

Walking Route: East Grinstead Sports Club Circular

Woodland, Vineyards, Lakes, River, Rocks & Reservoir



A circular walk offering breathtaking views. The walk takes on board views of many of the Kingscote Valley attractions – Deers Leap Park, Kingscote Estate, Stone Farm Rocks, Weir Wood Reservoir, Standen House & Garden, Saint Hill Manor, Old Dunnings Mill and Dunning's Wood.

Formed about 135 million years ago, Stone Farm Rocks (also known as Stone Hill Rocks) is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The western end of Weir Wood Reservoir is a protected nature reserve and bird sanctuary, also designated as a SSSI. The 14th century grade II listed medieval hall house at Kingscote Estate was once home to the master of an iron foundry. This area has a history of ironworks in the Roman era. Victorian English garden author William Robinson previously owned 1000 acres of Kingscote Valley land including Gravetye Manor and Kingscote Estate. The River Medway meanders through the valley.

Refuel:

East Grinstead Sports Club

The bar serves drinks and light snacks.

Old Dunnings Mill

Family and dog friendly country pub serving food. Outdoor seating areas. Bar seating area with log fire.

Distance: 7km (4.3 miles) with shorter 6km option

Duration: 2 - 2.5 hours

Terrain: includes steep paths

Dog friendly: yes, off lead most of the walk

OS Explorer Map: 135

Parking: East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead RH19 4JU





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1. Park in the sports club car park and head to the rear left hand side of the site to join the footpath into the woods past the netball pitch. Continue through the woods until you reach a signpost for straight on or right. Continue straight on and enter a field. [0.5km | 10mins]

2. You are in Deers Leap Park! Cross the field, at the end head left into another field and turn immediate right. Go over the stile and past the yellow footpath marker. Take the left footpath. Continue left and at the end of the footpath turn right into the field and follow the footpath along the edge of the field. Continue on the footpath and pass a yellow footpath marker.

3. Walk through the apple orchard and vineyards. You are now in Kingscote Estate! On the right are views of the medieval hall house, winery, and 15th century Tithe Barn. You will then see the fishing lakes on your left.

4. When you reach the bridge over the River Medway [1.5km], turn left and follow the stone path up the hill. At the top turn left. On your right is Stone Farm Rocks popular with climbers. Put dogs on lead. The footpath comes straight out onto a fast country road by Stone Hill House. [2.5km | 45mins]

5. Turn right on West Hoathly Road and immediate left on Admiral's Bridge Lane with the reservoir straight ahead of you. Continue down the country lane until you reach the reservoir footpath. Turn left on the footpath and follow the reservoir round until you reach a footpath sign in a field on your left next to the information board 'Standen Rocks Weir Wood' and near a pylon.

6. Take the left footpath, head up through the field and go through the first gate ahead of you. Take the pathway up through the woods. Once through the woods and in a field, the gate on your right is a footpath to Standen (take this if you want to visit & rejoin at 7). Continue up the field. Look right for a view of Standen House. At the top of the field, go through a kissing gate and follow the footpath veering right. Look left for a view of Saint Hill Manor. At the end of the footpath you reach the road that runs to Standen. [4km | 1 hour 10min]

[At this point you can head back to the car. Turn left onto the footpath running alongside the road signposted Hill Top Shaw. Continue until you reach the small car park and then walk on the road for the last section. At the junction to West Hoathly Road, turn left. Turn right onto the footpath and then head left. Cross the rugby pitch keeping right, join the public bridleway on the right-hand side at the end of the pitch, head left to the end of the bridleway lane going past a few houses. Turn right onto Saint Hill Road and the sports club is on your left. 6km | 3.8miles | 1.5 hours]

7. Cross the road and enter National Trust Rockinghill Wood. Walk down the steps and continue straight on the woodland path, passing a field and path on your right and bench and information sign on your left. When the path forks left or right, take the right fork. Continue straight on the path, which includes a boardwalk section, ignoring a right and then left path. Follow the path as it veers right after the Standen bench. You then reach a stile into a field signposted East Grinstead. Go over the stile and cross the first field, turning left before you reach the second field. [7.2km] Walk along the edge of the field towards a gate. Go through the gate and into another field. Continue straight across the field and go through a small gate into another field. Cross the field. Look straight ahead for a view of East Grinstead and St Swithun's Church. Go through a gate into woods with a stream. Turn left and continue on the path. You reach Sunnyside Recreational Park, continue through the small park.

8. Reach Dunning's Road. The Old Dunnings Mill is in front of you. Head left up Dunning's Road, turn right onto Coombe Hill Road, and left onto Medway Drive. Go through the gate signposted High Weald Landscape Trail and Standen Trail. Walk up the fields and head into the woods on the right-hand far corner of the fourth field. At the end of the woodland path, turn right onto the public bridleway and continue on the lane past a few houses. Turn right on Saint Hill Road. Pass the entrance to Saint Hill Manor on your left (open to the public) and then the sports club is on your left.