

Haslemere to Midhurst (The Midhurst Way)		
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## Haslemere to Midhurst (The Midhurst Way)

**Start:** Haslemere Station

**Finish:** Midhurst Bus Station

Haslemere Station, map reference SU 897 329, is 62 km south west of Charing Cross, 139m above sea level and in **Surrey**. Midhurst, map reference SU 887 218, is 11 km south of Haslemere, 25m above sea level and in **West Sussex**.

**Length:** 16.3 km (10.1 mi), of which 6.1 km (3.8 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 332/449m.

For a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

**Toughness:** 4 out of 10

**Time:** 4 hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 7 ½ hours.

**Transport:** Haslemere station is on the Portsmouth Direct Line from London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour, with up to four trains an hour Mon-Sat (two on Sundays). Journey time is from 48 minutes Mon-Sat (56 minutes on Sundays). Midhurst Bus Stand has services connecting to Haslemere, Petersfield, Pulborough and Chichester stations. Line 70 to Haslemere runs about hourly Mon-Sat (last at 19.15 hours) and every two hours on Sundays (last at 18.35). The fare in 11/21 fare was £5.40.

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** Take the train closest to 10.00.

**OS Landranger Map:** 186 (Aldershot & Guildford) and 197 (Chichester & the South Downs)

**OS Explorer Map:** OL33 (Haslemere & Petersfield)

### Walk Notes:

The route of this walk leads out of Haslemere in a southerly direction through Camelsdale and steeply up to Marley Common, a mixture of mature woodland and open heathland and then continues south through a fine mix of quiet forests with frequent far views out to the South Downs or back to Black Down. The walk continues to the scenic villages of Fernhurst and then Henley with their respective pubs, the latter halfway up another steep ascent to Verdleyhill. Finally it passes Easebourne village and priory and enters Midhurst via Cowdray Park with its polo fields, then past the ruined Cowdray Castle by the River Rother.

This walk is the northerly section of the unmarked Midhurst Way, which has been created by John Trueman, local to the area and a passionate advocate of outdoor pursuits. It runs between Arundel and Haslemere. The northerly section Midhurst to Haslemere is available as a separate SWC Walk. Both sections have been written up in either direction (in separate pdf's) to enable a through-walk of the whole 47.4 km/29.5 mi Midhurst Way with an overnight stay along the route in Sutton, Coultershaw Bridge, Tillington, Halfway Bridge (a little off route) or Midhurst.

### Walk Options:

**For a shortcut**, the Midhurst to Haslemere bus line 70 also stops along the route in: Fernhurst, Henley (above the village on the A-road) and Easebourne (350m off-route on the A286).

**For an Extension**, choose a longer route through the peaceful woods west of Marley Heights. This adds 2.3 km and 57m ascent/descent.

**In Midhurst**, go straight to the Bus Station from the Rother crossing, instead of going up through the town (cut 700m).

### Lunch (details last updated 21/06/2023)

**The Hub** 2 Crossfield, *Fernhurst, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3JL (01428 641 931, <https://www.fernthursthub.org.uk/>)*. The Hub is located 5.8 km (3.6 mi) into the walk. Open 10.00-16.00 Mon-Fri (-13.00 Wed) and 10.00-12.00 Sat.

**The Red Lion** The Green, *Fernhurst, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3HY (01428 643 112, <http://www.red-lion-fernhurst.co.uk/>)*. The Red Lion is located 6.2 km (3.8 mi) into the walk. Open 12.00-15.00 (not Mon) and 17.00-22.00 Mon-Thu, 12.00-22.30 Fri-Sat and 12.00-21.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-14.00 (not Mon) and 18.00-20.00 (Mon-Thu), 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-20.00 Fri-Sat and 12.00-15.00 Sun.

**The Fern at the Pavilion** The Pavilion, *Fernhurst, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3HY (01428 253 768, <https://thefern.southdownscoffee.co.uk/>)*. The Fern is located 6.2 km (3.8 mi) into the walk. Open 08.00-16.00 Tue-Fri, 09.00-15.00 Sat and 11.00-15.00 Sun.

