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## The Clandons and Hatchlands Park

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Distance: 9 km=5½ miles

easy walking

Region: Surrey

Date written: 20-jan-2019

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Refreshments: East Clandon, West Clandon

Map: Explorer 145 (Guildford) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

*Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: [feedback@fancyfreewalks.org](mailto:feedback@fancyfreewalks.org)*

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*Villages, meadows, woodland, parkland*

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### In Brief

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This walk is truly in the spirit of this website because it takes a most unusual route through these two Surrey villages. By starting in *Hatchlands Park*, this route also gives you access to this historic country seat (NB the house is not always open!) and garden with its long circular walks (chargeable to non-NT members). Non-NT members who do not wish to pay the entrance fee must start outside *Hatchlands Park* and must return to the village by road (see end of section [5](#)).

There are two of the best Surrey inns on this walk, both very popular. (To enquire at the *Onslow Arms*, ring 01483-222447. For the *Queens Head*, ring 01483-222332.)



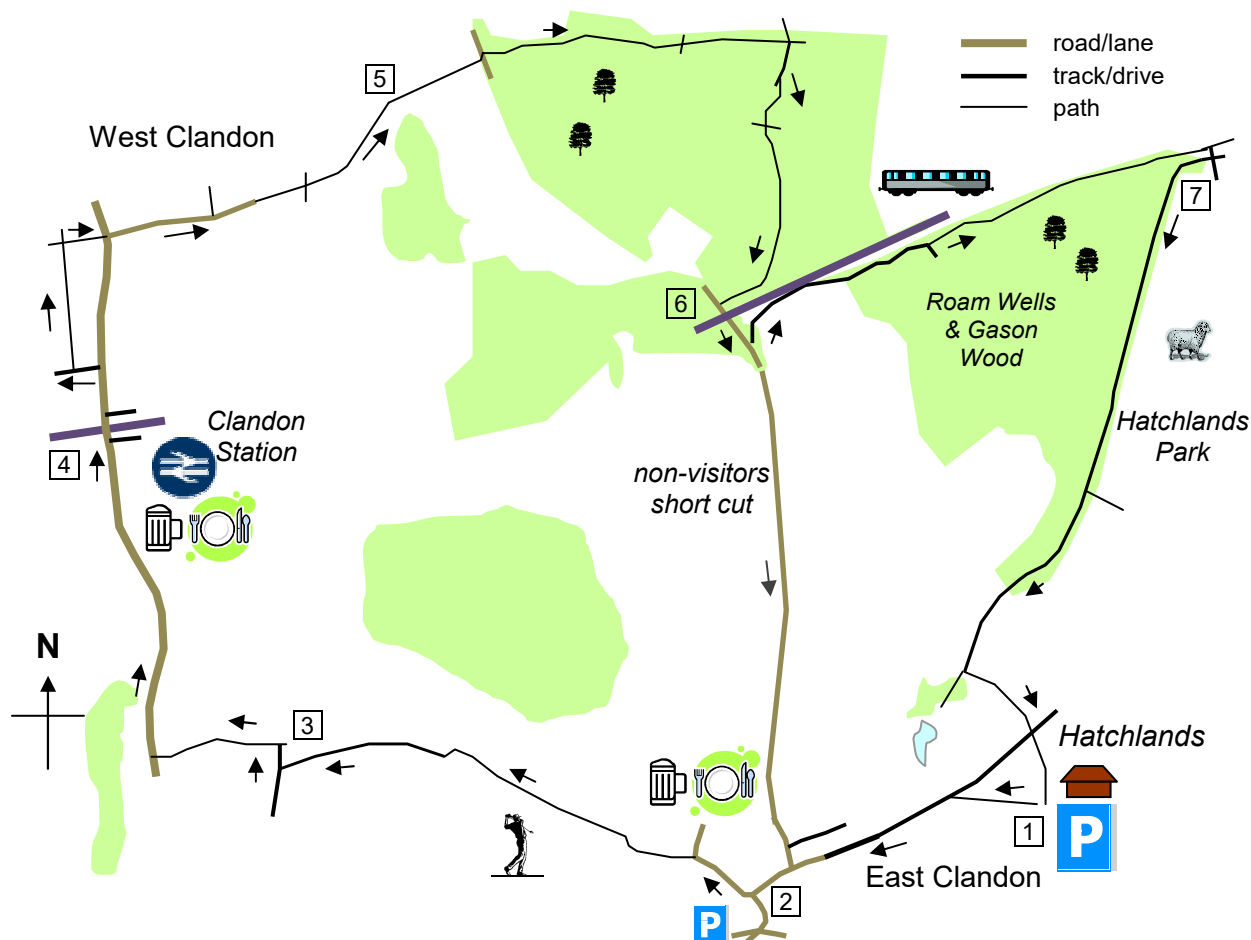
There are no nettles or brambles on this walk, so any kind of attire and sensible footwear shoes are usually fine. In a wet winter (like 2020-21), boots are all but essential, with some arkedly sloshy sections. Your dog is also welcome on this walk but please note, he is not allowed in the dining room of the *Onslow Arms*. The *Queen's Head* is dog-friendly however.



