

HYDON'S BALL AND HASCOMBE HILL

13K TRAIL 2-2½ HRS GU8 4BB

This woodland trail passes near the memorial to Octavia Hill, British social reformer and founder of the National Trust at Hydon's Ball near Hambledon, before descending the valley and climbing one of the great sandstone escarpments of the Surrey Hills, Hascombe Hill. An army of ancient trees stands sentinel along the spine of the hill, close to an Iron Age Hill Fort. The bridlepaths, at times following the Greensand Way, are good but involve quite steep ups and downs - your reward is the magnificent views to north and south.

The trail goes past the White Horse in Hascombe which has ample space for horses to stand while you enjoy a break!



Park at Hydon's Ball car park off Salt Lane GU8 4BB. [1](#)

Take the bridlepath leading off the carpark to the right as you drive in. [2](#)



This is a wide track that takes you gently up through the woods. Keep straight on for about a kilometre ignoring bridleways crossing the track and other

paths, unless you would like to visit the Octavia Hill Memorial on the top of Hydon's Ball. The hilltop is on your right and you will see signs marked Octavia Hill Trail. It is quite a scramble up a sandy rooty path but it is nice to pay homage to the woman who helped preserve our beautiful countryside. Good views too! [3](#)



You need to retrace your steps back down to the track. Turn right when you meet it and continue until you come to a junction with a Water Booster Station in the trees. [4](#)



4



Bear left passing the booster station on your right. This is a lovely woodland path with good going. After about 500m you emerge into a clearing with a big crossroads. Go past the cottage on your left and you will see the track straight ahead is marked Greensand Way. [5](#)



5

The track becomes wide and sandy. Before it turns into a metalled drive follow the second Greensand Way sign up onto the bank on the left. [6](#)



6

After a short distance the path brushes the edge of a race-horse gallops on the left and you may turn onto the gallops, as 100m of it to the right are actually bridleway. So if you want a leg stretch, the going here is perfect. When the gallops bends left, the bridleway keeps straight into the trees. The visible sign wrongly says footpath. This is NOT a nice path, so after your gallop turn back on your tracks and rejoin the Greensand Way.

If you don't fancy a spin, just stick to the bridleway as it plunges downhill through the woods at Burgate Hanger. [7](#)



7

The path winds down through woods and then bears round to the left with fields to the right and beautiful views before again entering woodland and sweeping on round to the left until you meet Markwick Lane. Visibility is not too bad and you need only ride a short stretch of road to the left before [8](#) heading right up a bridlepath.



Take the first bridleway on your right and head up the hill. [9](#)



The narrow gully path goes up past a metal gate until you come out into a grassy clearing with a cross roads. Keep straight along a lovely sandy track leading to newly planted woodland. [10](#)



Ignore paths to right and left and keep going straight to the end of the plantation. [11](#)



You come to a steep path falling away into the woods marked by an avenue of red reflector lights on posts! Head down the runway! [12](#)



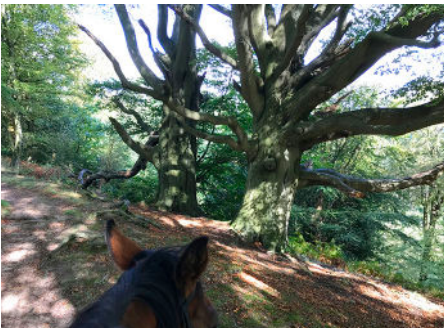
The path winds round to the left until you come to Hoe Farm with open fields and you can see the White Horse pub in the distance to the right. Take the path through the fields, turning left along a lovely sandtrack that takes you straight to the pub. [13](#)



The bridleway goes past the pub (on your left), following the drive to Hascombe Place Farm before carrying on up to the top of Hascombe Hill. [14](#)



The top of the hill is an amazing knife-edge ridge, with wonderful ancient trees. The Iron Age Fort lies off to the right, but this trail turns left along the spine with fabulous views to right and left. [15](#)



Keep going along the ridge. The path goes through the woods bearing gently round to the left and starting to go downhill. [16](#)



Ignore the bridleway that goes off sharply to the right and keep on down the hill. It opens out into farmland and eventually merges with a driveway. [17](#)



Carry on to the lane and keep round to the left. The view is a timeless English village scene with medieval church to the right and pond on the left. [18](#)



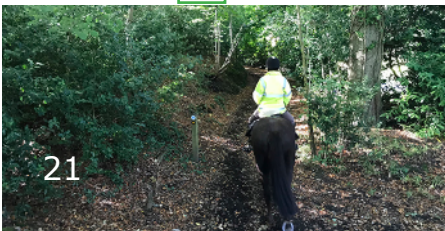
The White Horse pub is just ahead on the left and the car park has ample space for horses. [19]



The way back retraces your steps to the Hydon's Ball car park. Cross the road and head back across the field. [20]



Follow the bridleway round to the right beside the field and then turn left up into the woods. This is the path that will take you up the steep reflector-lit path to the new plantation. [21]



Head back along this lovely wide straight path and then follow it downhill through the trees along a narrow, stony, gully track till you emerge again on Markwick Lane. Turn left.

Go along the lane a little way until you see the bridleway on your right marked with posts. [22]



This is a section of the Green-sand Way. Carry on for 1k as it bears gently right and swings up the very steep hill past the gallops (now on your right) before merging onto the drive. You will soon come to a big yellow sandy crossroads. Keep straight, taking the narrow bridleway into the trees. [23]



This is the path that leads to the T junction with the water booster station on your left. Turn right onto the wide track. 24



Keep going, taking the left 25 side of the new bridleway post.



National Trust signs to Hydon's Ball and Octavia Hill's Memorial are now on your left. This wide track now takes you downhill all the way back to the car park.



