



Standen, West Hoathly Road,
East Grinstead, West Sussex,
RH19 4NE

TRAIL
Walking

GRADE
Moderate

DISTANCE
8.5 miles (13.5km)

TIME
3 hours

OS MAP
Explorer 135

Contact

01342 323029
standen@nationaltrust.org.uk

Facilities

Refreshments, toilets and shop
at Standen

Car park not open outside of
opening hours

**National
Trust**

nationaltrust.org.uk/walks

Walk from Standen to Selsfield Common and back

An 8.5 mile (13.5km) walk for more experienced walkers, to and from Selsfield Common, a heathland habitat of the High Weald AONB with bilberry flowers in the spring.



Terrain

Mainly on good paths and roads but there can be muddy patches and there are several stiles. Dogs on leads are welcome. This walk uses footpaths that are not under the control of the National Trust. The walk is checked occasionally but if you find any problems please contact us so we can re-check the directions and conditions for other walkers.

Things to see



Bluebell Railway

The view here includes Manor Hill Farm and the embankment of the Bluebell Railway line. The recently extended Bluebell Railway now runs between Sheffield Park and East Grinstead. Regular steam train services operate throughout the year.

West Hoathly village

From this stile, you can see the distant North Downs and the grey square tower of St Swithun's church, East Grinstead. By the stile, within the wood, is a track which leads to the village of West Hoathly. The 84 Metrobus bus stops here and runs between Crawley and East Grinstead, via Selsfield Common and Standen main entrance. Please ensure you have an up-to-date timetable if you intend to use this bus.

Selsfield Common

Selsfield Common is an area of secondary woodland on acid soils. It is part of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and commands great views across the Weald to Cissbury and Leith Hill, on the South and North Downs respectively. The geology of the area is unusual as the Sussex clay that is across the surrounding area is capped with sandstone. This gives rise to some heathland plants on the common, such as bilberry. Selsfield Common is managed by the Standen estate who hope to restore some of its original heathland habitat.



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Start/end

Start: Main entrance, Standen,
grid ref. TQ389357

End: Main entrance, Standen,
grid ref. TQ389357

How to get there

By bike: 2 miles (3.2km) south
of East Grinstead, signposted
from town centre. NCN21,
1.25miles (2 km)

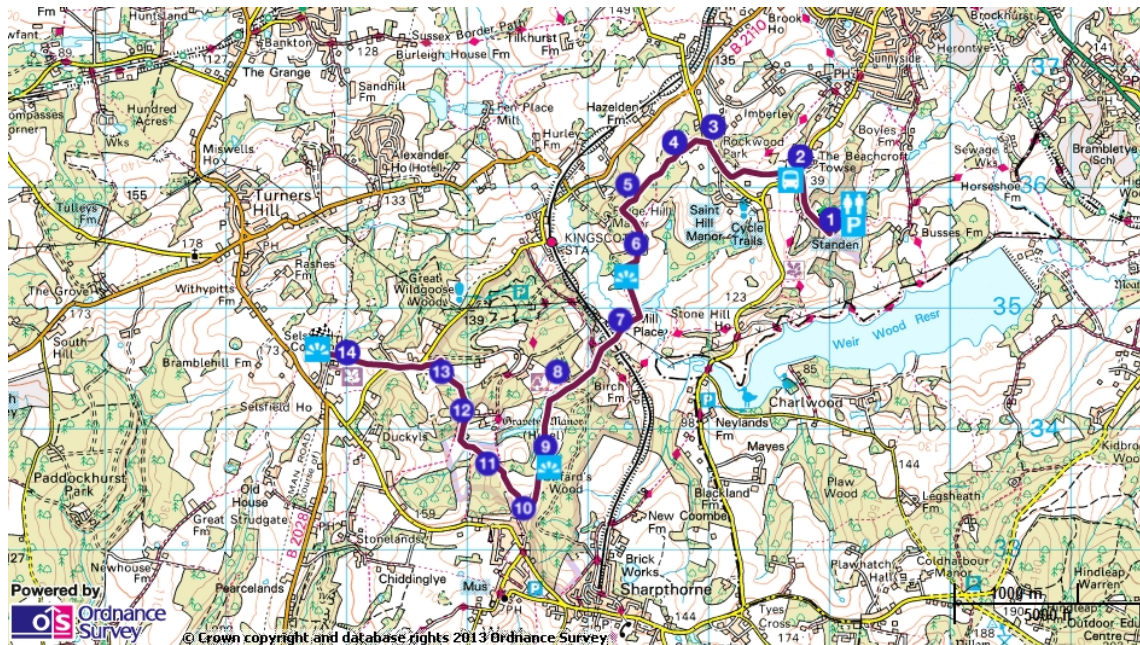
By train: East Grinstead station
2 miles (3.2km)

By bus: Metrobus service 84 to
end of drive, 0.5 mile (0.8km)
walk to reception, not Sundays

By car: 2 miles (3.2km) south
of East Grinstead, signposted
from town centre and B2110
(Turners Hill Road)

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1. From the lower car park, walk back up to the main entrance and out past the sandstone rocks along the drive to the end where it joins the road. On the public road, turn left, walk 50 yards past the green triangle with newly planted trees.