The walk begins at the car park of *Hatchlands*, just outside East Clandon, [www.w3w.co/nurse.them.angel](http://www.w3w.co/nurse.them.angel), postcode **GU4 7RT** or at **Clandon railway station** (begin at section [4](#)) or at the village of **East Clandon**, Surrey, postcode **GU4 7RN** (park in the Old Epsom Road, especially the west side, [www.w3w.co/native.rocket.smashes](http://www.w3w.co/native.rocket.smashes), where there is oodles of space). Visitors to *Hatchlands* who start this walk *outside the park* must pay or show their membership at the ticket hut which is on the route (section [1](#)). For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

## The Walk

If you are starting the walk at **Clandon** railway station, skip first to section [4](#). Exiting on the north side, you have a choice of **right** to the “blue section” or **left** up to the main road and **right**.



- 1** Starting at the *Hatchlands Park* car park, pay or show your membership at the ticket hut to enter the park. [This walk as written now takes you on a visit to the villages before returning to see the park and house \(if open\).](#) However, you may prefer to see the park first and join the walk later. Avoiding the path ahead to the house, go **left** through trees and across grass to meet a tarmac driveway. Turn **left** on it, exiting the park, bypassing an animal grid, and entering the village of East Clandon. Keep ahead, ignoring side roads on the left and a junction on the right.
- 2** From near the *Queens Head* pub in the village of East Clandon, take Back Lane, a very quiet lane which runs beside the pub. After 150m, ignore a footpath and stile on the left but, 40m later, at a bend by a modern house, keep **left** on a gravel track signed as a footpath. The track quickly becomes a narrow footpath through woodland. In 500m or so, after several turns, the path leads you past a redundant metal kissing gate, and out onto the links of Clandon Regis Golf Club. Keep to the right-hand edge for 150m or so, till you come through a gap in the trees beside a ditch. Here, your path turns squarely **left** by two signposts [\[Apr 2024: one missing\]](#), crossing over a golfer's path. Now go diagonally **right**, up a gradual slope, on a wide green track which runs beside some hillocks on your left. (There are new trees planted either side of the track, and they will line the route in future years.) Stay on the track, heading for the redbrick clubhouse visible

ahead. Finally, your path goes over a little bridge to a T-junction with the main driveway.

- 3 Turn **right** on the drive and, where it shortly turns left towards the car park, keep straight on along a dirt track. In less than 50m, turn **left** on a footpath through trees. The path shortly goes between fences and leads out to the main road in West Clandon. (Clandon church, mentioned below, is 700m **left** on the road, as a possible diversion.) Carefully cross the road (best done here) and turn **right**, using the footway. In just over 400m, on the right-hand side is the *Onslow Arms* pub.



*The Onslow Arms is the soul of the village. In 2011 the pub underwent a massive refurbishment. There is a lunchtime menu to satisfy everybody, including highly educated sandwiches in case you don't want the gourmet burger or the calves' liver. As for ales, the Onslow has its own brew, unless you prefer Shere Drop or TEA (that's Traditional English Ale). The pub is named after the Earl of Onslow whose family owns Clandon Park and the pub sign shows the family crest. Tables get booked up at a weekend, so it is advisable to ring: on 01483-222-447.*

*West Clandon's name means "clean" in the sense of "unwooded". A small village until the coming of the railway, it came to epitomise "leafy Surrey" of commuterland. The church of St Peter and St Paul (south along the road) is a 12<sup>th</sup>-century gem, close to Clandon Park, the house gutted by fire in 2015.*



Continue along the road to the bridge over the railway, with Clandon station on your right. If you came by train, the adventure is finished.

- 4 Go over the road bridge. There is an optional imaginative alternative here (in blue) below, along a private road, unsuitable for large groups, shift-eyed drifters or noisy riffraff who must please follow the standard route.

After the bridge, turn immediately **right** next to the railway on the approach lane. After the station, continue on a narrow path, then ahead along the high-class residential Oak Grange Road. This is a road with splendid properties on each side, a pleasure to walk through and not at all unwelcoming. The road does a double bend and after a further 300m, turns left again. In 400m, the road turns left at a sign *Dangerous Corner*. Turn **left** with road for just 40m and then go **right** and **right** again, over a brook, doubling back, on a signed footpath. Now skip to section 5. Otherwise ...