**The Duke of Cumberland Arms** Henley Village, *Henley near Fernhurst, Midhurst, Surrey GU27 3HQ (01428 652 280, <http://dukeofcumberland.com/>)*. The Duke of Cumberland is located 9.7 km (6.1 mi) into the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 daily and 19.00-21.00 Tue-Sat.

### Tea (details last updated 30/05/2023)

**The White Horse** Easebourne Street, *Easebourne, Midhurst, Surrey GU29 0AL (01730 813 521, <http://www.whitehorseeasebourne.co.uk/>)*. The White Horse is located 2.2 km (1.4 mi) from the end of the walk. Open 15.00-23.00 Mon-Thu, all day Fri-Sun. Pizza served 18.00-21.00 Fri-Sat.

**Cowdray Farm Shop Café** Cowdray Park, *Easebourne, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0AJ (01730 815 152, <https://www.cowdray.co.uk/eat-at-cowdray/cowdray-farm-shop-cafe/>)*. Open daily to 17.00. The Cowdray Café is located 1.9 km (1.2 mi) from the end of the walk.

**Garton's Coffee House** The Old Town Hall, Market Square, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NJ (01730 817 166, <https://www.gartons.net/>)*. Garton's is located 530m from the end of the walk.

**The Swan Inn** Red Lion Street, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9PB (01730 859 557, <https://www.swanmidhurst.com/>)*. The Swan is located 500m from the end of the walk. Open to late Mon-Sat and to 18.00 Sun. Dinner served Wed-Sat 18.00-21.00.

**Spread Eagle Hotel** South Street, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NH (01730 816 911, <http://www.hshotels.co.uk/spread-eagle-hotel-and-spa/>)*. The Spread Eagle is located 500m from the end of the walk and a Spa Hotel.

**The Crafty Pint** Apsley House, West Street, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NQ (01730 817 892, <http://craftypintshop.co.uk/>)*. The Crafty Pint is located 450m from the end of the walk. Open to 17.00 Tue-Wed and to 18.00 Thu-Sat.

**The Bricklayers Arms** West Street/Wool Lane, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9BX (01730 812 084, <https://bricklayersarmsmidhurst.co.uk/>)*. The Bricklayers Arms is located 400m from the end of the walk. Open all day every day.

**The Wheatsheaf** Wool Lane, Rumbolds Hill, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9BY (01730 813 450, <https://wheatsheafmidhurst.com/>)*. The Wheatsheaf is located 300m from the end of the walk.

**The Angel Inn** North Street, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9DN (01730 812 421)*. The Angel Inn is located near the end of the walk. **Currently closed after a devastating fire.**

**The Olive & Vine** North Street, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9BY (01730 859 532)*. The Olive & Vine is located at the end of the walk. **Currently closed after a devastating fire**

**Fitzcane's Café Ice Cream** North Street, *Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9DJ (01730 817 951, <http://www.fitzcanes.com/>)*. The Olive & Vine is located at the end of the walk. Open to 16.30 Tue-Sun.

## Notes:

### Haslemere

Haslemere is a town first mentioned in 1221 (as a Godalming tithing) and named after Hazel trees standing beside a mere (lake) which no longer exists. The most southerly town in Surrey, it sits at the tripoint with West Sussex and Hampshire. The south branch of the River Wey rises just to the south, on Black Down.

### The River Wey

The River Wey is very unusual in that it has several sources feeding two separate rivers that share the same name. The northern branch rises near Alton in Hampshire, while the south branch has two sources: one rises just over the West Sussex border on the western flank of Blackdown near Haslemere, the other at Inval, below Gibbet Hill, Hindhead. Both arms of the river join south of Farnham at Tilford in Surrey. From there the Wey as a single river flows east to Godalming and then northwards towards the Thames. The name 'Wey' may be derived from the Old English word *Éa* meaning "river". The main sub-tributary is the Tilling Bourne flowing from the slopes of Leith Hill.

