

Circular Walk around Gatwick Nature Reserve

A interesting circuit around one of the biggest and best wildlife areas in Crawley, right on the edge of the airport

Start Point: The Parson's Pig public house, on the Balcombe Road between Crawley and Horley

Distance/Duration: **3.5 miles/ 1- 1.5 hours**

Difficulty: **Medium**, undulating with some rough terrain. Can be very wet and muddy in places so sturdy footwear is recommended

Accessibility: **Restricted**, parts of the walk are along rough paths, so may not be suitable for wheelchairs or buggies. There is one stile on the route and a narrow footbridge.

Refreshments/Facilities: Available at The Parson's Pig pub

Directions	Information
1. Start at the Parson's Pig pub on the Balcombe Road.	
2. Head left when you leave the car park walking towards Horley. After approximately 150m take the first road on the left, Radford Road.	
3. Follow the pavement on the left hand side of the road for approximately 150m. On the opposite side of the road is a public footpath sign. Cross the road and follow the footpath between the houses.	
4. Continue to follow the public footpath to Goat meadow. Go straight on at the footpath junction. After another 100 metres, cross a small footbridge and continue straight ahead to the next footpath sign where you go half left.	Look out for orchids in June. Goat Meadow was grazed up until approximately 15 years ago and was the site of an old greyhound track, hence the nearby Greyhound pub. It is an excellent area for orchids in the spring. The word Gatwick derives from the old English for goat farm.
5. 25 meters farther on, at the sign for Pickett's Wood, follow the public footpath bearing directly right and continue until you reach the road. Turn left and follow the pavement for approximately 250m.	After about 150m, look out for the large Hornbeam on your left. Hornbeam was the preferred choice of wood for charcoal. This was used in gunpowder which was of superior quality to that of the French and aided Nelson in his battles!
6. Turn left along the public footpath opposite Fernhill Road and continue along the surfaced track until reaching the stile on your left just before the car park perimeter fence.	
7. Cross the stile and follow the public footpath with the fence to your right.	

8. At the four – way footpath turn right. 20 meters farther on at another footpath sign turn right again into the meadow and continue straight on to Horleyland wood keeping the car park to your right.

9. Follow the public footpath straight on into Horleyland Wood and continue ahead. 30 meters into the wood there is a three way fork(no signpost). Take the middle path.

Horleyland Wood is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and is an example of ancient woodland meaning there has been woodland here since around 1600. The bluebells here are fantastic in the spring.

10. Shortly you will see a large pond on your right. Just after this the footpath goes half-right(signposted).Continue to the next footpath sign with a car park straight ahead of you.

11. At footpath sign turn left along the path (not marked as a public footpath) and follow circular route through the woodland.

12. Emerge from the woodland with the water works to your right and re-enter the meadow.

13. Turn right to pass between two lines of trees and continue to the corner of the meadow. Follow the public footpath sign bearing left and follow the edge of the meadow.

14. At the four-way footpath sign at Pickett's Wood, follow the public footpath, which bears, to the right.

15. Bear right after approximately 20m and follow the public footpath straight on ignoring a right fork after 30 metres.

16. Cross over the small footbridge and continue straight on through Goat's meadow following the public footpath straight ahead.

17. Continue until you reach Radford Road. Cross the road and turn left along the pavement,

18. At the junction with the Balcombe Road, turn right and return to the Parson's Pig pub and the car park.