new path runs through more coppices, widens and runs uphill in an area where you may see the earliest bluebells in spring. Keep to the main path avoiding all turn-offs. Eventually, about ½ km from the previous junction, you reach another oblique T-junction with a fingerpost. Veer **left**,

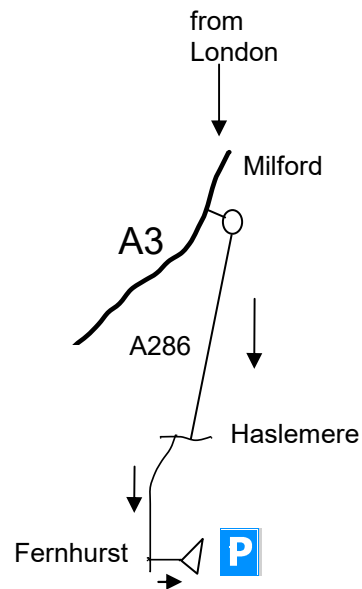


joining a bridleway. In an additional 150m, your path splits as you approach some buildings ahead. Take the **right**-hand rising path. As you reach the hamlet, passing a short line of new trees, at a 3-way fingerpost, turn **left** into a dusty yard.

- 3 Bear a fraction right as you cross the yard, to find a wide surfaced path leading out, passing a post with a yellow arrow. This path leads down to a T-junction. Turn **left** on a track which immediately bends right, passing the first of a string of ponds. Your track winds its way uphill and ends at a timber yard, leading to a T-junction. Turn **left** here on a wide dirt path signed as a *restrictive byway*. Keep **left** past a large tarmac forecourt of some houses. In another 50m or so, at the bottom of a slope, suddenly your path meets a private wood and turns **right** up a stony track, becoming tarmac. Veer **left** on the main tarmac drive coming from the large house *Copyhold*. *The house takes its name from a type of medieval land tenure, inferior to freehold.*
- 4 Where the drive curves right, **leave** it by keeping straight ahead over a low stile next to a large metal gate onto a woodland path. This path follows the left-hand side of a sloping crop field. After a decaying stile [*careful!*], your route is down the left-hand side of a large pasture, under tall oaks with views of Back Down looming up on your left. If you come here in spring time, the pasture on the left will abound in sheep with the new born lambs gambolling and seeking their rather nonchalant mothers. Your path crosses a farm drive via two stiles and runs between fences beside another field. A stile leads to a short driveway which emerges on a road in Fernhurst. Keep **left** on this residential road, quickly leading back to the *Red Lion* and the car park where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: (see drawing), to get to **Fernhurst, West Sussex**, take the A286 road from Haslemere, following signs to Midhurst. On reaching Fernhurst, turn **left** up to the village green. There is a large car park on the other side of the green next to the cricket green, not far from the *Red Lion*.



By bus and train: no. 70 from Haslemere to Fernhurst (**not Sunday**).

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