### Marley Common

Marley Common has been acquired by the National Trust in 1911 and is a 60 hectares/150 acres mixed broadleaf woodland and open heathland. It was used as an army training ground during the Second World War, and during the 1950s and 1960s it suffered devastating fires which swept across the open heath.

### Serpent Trail

The Serpent Trail is a 103 km (64 mi) waymarked Long Distance Path through some of the finest heathland and woodland landscapes in the South East and follows a rough "S" shape along the hills of the Sussex Greensand - snaking between Haslemere, Petworth, Midhurst and Petersfield in a habitat of snakes.

### Sussex Border Path

The Sussex Border Path is a 222 km (138 mi) waymarked Long Distance Path approximating the Sussex border with Hampshire, Surrey and Kent, first making a 15 km circuit around Thorney Island and then crossing the South Downs before heading to Gospel Green, Rudgwick, Gatwick and East Grinstead.

### Cowdray Estate/House

The evocative ruins of Cowdray House – the former home of the Montague family and immortalized by JMW Turner – form the central focus of the 6,677 hectares/16,500 acres Cowdray Estate. It was a fortified Tudor manor house built in the 1520s on the site of an original manor house called Coudreye (Norman word for the nearby hazel woods) built across the River Rother 1273-1284. The structure was badly damaged by a fire in 1793 during a restoration project and left to decay. In its heyday, Cowdray House saw many influential visitors including Henry VIII, Edward VI, Elizabeth I and Guy Fawkes. The last surviving member of the House of Plantagenet was imprisoned in the house before being taken to the Tower of London for execution. The estate includes world class polo fields and a Farm Shop and Café with wine tasting room. The window frames of many of the Estates cottages around Midhurst are painted in unusual yellow paint.

### Easebourne Priory

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built as an Augustinian nunnery for a prioress and ten nuns. It was founded before 1238 by the de Bohun family of St. Ann's Hill in nearby Midhurst, probably by John de Bohun. It may have been re-founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and became Benedictine. In 1536, following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Easebourne Priory was granted to William FitzWilliam, 1st Earl of Southampton, along with other properties. Claustal remains are now incorporated into a Grade I listed house built on the south side of St Mary's church. The restored refectory is now in parochial use.

### The Rother River

The River Rother flows from Empshott in Hampshire to Stopham in West Sussex, where it joins the River Arun. The upper river, from its source to Midhurst, has been used to power watermills, with the earliest recorded use being in 1086. Many of the buildings which housed the mills still exist, and in some cases, still retain their milling machinery. This section is also noted for the number of early bridges, which have survived since the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The lower Rother has been used for navigation in the past. The river is a designated Site of Nature Conservation Importance, in recognition of its value for wildlife.

### Midhurst

Midhurst is a medieval market town nestled in the South Downs National Park, with some remains of a Norman motte-and-double bailey castle built in 1102 (along with Pulborough, Chichester and Bramber castles) to safeguard the Norman stronghold in Sussex after the Conquest in 1066. Also surviving are the town stocks and pillory, last used in 1859. Like Pulborough castle, near the confluence of the River Rother and the Arun, Midhurst Castle was built on a high point (St. Ann's Hill) along the River Rother, an important transportation link in the Middle Ages due to poor roads in the area. Midhurst Castle led to the growth of Midhurst as a thriving town but was abandoned in 1317 and ultimately replaced with Cowdray House, built just across the river. The name Midhurst was first recorded in 1186 as *Middeherst*, meaning "Middle wooded hill", or "(place) among the wooded hills".

## WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train in **Haslemere** on platform 1 and leave through the ticket office or to the left of it, *turn right* and follow the driveway down to a main road 60m away (Lower Street), where you cross the road to continue up **Longdene Road**. In 350m, soon after a left turn in the road, ignore a right turning footpath by the corner of a wood, and in 20m continue up along **Hedgehog Lane**, where the main road turns sharply up to the left (as Courts Hill Road). In 30m *turn right* along a wide path through trees and between barbed wire fences, with a footpath signpost on the right. In 50m go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate (often open) and continue in the same direction, with a new housing estate on the right. In 450m continue along a gravel drive by a house on the left (**Sturt Farm** on the OS map) and in 60m cross the **A287 Sturt Road** a little to the right and walk around some metal railings to continue down a tarmac path. In 30m you cross a stream (the infant south branch of the **River Wey**) and continue along **Sturt Avenue**. In 110m *fork left* by some school buildings.

