

WALK 9

Duration:

1.5 hours, 5.5 km/3.5 miles approx.

Highlights:

Lovely deciduous woodland, old houses and the charming village of Sissinghurst.

Terrain:

Mostly flat with only the occasional and short undulating sections.

Refreshment facilities:

Sissinghurst – The Old Bull Inn, Post Office/Stores, Rankins Restaurant.

Starting point:

The Old Bull Inn. O.S. Ref. 796376.

Transport facilities:

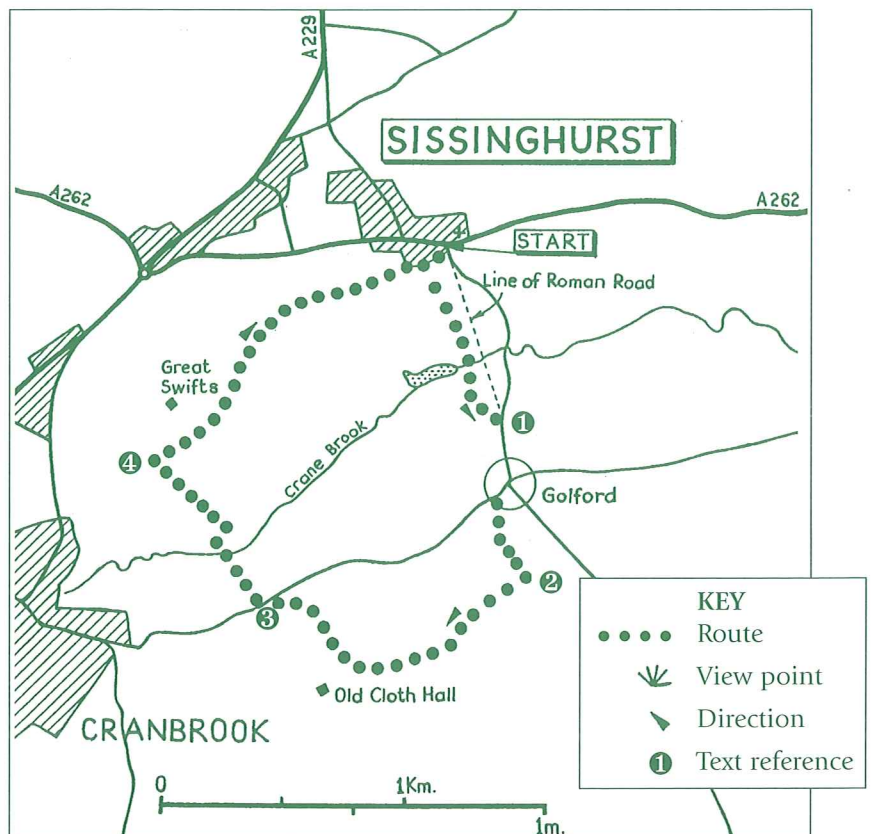
There are no public car parks in Sissinghurst.

Bus Routes: 4 AK, 5 AK, 500 AK.

AK: Arriva Kent & Sussex

Telephone: 01634 281100

Sissinghurst





Route: From The Old Bull Inn, cross the village street to walk down the road opposite i.e. in the direction of Benenden. Immediately after passing the first house on the right, 'Sunnyside', join a footpath on the right. Initially this is a driveway to houses. Our route continues as an enclosed path to the right of the gates for 'Playstole'. On reaching a crossing of tracks, turn left, to walk down the left hand side of field. Continue ahead as the field opens out.

At this stage, the footpath is running parallel with the track of a Roman Road (some metres to the left).

On far side of field, the path enters woodland. After crossing bridge over a second stream, bear to the right through a shallow depression with tumbled trees. Eventually emerge at stile and continue straight across field, towards gate and green waymark sign ahead. Cross stile by gate to join a road.



Turn right towards Tollgate Cottage and crossroads.

Notice a large 'Pink Panther' on the roof of the cottage.

At the crossroads turn right, in the direction of Cranbrook. After 50 metres turn left onto a tarmac track to Waypost Meadow and Starling Cottage. As the surfaced track ends, continue ahead onto grass track then through a linear wood. At junction of paths, turn right to walk, initially up the right hand side of field and with large farm type buildings on the skyline.



As the right hand boundary hedge ends and the field opens out, proceed, aiming slightly to the left of oak tree ahead and towards buildings (which have been converted to houses). On reaching concrete drive and in front of the houses, turn right. Remain on the surfaced track to road, passing a number charming old houses, converted barns, Old Cloth Hall and playing field of Dulwich Preparatory School. On reaching road, turn left and walk along it for 50 metres to waymark and stile on the right.



For the next stage, our route is along the High Weald Landscape Trail. Follow the waymarks to cross field as indicated. On far side of field, pass through trees to another field and on down the right hand side. At field corner, pass into trees and cross substantial hand-railed bridge over stream, 'Crane Brook'. Emerge from trees and bear

diagonally left to cut across the fields corner and on to a waymark as the field boundary bears right. Walk along field edge as indicated, turning left at the field corner.

Arriving at a stile and track, turn right onto track, leaving the High Weald Landscape Trail.



Continue along the concrete track.

On the left there are occasional glimpses of the large house 'Great Swifts'.

As the track bears right, continue straight ahead to join a clear footpath through woods. On emerging from woods, cross stile and continue straight ahead (ignore footpath left) and towards a stile immediately behind an electricity pole on the hill brow. Cross stile, down steps, across lane, ascend steps and continue along footpath. On reaching crossing of track, continue straight ahead, retracing the short distance back to The Old Bull Inn, i.e. turn left when footpath/driveway ends at road.