Continue along the main road for 150m or so and turn **left** on the concrete Dedswell Drive. (This route requires a road crossing near a blind bend: something to be considered if you have children with you; some walkers stayed on the road.) In 50m, turn **right** at a fingerpost on a footpath. This path runs between garden fences, later with a meadow on your left. After 250m, you reach a crosspaths with a modern kissing-gate on your left. Turn **right** here on a narrow path leading to the main road (*care! listen for sudden traffic - it's best to shift as far as you can to the left first*). Cross over, ignoring a signed footpath on the left, and go through an archway to join a residential road, Lime Grove. In 250m, ignore a signed track on your left. Where Lime Grove ends shortly after, keep ahead through a width restrictor on a tarmac footpath. After crossing a tarmac drive, keep straight on along a signed footpath beside a brook.

- 5 In 200m, a barrier and a stout bridge lead to a stile (now only a tight V-stile), through two lightweight metal gates (lift one and replace) and out into a meadow. Keep straight on across the centre, between two trees, finally over a stile beside a large metal gate, leading onto the Ripley Road. Cross the road and take a footpath through woodland. *The compound on your left is HM Prison*

Send, a closed women's prison run on enlightened principles. 500m from the road, where you see the boundary of two pastures on your left, ignore an unmarked crossing path. In a further 150m the meadow gives way to a narrow strip of woodland. Shortly after that, you meet a crossing track, marked with yellow arrows and a very faint blue arrow as a bridleway. Turn **right** on this track. In 100m, just before a gatepost marked *Private*, keep **left** on a narrower winding woodland path. In 150m, you meet a wide crossing track. Go straight over, still on a narrow woodland path. In a further 300m or so, ignore a path on the left at a 3-way fingerpost. Your path shortly begins to curve right and finally leads out to the road. Turn **left** under the railway arch.

If you are not a NT member and do not wish to pay to enter *Hatchlands Park*, continue on the road for 1¼ km, turn **right** at a T-junction into the village of East Clandon. If you began here, the adventure is finished. If not, skip back to section [2](#) to resume the walk. Otherwise ...

- 6** In 100m, next to two large metal gates go **left** on a footpath. Go immediately **left** and keep left on a track that runs beside the railway on your left. As your track rises, the railway almost disappears in a cutting. On your right are the impenetrable woodlands of Roam Wells and Gason Wood. Where the track suddenly bends right, keep ahead between posts on a wide path. You pass a small relay station. Finally, over 1 km from the road, the end of the woodland approaches as you pass a redundant stile [\[2020: now gone\]](#). A sheep pasture and a farm can be seen ahead. Note a small metal gate now barred with brushwood, bearing a National Trust sign for *Hatchlands Park*. Walk another 20m and turn **right** on a crossing farm track to enter the park. [The walk as written now takes you straight back to the entrance. You may prefer to turn left on the main woodland path to see more of the Long Walk, including the ponds and Willow Warren and the house \(if open\).](#)

*The estate at Hatchlands was listed in the Domesday Book and was owned by Chertsey Abbey till the Dissolution. Henry VIII gave it to Sir Anthony Browne (the man who was "never more dismayed in his life" after being sent to escort the future fourth wife, Anne of Cleves). Successive owners had it landscaped: Admiral Edward Boscawen (siegemaster of Jenkin's Ear) and George Holme Sumner who engaged Humphry Repton.*

*Boscawen engaged the wonderfully-named architect Stiff Leadbetter ("a second generation Palladian") for the house. The Sumners sold it to Stuart (1st Baron) Rendel and his family lived there till 1959. He added the large Music Room which has an organ. The next owner, Francis Mathew, printed the Times newspaper at Hatchlands during the print union strikes of the early 60s. The house is now host to the Cobbe Collection of harpsichords and pianos and each room boasts several instruments. The house is open Tue, Wed, Thur & Sun in the warmer months.*

- 7** Veer **right** on a wide woodland path marked with pink arrows. This is part of the Long Walk which does a circuit of the grounds and is especially popular at bluebell time. Stay on the main peripheral path, ignoring any gates on your left. After more than 1km, the woods thin out and (summer foliage permitting) you have a view of the house. Finally, you meet a large metal gate on your left with the routemarker arrow pointing left. Turn **left** here to enter the open space of the park. The path crosses a tarmac drive. One possible route now is to head for the house, either branching awar right to join the path to the car park, or entering the precincts of the house (loos, bookshop, café) and taking the path to the car park where the walk began.

## Getting there

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By car: **Hatchlands Park** is off the A246 Leatherhead-Guildford Road. Look for the National Trust (oak leaves) sign 500 yds east of East Clandon. There is an overflow car park, if needed.

**East Clandon** is off the A246 Leatherhead-Guildford Road. You can also reach it by a gentle route via Hungry Hill Lane / Ripley Road from Ockham and the A3. The Old Epsom Road cul-de-sac is the **first** road to the **left** after turning into East Clandon (if coming from the A246) or the **last** road on the **right** just before the main A246 (if coming through the village).

By train: frequent from Waterloo every day to Clandon station. Check the timetables.

By bus: no. 463 from Guildford.

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