In 100m *turn right* at a T-junction with the **B2131 Camelsdale Road**. Ignore **Marley Combe Road** turning left after 30m and pass a bus stop on the left in 30m. [!] In 30m *turn left* across the road and follow a footpath signpost with a National Trust marker up a steep path to the right of a wooded area. In 300m ignore a left turning path, leading to a parallel gravel track and in 10m ignore a right turning footpath by the last house on the right to continue with a high marker post in the same direction further up into **Marley Combe**. In 180m ignore another right turning path and continue in the same direction with a marker post. In 30m you walk through a wooden gate into a fenced part of the wood and in 80m *veer right* with a marker post where a more major path joins from the left. In 10m ignore a right turn to *bear left* (180°) with the marked footpath and in 30m continue in the same direction where another path turns right. In 30m you reach an open area (**Marley Common**) and in 130m ignore another right turning path.

In 110m, by a bench a little away to the left, you have views on the left back to **Hindhead Common and Gibbet Hill** (on a bearing of 20°). In 40m cross a six-way path junction (**Serpent Trail** and **Sussex Border Path** cross) and *fork left* (130°). In 230m continue in the same direction at a crosspaths with a footpath marker post and in 70m go through the left of two close wooden gates to leave the fenced area of the wood and cross a tarmac lane leading to some houses on the left. In 50m, by a marker post, ignore the footpath ahead and [!] *turn right* to in 60m emerge from the wood onto **Marley Lane** with the National Trust **Marley Common Car Park** opposite. You have splendid far views out to the **South Downs near Petersfield** (Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Butser Hill, with its transmission mast, on 235°). *Turn left* (from the previous direction) along the lane and in 20m a signposted footpath turns right into the wood.

### Here you have a choice:

**For an Extension**, *turn right* into the wood and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Extension**.

**For the Main Walk**, continue along the lane. Over the next 130m ignore a couple of signposted footpaths from the left out of the wood. In another 50m, just before a tarmac lane joins from the left, you *fork right* along a car wide track through trees along an unmarked restricted byway. In 230m the track bears right and then in 50m curves back to the left to continue in the previous direction. In 240m, by a three-way signpost, you *fork left* with the (gravel) restricted byway, ignoring the right forking (tarmac) bridleway. In 120m you have a couple of houses on the left (**Kilnhanger** and **The Old Orchard**) and in another 30m you continue downhill along a narrow path with an overgrown restricted byway marker post on the left.

In another 50m the path turns left and right to continue in the previous direction, steeply downhill, with a hanging wood on the left (**Kingsley Copse**). You descend to the tarmac lane visible below and in 70m cross the lane (a signposted bridleway) by a four-way signpost to continue along the restricted byway. In about 100m you may be able to spot a large house above on the right through the trees (**High Marley** on the OS map). In 100m a footpath joins from the left at a signposted junction as you now enjoy occasional open views into the valley below. In 90m you *fork down to the left* with the restricted byway, where a footpath joins from the right. This is the Extension.

\*) In 60m another footpath joins from the right by a Public Right of Way-signpost as you continue in the same direction, soon on tarmac, by **Updown Cottage** on the left. The lane descends (steeply initially) through **Van Common**, and in 400m where it levels out, you have good views of the South Downs chain on the right. In 70m curve right with the lane, where a footpath turns left into a wood. In about 50m take a tarmac path in the grass to the left of the lane. In 80m a footpath joins away on the right out of **Vanlands Farm** by a three-way signpost and in 50m by a marker post you **[!]** *fork left* with the path away from the lane and in 40m enter a wood. In 120m emerge from the wood and *turn left* along the busy **Vann Road** into **Fernhurst** village.