2. Cross the road and follow the footpath, through the woodland, leading leftwards to series of rugby fields. Walk along the right hand edge of the field, (ignoring a footpath on the right which leads downhill to East Grinstead) towards the distant buildings, until you are able to step onto a concrete drive which runs alongside some cottages.

3. Follow this drive, past an old converted wood-clad chapel to a public road. Turn right and walk along the left-hand side of the road, past the entrance to Saint Hill Manor and the East Grinstead sports field to a footpath to the left.

4. Follow this path beside a green wire fence, until it reaches a concrete track. Turn left and then walk straight ahead between a hedge and metal fence beside a sports area. Follow this path, which leads straight ahead into a thick woodland, ignoring the drive which turns sharp right. Follow this long path, sometimes muddy in places, gently down for about half mile to a sharp bend where you turn right into a field.

5. Follow the path almost to the opposite corner of the field, but turn down to the left through a gap in the hedge/tree line. Turn right immediately towards and over a stile, into the woodlands of the Ridgehill Woodlands Estate. Walk downhill to the private gravel drive and almost immediately turn left on the footpath.

6. Go down to a stile and into the field. Turn right and walk along the right-hand edge to the corner, through some woodland and emerge into another field. The path runs along two sides of this field, reaching yet another field through which the path becomes a wide grassy track.

7. Walk ahead, down to the valley bottom by the fishing lake, to a brick bridge. Turn right across the bridge over a stream and walk through the farmyard of Mill Place Farm. Follow the track under the Bluebell Railway bridge, ignoring the footpath to the left. Enter the woods, in which you turn left onto a footpath. This leads across an asphalt road, through a kissing-gate, and into a field.

8. Walk beside the left hand edge of the field and cross a wooden sleeper bridge. Follow the muddy path, between sedges in a woodland, until you pass through another kissing-gate into another field. Follow the left hand edge of the field and turn immediately left when you reach a stony drive. This deeply-rutted farm track leads past the end of the Gravetye Lake. The route can be shortened in summer months by turning right off the track and following the path along the left-hand side of the lake but this eliminates an interesting viewpoint further along.

9. Follow the track out into a grassy field in a straight line, uphill, almost parallel to the right-hand woodland edge. When you reach a gap in the trees, the footpath continues uphill into the next field, to a viewpoint and a stile.

10. At this point the route makes a 170-degree turn, down towards a large clump of oak trees, halfway down the slope. The path enters the clump and emerges in the next field, whose left-hand edge leads you down towards the corner, heading towards Gravetye Manor.

11. Leave the field and descend some crude stone steps, over two wooden planks, and along the rough path down to another stile into another field. The indistinct path follows the left-hand edge of the field, in which a small barn/shed is visible up on the right. Passing through clumps of bracken and gorse, you should reach the corner of this field and descend into woodland. Ignore an indistinct path down to the left by the fingerpost and pass through a wood and metal kissing gate. Follow a wire fence, past the end of another lake.

12. Follow the path past the lake, uphill alongside the wire railing on top of an old low brick wall. Cross the private drive of Gravetye Manor and then cross the car park of the staff quarters. Forward uphill through an anti-deer gate. Follow the track past a walled garden on the right, along to a bend by a fingerpost.

13. Turn right here through another tall anti-deer gate and persist up a long dark track under laurels, between banks, while the track becomes sunken. After passing a back garden, carry on past a long low brick farm building. Where the path levels out it continues between rhododendrons to reach the private drive of Moatlands, on Vowells Lane. Emerge on a bend in Vowells Lanes, by a small red post box at the entrance to Moatlands. Walk along Vowells lane to the kissing-gate just past Kingscote Kennels. Follow this rough track through the woodland to a field. Walk along the straight wide grassy track across the field towards the distant buildings.

14. Walk through a kissing-gate and across a private drive, past two Wellingtonia trees and along a wide grassy path between two paling-and-wire fences. Walk through a small kissing-gate beside a large wooden gate. This is Selsfield Common and the turning point for the return to Standen. If you follow the fingerposts in a straight-ish line until you exit the wood at a memorial bench there is a view over the Weald and Turners Hill.

15. The return route is the same as the outward route, unless some skilled map-work enables an interesting variation. The bus route can be reached by walking south-westwards along the gravel drive to the main road. 84 and 82 buses to East Grinstead will stop here if signalled clearly and in good time, although the bus-stop disappeared in 1977!
