

Haywards Heath Town Walks No. 1

Circular Walk from Hazelgrove Road

Distance: 1.5 miles (2.4km)

Time :1 hour

Starting point: Hazelgrove Road Car Park
(Between Hazelgrove Road & St Josephs Way)



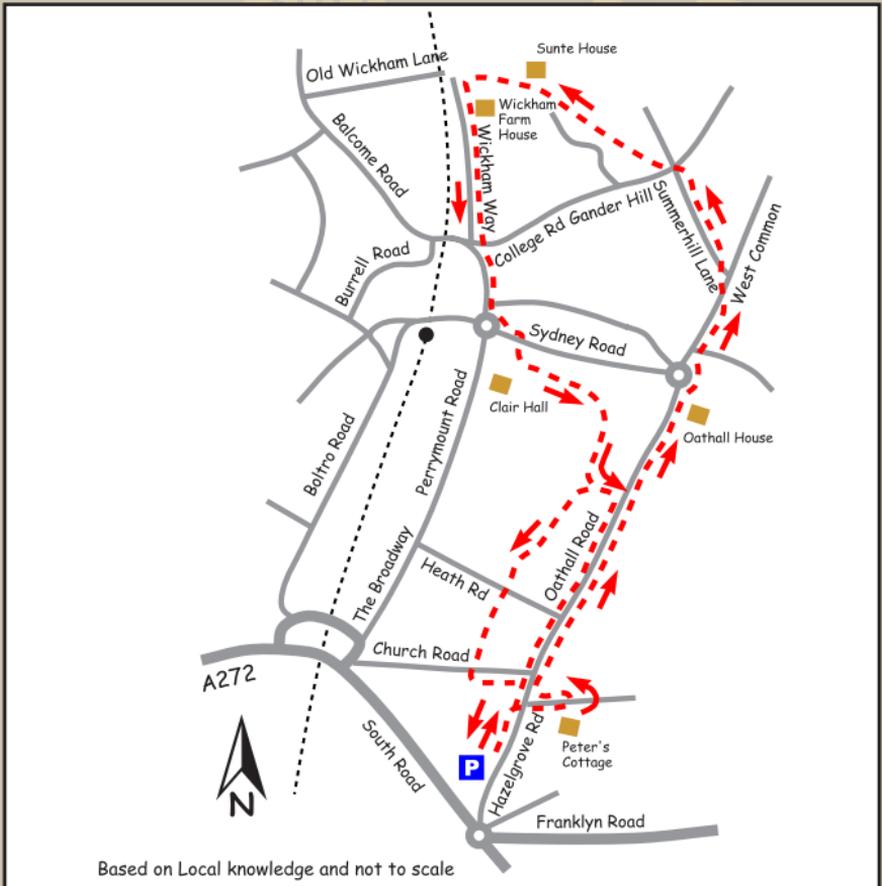
Leave Hazelgrove Road car park and turn left up Hazelgrove Road. Cross to the right hand side and, if you care to, take a step or two into New England Road, where you will see Peter's Cottage, late 16th century and timber framed. There is evidence that the cottage first changed hands in 1595 for £60 together with 4 acres.

Return to Hazelgrove Road and proceed gently uphill into Oathall Road, one of the Conservation Areas, providing the town with fine examples of late Victorian and early Edwardian Villas. Proceed past Middle Farm, an early 16th century former farmhouse.

Walk until you come to the large Oathall roundabout, to the right of which stands Oat Hall House built in the neo classical style c.1840. Cross into Summerhill Lane, walk down and across Gander Hill to Portsmouth Lane. You will see a sub-station. Follow the Public Footpath, indicated by a finger post, passing at the bottom of several gardens.

As you walk up the footpath, you will come upon Sunte House, a large L-shaped house first built in 1700 with sympathetic extensions added in the 18th and 19th century.

To your left is Wickham Farmhouse, a Grade II* listed building, first mentioned in 1279. The existing building is late 16th century with 17th and 20th century additions. To the right, is a public footpath leading to Ardingly Reservoir (approx. 6 miles/9.6 kilometres round trip), crossing the Haywards Heath Golf Course. This is considered to be one of the nicest walks in Mid Sussex.



To continue Haywards Heath Town Walk 1, walk down Wickham Way. Turn right and cross the road onto Mill Green Road. Proceed along the road to the roundabout at Commercial Square. Turn left into Sydney Road, walk down until you come to a Public Footpath on the right hand side. This will take you into Clair Park by Clair Hall, built in 1974, where there are two choices. Walk round past the cricket ground and straight on into Heath Road and then past the Health Centre taking the twitten (the Sussex word for a small pathway) into Church Road. Turn left here and walk down to Hazelgrove Road. Alternatively, take the Public Footpath out of Clair Park to Oathall Road and turn right into Hazelgrove Road.