You immediately cross a stream on the road and in 50m have a pavement on the left-hand side. In 450m you pass **The Hub** café and shop away on the right, just before meeting the **A286 Haslemere Road/Midhurst Road**. There is a **village store** about 30m along on the right and a **bus stop for services to Midhurst and Haslemere** a further 70m along. Cross the A road and continue in the same direction along a tarmac path to the left of **Church Road**. In 200m the path continues to the right of **St. Margaret of Antioch, Fernhurst**, veering away from the road and in 70m you emerge on the village green. The early lunch stop **The Red Lion** is 90m away in the left corner of the green and **The Fern at the Pavilion** lounge a little to the right of it. If not going to either, *turn right* along the right hand side of the green (or: with the or lounge behind you, *turn left* along the lane along the left hand side of the green).

At the far end of the green continue along the road initially (signpost 'Lickfold, Lurgashall, Lodsworth'). In 20m *veer left* along a tarmac path parallel to the left of the lane. In 130m cross a car wide track leading to a field gate on the left and soon afterwards, by a sports field on the left, the path dips and curves away from the lane, which runs at a higher level off to the right. In 50m by a house on the left, you have a stream running on your right-hand side and in about 100m you cross another stream coming in from the left. In 10m *turn right* with the path to cross the stream on a railed bridge and *turn left* immediately with the path. In 65m *turn left* with the path to re-cross the stream and in 10m *turn right* along a tarmac lane. In 50m cross a footpath and follow **Ropes Lane** up to the main road to *turn left* along it in 70m.

**[!]** In 210m, where an unmarked and indistinct but clear earth path forks right up an earth bank into a wood, *turn right* up the path into **Bridgeland Copse** and follow the **presumed permissive path** (on basis of its evident use and the gate at the far end never having been seen locked), largely parallel to the lane. Ignore a right turn along the way and in 250m emerge from the wood through a metal field gate and *turn right* along a tarmac lane. In 60m curve sharply left with the lane, ignoring a signposted footpath over a stile into a field. In 110m, where the lane turns right, continue in the same direction along a tarmac drive (a signed cul-de-sac) with a sign for **Courts Farm**. In 40m you pass **Home Farm** and in 130m cross a stream on the drive. In about 170m, where the trees on the left discontinue, you have **Verdley Place** on the left, a Victorian Grade II-listed building in Vernacular Revival style.

In 90m you *fork right* along tarmac, ignoring the continuation of the gravel footpath ahead, and in another 90m *turn down right* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane. [SWC

Walk 263 Haslemere to Midhurst via Henley joins from the left.] You cross a stream on the lane and immediately *turn right* on the other side along a signposted restricted byway, with the stream on your right. In 60m ignore a right turning footpath and *turn left* away from the stream with the restricted byway. In 150m you emerge onto a tarmac lane leading to **Courts Farm** on your left.

Here you...

- **either** follow the always rutted and mud-prone continuation of the restricted byway ahead for 560m;
- **or veer left** a little to continue parallel to the byway along a footpath, initially along a car wide gravel track, to continue in the same direction for 500m, on the left with views to **Bexleyhill** with its transmission mast, and eventually with views back to **Black Down**, going over a few stiles and across a few fields and through a wooded strip along the way to eventually enter a wood over another stile. In 30m cross a stream on a railed plank bridge and in another 35m go down some railed wooden steps onto the byway and *turn left* along it.

In another 150m *veer right* along a car wide drive from a house on the left and in 80m continue in the same direction at a crosspaths (bridleway to the left, footpath to the right). You have **Verdley Wood** on the left (for most of this stretch behind some picturesquely overgrown wall remnants) and some fields on the right. In 400m an unmarked footpath joins from the left out of the wood, and in another 50m you emerge from the wood by a cottage on the left to in 30m continue uphill along a tarmac drive. In 90m *turn left* at a T-junction, further steeply uphill into **Henley** village, in 50m passing the late lunch stop **The Duke of Cumberland Arms**. Continue in the same direction past the pub and in 180m, where the road turns sharply right, continue in the same direction with a footpath signpost through a gap in a wooden fence along an earthen path, steeply up **Verdleyhill**, initially along a stepped section.

