

Fox Hill and Hurstwood Lane

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.6km)

Time :1 hour 45 minutes

Starting point: Franklyn Road Car Park



Opposite the car park, the Flemish designed red brick building is the Priory built in 1886.

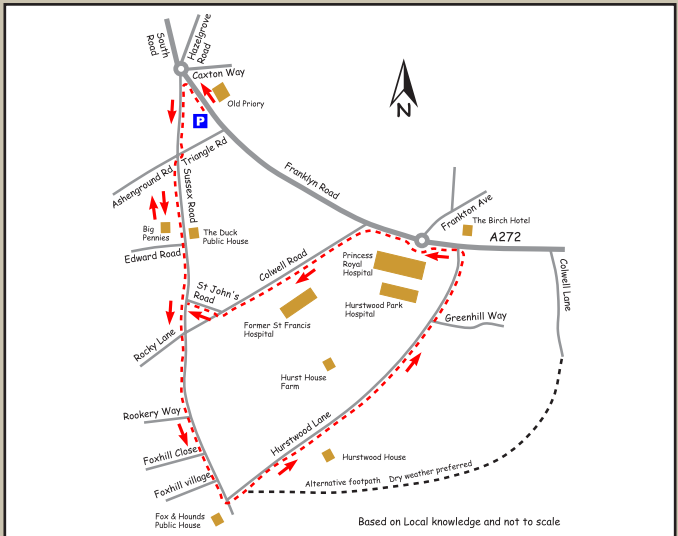
From the car park proceed left to the roundabout and then sharp left along Sussex Road until you come to Triangle Road, where there are some good examples of Victorian labourers' cottages. Cross Triangle Road. Walk on down Sussex Road, which becomes Wivelsfield Road. Pass Jireh Chapel, built in 1879 in thanksgiving for the recovery from illness of its Minister. On the other side of the road, immediately opposite the Duck Public House, is a 17th century timber framed cottage named Little Pennies, now used as offices for Dinnages.

Cross the road here and walk left up to Edward Road. A few yards/metres down the road, hidden behind a high hedge, is The Old Nurseries, a 16th century timber framed house. Walk the few yards/metres back to Wivelsfield Road.

Cottages built by builder S. Kent in 1868 are on the left hand side of the road. Proceed to the junction with Rocky Lane. Cross the road and walk down Fox Hill. On the right is a thatched house, Little Orchard.

On reaching Rookery Way, look back to the left and you can see the Princess Royal Hospital. Cross over Fox Hill Close. Look to the left. Set back from the road is Middlefield Cottage, another 17th century timber framed house. At the bottom of the hill is the Fox and Hounds Public House

Cross the road at this point to proceed along Hurstwood Lane. 200 yds/184 metres on the right is Hurstwood House, a fine example of a Victorian mansion. The small building on the left was the Water Pumping Station for St Francis. Water was pumped up to the water tower, which can be seen on the horizon. Halfway up the lane on the left is the entrance to Hurst House Farm, a Jacobean farmhouse, built in 1660. From here you can see the outstanding architecture of the old Sussex Lunatic Asylum (St.Francis). On a clear day there is a spectacular view of the South Downs.



At the top of Hurstwood Lane, the renowned Hurstwood Park Neurological Hospital is to your left. Facing you is the Birch Hotel, built in 1867. Turn left past the entrance to the Princess Royal main complex and left again into Colwell Road, past the Water Tower, a listed building, built in the Florentine style, on the highest point of Haywards Heath. Then down St John's Road, which is on the site of the oldest settlement in Haywards Heath. On reaching the main road, you are in close proximity to the Duck Public House. Turn right and proceed back along Wivelsfield Road and Sussex Road to Franklyn Road car park.