

# Crowhurst Walks

## Walk 1

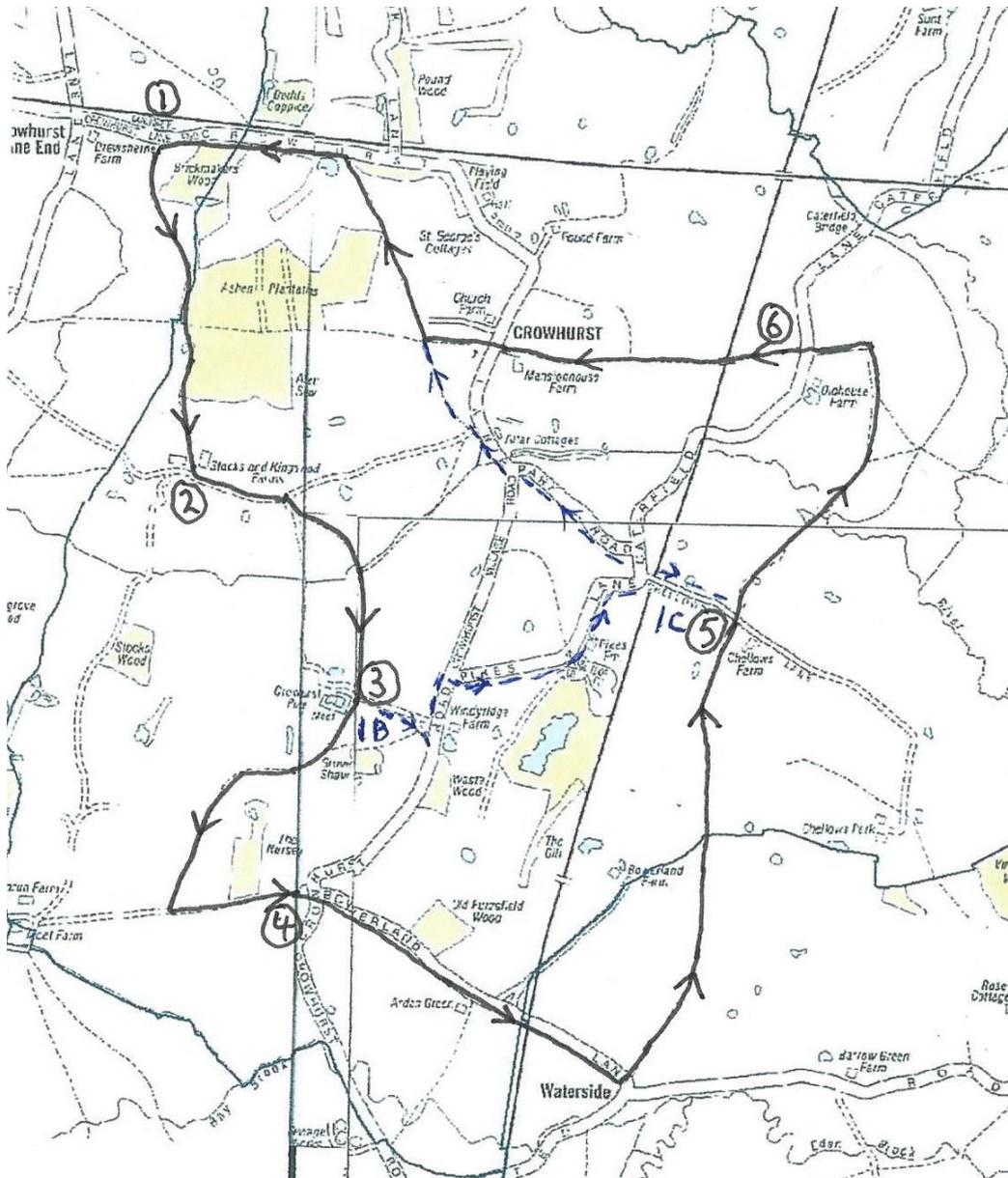
Accumulative distances measured in kilometres and highlighted in blue.

(FP) – Finger Post. (D) – Disc. Follow direction of arrow.

Crowhurst is a beautiful, quiet and historic rural parish sometimes called 'the forgotten little corner of Surrey'. *The place name was first recorded in 1189 and means 'crow wood'*. Traffic is generally light but always be cautious when walking along or crossing these country roads or when crossing railway lines.