In about 200m the path levels out where there is a break in the trees on the left, revealing views back along the route walked from Fernhurst, including of Verdley Place, with Black Down behind. In 350m you go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate into a small pasture. Head for the far right corner, en route in 100m enjoying yet more views to Black Down on the left, and in 180m leave the field through a wooden gate to continue to the left of some stables. In 35m *turn right* along a farm track to pass more stables at **Verdley Farm**. You leave the farm yard in 60m through a usually open double wooden field gate and continue along the farm's drive. In 200m *fork left* at a triangular green and in 20m *turn left* along a road. In 40m ignore a right turning forest track, but in another 60m *turn right* along a footpath (with a signpost on the right) into **Scotland Knob** plantation. In 100m ignore a right fork to continue in the same direction and in 90m leave the new plantings to enter a more mature wood.

In 130m cross a restricted byway by a marker post on the left and in 110m *turn right* at a T-junction with a forest track. In 110m cross another forest track a little to the right at a signposted junction to continue downhill and in 200m *turn left* with the signposted track (the post can be overgrown). In 60m *turn right* with a marker post through a wooded strip and emerge in a large arable field by a two-way signpost, with **South Downs views** ahead and with a large pylon line running across the field. Follow a usually well-cleared path across the field (210°) and in 200m continue in the same direction along a field boundary, in 30m entering an adjacent field. In 70m you go under the pylon line and in 320m, in the far-left corner of the field, continue in the same direction along a car wide track, which curves right to in 50m meet a lane at a bend.

*Turn left* with a four-way signpost on the left, down along **Wick Lane**, soon between high earthen banks, and in 350m continue in the same direction at a four-way junction of car wide tracks with a footpath and in 60m you continue in the same direction along a

grassy track running between a couple of large arable fields and in 450m *turn left* with a marker post (can be overgrown) along the field boundary. In 30m *turn right* through the boundary growth onto a gravel track by some allotments, where you *turn left*. Ignore a right turning path in 40m at a cemetery corner and in 75m continue in the same direction along tarmac. In 40m *veer right* with the drive and in 70m *turn right* at a T-junction along **Easebourne Street** in Easebourne village. In 60m pass the early (pub) tea stop **The White Horse**. In another 60m, with a **bus stop for services to Pulborough and Midhurst** just to the right, *turn left* at a T-junction with the **A 272 Easebourne Lane** in the center of **Easebourne** [but **for the bus to Haslemere** *turn right* and in 350m reach the A286, with the bus stop opposite to the right].

You pass **St. Mary, Easebourne** and in 80m *turn right* to cross the road carefully and continue down a wide tarmac drive into the heart of the **Cowdray Estate**. You pass **Easebourne Priory** on your right-hand side in 30m and in 70m **Cowdray Farm Shop Café**, a recommended **tea stop**, is on your right. Continue along the tarmac drive with some polo fields on the left. In 100m go around a double wooden gate to continue in the same direction on the – soon gravel – drive (ignore a left fork). SWC Walk 48 Haslemere to Midhurst via Lurgashall or Lickfold has joined from the left. In a further 270m go to the right of a double wooden field gate to carry on in the same direction along the right hand side of a wooden fence along the car wide track. In 200m you go to the right of a double wooden field gate to continue in the same direction. In 30m *take the left hand fork* on a car wide gravel track, which in 110m continues as tarmac, with the ruins of **Cowdray House** ahead on the left. In 120m you arrive at the metal gate in front of **Cowdray House**, a fortified Tudor courtier's house, on the left hand side. *Turn right* to cross the **River Rother**, going through first a metal, then a wooden gate.

**Once across the river, you have a choice:**

**For a shortcut to the bus stop**, *continue* down the wide track for 330m emerging into the **Midhurst bus station** and return to Haslemere on Bus 70 (direction Guildford).

**For the Main Walk route through Midhurst** *turn left* on a faint footpath along the Rother and follow this path on the right-hand side of the river. In 120m this curves to the right and in a further 60m you walk through a wooden kissing gate. In a further 25m, where the riverside path turns left at a three-way footpath signpost, *continue in the same direction up* a stepped path with a wooden railing on the left, leaving the riverside footpath. At the top of the steps (ignoring a path to the left along the way), the path soon levels out and you reach a clearing with several large trees and the low stone remains of (the Norman motte-and-double bailey) **Midhurst Castle** on your left. Follow the hedge on your right as it curves gently to the right. In 70m go through a wooden gate onto a road (**St. Anne's Castle Road**) and continue along it.

In 70m you cross a road at **Midhurst's** market square with **St. Mary Magdalene and St. Denys Church** on the right, a **stock & pillory** to the left in the corner of **The Old Town Hall**, **Garton's Coffee House** also in the building on the left (entrance at the far side), **The Swan Inn** opposite the square and **The Spread Eagle Hotel** (Lounge Bar with 'Luxury Afternoon Tea') to the left of it. Cross the market square to continue to the left of The Swan Inn along **West Street**, in 40m pass **The Crafty Pint** on the right and in 50m *turn right* along **Wool Lane** by **The Bricklayers Arms** on your right. In 75m reach **The Wheatsheaf Inn** on your left at a junction with **North Street**. Continue along North Street (past **Tilly's Tea Room**, several chain restaurants, **Faustino's Wine & Tapas Bar**, **Caffe Verdi**, **The Angel Inn**, **The Olive & Vine** and **Fitzcane's Café Ice Cream**) and in 300m reach **Midhurst bus station** on the right hand side.

Catch the number 70 bus to Haslemere Station (direction Guildford).

## Extension

In 180m at a three-way footpath signpost, ignore a right fork downhill and in 170m you emerge from the dense mature wood and continue downhill a track with fine views into a wooded valley to the right, with some houses visible opposite, as well as down the wooded valley ahead to other wooded ridges. In 180m *turn left* with the track and continue downhill along the wooded flank, with some fine occasional views to the hill ahead that the route will loop around, as well as down the wooded valley to the right. In 200m *fork right* further downhill through the wood, ignoring a level left fork. In 100m another forest track joins from the right behind at a signposted three-way footpath junction and in 60m you *turn right* at another signposted three-way footpath junction.

In 350m ignore a left turning track at a small triangular wooded area and in 10m pass a two-way signpost on the left. You go through a left and right turn en route and in 330m *turn left* with a signpost at a gravel track T-junction, passing a **forestry yard** with various tools, machines and piles of timber. In 200m go through a recently-felled area and in 100m re-enter trees, soon descending. In 80m you reach a marked three-way footpath junction and *turn up to the left*. You are now in **Greenhill Wood**. The path levels out and in 320m you *curve to the right* with it by a two-way signpost, now with a drop on the right [**note**: the marked right-of-way here is different from what the OS map shows]. In 170m *turn up to the left* with the path and in 60m at a path junction by a two-way footpath signpost, *turn right* on the level. In 30m you pass a marker post.

In 210m cross another forest path by a marker post (145°) and curve to the left with the path. In 210m *bear further left* at a signposted three-way footpath junction. In 180m pass a marker post and continue in the same direction at a three-way junction, along a level path. In 270m you leave the mature wood and continue along a level path along the flank of the wooded hill with a regrowing area of **Crab Copse** to the right below. You have some views on the right towards **Fernhurst** village below and to **Bexleyhill Wood** beyond it (the transmission mast comes into view along the way) and with **Black Down** towering above and ahead. In about 200m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and cross a signposted public footpath (overgrown in both directions). In 30m you reach a signposted three-way footpath/restricted byway junction. The Main Walk joins from the left.

*Turn right* downhill and pick up the directions in the main text at the asterisk \*).