**Distance: 10K**

**Difficulty:** Easy and relatively flat but there are a number of stiles to negotiate.



**Start:** Crowhurst Lane End (just east of the 'Griffin Pub') OS: 379481

- 1) 100m east of the 'Griffin Pub' take narrow path between '1 Brick Kiln Cottages' and 'Rozel' heading south. Continue between fences for 400m then cross a small bridge over a stream and through hedge and walk up hill to the far left corner of a field and wood. Cross the stile to your left **(D)**. Walk 20m and turn right along path through the wood still heading south for 200m. Cross a stile into a field **(D)** and straight on towards barns. Walk to the left of the barns for 50m to a gate on your left. **(1K)**
- 2) Turn left along a farm road for 200m to next **(FP)**. Turn half right to cross field diagonally for 400m and cross a bridge over a stream **(D)**. Continue straight for 50m and then with a hedge to your left, continue for 400m. Cross a driveway and continuing straight, passing in front of the gardens to 'Crowhurst Place'. *[Crowhurst Place is a Grade 1 listed building surrounded by a moat and dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was originally built for John Gainsford. The family were the prominent family in the parish for 300 years. It is believed that Henry V111 used to stay here on his way to see Ann Boleyn at Hever Castle].* **(2.1K)**
- 3) Follow the path towards a small copse of oak trees and, when you reach a fence in front of you, turn right for 50m and then through a kissing gate. Turn right with a hedge on your right, cross another stile and continue until you come to a small bench and post **(D)**. Turn left to cross the field heading south, cross a stile **(D)** and continue until you come to another stile and T junction of paths **(D)**. Turn left along a broad pathway heading east until you come to Crowhurst Road. **(3.7K)**
- 4) Cross the road and continue along Bowerland Lane still heading east. At the far end of the lane you come to a sharp right hand bend (just before you reach Haxted Road), turn left on the bend to cross a stile into a field **(FP)**. Now, heading north with hedge on your left, walk 400m through a gate and on a further 200m until you come to a fence (this just touches the Meridian Line). Turn left here through a gap in the hedge and veer to your right across a field to a stile. Cross the stile and keep the hedge to your left. Just before you reach some barns, turn right and walk to the corner of the field and through a gate. Keeping the hedge to your left continue for 100m (crossing the Meridian Line again) until you come to a stile in the hedge on your left by an oak tree **(D)**. Cross the stile and across a field to another stile **(D)**. Continue to another stile **(D)** then, keeping the hedge to your left you come to another stile **(D)**. Veer slightly right to cross a field until you come to a stile just to the right of some white cottages and to the left of some barns to reach Chellows Lane. Turn left for 30m and cross a stile to your right **(FP)**. **(6.5K)**
- 5) Veer right to a small bridge to the left of Old Chellows *[Old Chellows is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century]*. Cross the bridge and veer right **(D)**, cross another stile **(D)** and head towards the corner of a pond slightly to your left. Keeping the pond to your left, cross a bridge then down into a small dip and up again to a stile **(D)**. Veer to your left across a field for 100m to another stile **(D)** then cross another field (Beware, sometimes there are 3 alpacas in this field defending the sheep from predators) to a kissing gate at the corner of a garden hedge **(FP)**. Go through the gate and keep the garden hedge to your left until you reach the end of the hedge. Turn left to pass in front of Homefield Farm, through a kissing gate and along the driveway until you reach Caterfield Lane. **(7.7K)**
- 6) On the other side of the road, just to your right, cross a stile **(FP)** and walk straight ahead crossing a field until you reach a railway line. Walk over the railway bridge and continue straight ahead along a ridge. After 150m you cross the Meridian Line again. Pass a telegraph

pole **(D)** and head towards Crowhurst Church Spire. *[To your left just before you reach Crowhurst Village Road is Mansion House which was purchased by William Angell in 1613. His son, John Angell, held royal appointments throughout the reigns of James 1, Charles 1 and Charles 11. They owned substantial land in Lambeth from the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century].* After 500m you reach Crowhurst Village Road. Cross the road and walk through the church yard. *[The church is the oldest building in the parish and is believed to have been dedicated to St George in 1191. There are tombs of the Gainsford family flanking the chancel and the font is Saxon. In the churchyard stands an ancient yew tree, one of the 'great trees of Britain' which some experts estimate to be 4000 years old. To the right of the church is Church Farm House which is a Grade 11 listed building dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century]* Go through the kissing gate into a field and continue for 100m, past an old cottage on your right until you come to a stile **(D)** on your right. Cross the stile and continue straight ahead for 100m, pass through a gap in a hedge **(D)** and continue diagonally to the far corner of a field and wood. Cross a track and continue straight for a further 50m to a stile on your left **(D)**. Continue across another field for a further 100m to a kissing gate leading to Crowhurst Village Road. Turn left and walk along the road for 400m until you come to Crowhurst Lane End again. **(10K)**.

### **Walk 1 B – Shorter route: (total of 7K)**

At Point 3, 10m beyond Crowhurst Place driveway, turn left over a stile **(D)**. Follow the field around, with fence on your left, to join Crowhurst Village Road. Turn left and walk along the road for 200m then right along Pikes Lane. Continue for 600m, past Elliot Place and Pikes Farm House *[Pikes Farm House was originally an old Hall House. It is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century]*, until you reach the junction with Chellows Lane. Walk down Chellows Lane *(crossing the Meridian Line as you do so)* for 200m. Opposite Chellows Farm Cottages and at the entrance to Old Chellows take the stile on your left and **continue the route from Point 5**.

### **Walk 1 C – Alternative shorter route: (total of 9K)**

**At Point 5** do not take stile on your right at the entrance to Old Chellows but continue to walk west along Chellows Lane *(crossing the Meridian Line as you do so)*. When you reach the junction with Caterfield Lane turn right and walk 100m then turn left onto Park Road. Continue to the end of Park Road and at the junction with Crowhurst Village Road turn right and walk 100m along the road. Opposite Altar Cottages *[Altar cottages are Grade 2 listed and date back to 1700]* walk down a metalled farm track on your left **(FP)** towards Stocks and Kingswood Farms. After 50m turn right and cross the stile on your right. At the next stile veer right passing through a large gap in the hedge and continue straight, up a slight incline, to a stile just to the left of a beautiful old cottage **(D)**. Cross the stile and continue straight for 100m, pass through a gap in the hedge **(D)** and continue diagonally to the far corner of a field and wood. Cross a track and continue straight for a further 50m to a stile on your left **(D)**. Continue across another field to a kissing gate leading to Crowhurst Road. Turn left and walk along the road for a further 400m until you come to Crowhurst Lane End again.