

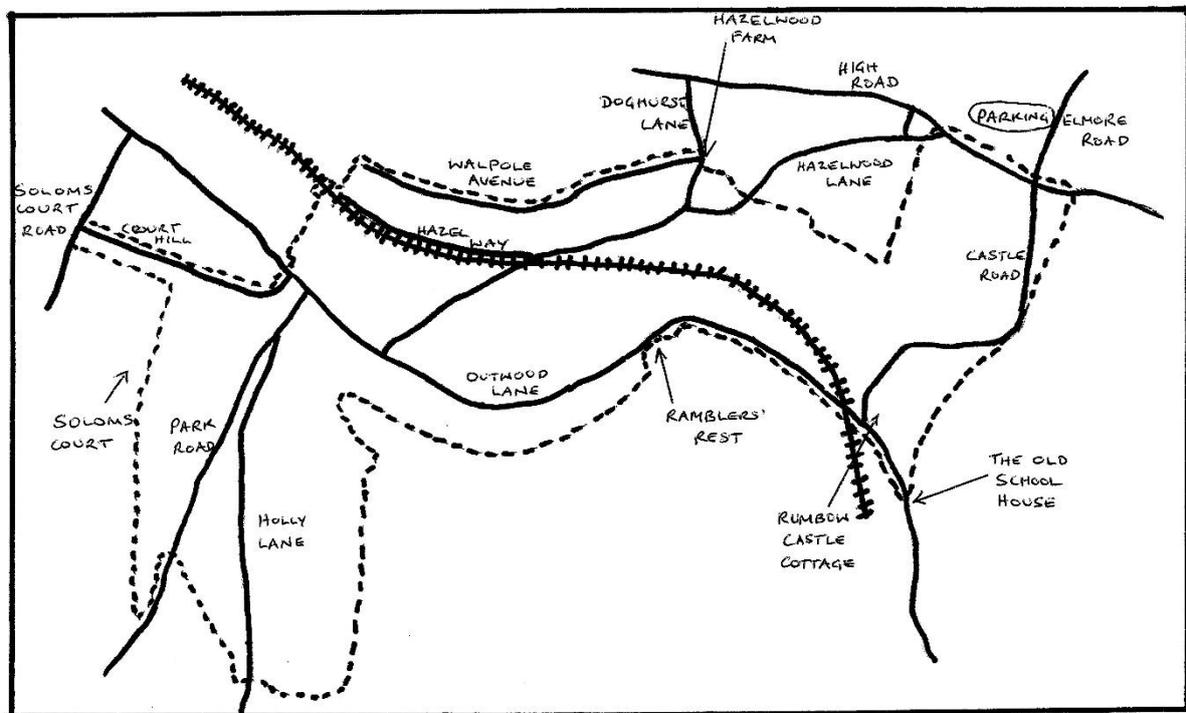


Historical Chipstead walks

1. Circuit from Elmore Pond via Banstead Woods

Overview

The walk is about 5 miles and takes you along Walpole Avenue, across Chipstead Valley Road and into Banstead Woods. This ancient woodland, once owned by Catherine of Aragon, may have been used by Henry VIII for deer hunting - today it is the site of the rather gentler Narnia sculpture trail. The walk finishes across grassland used as sheep pasture, just as it was during the Middle Ages.



Directions

Start at the car park at Elmore Pond and turn right along High Road to the White Hart pub. Fork left here but after 30 yards turn left and walk down the track. After about 400 yards turn right at a footpath sign. Follow the path through the wood, go through the gate and cross the field with the fence on your left. Go over the stile and cross Hazelwood Lane into Farm Close passing Hazelwood Farm.

History

Hazelwood Farm (photo overleaf) is probably the oldest building in Chipstead. Once called Eselwode (Old English for hazel wood), it has been inhabited since 1279. The core of the house dates from 1481 but there are seventeenth and twentieth century additions.

Walk to Doghurst Lane, turn right and cross it to walk down Walpole Avenue. Walk to the end of this road and then take the footpath which is straight ahead for 30 yards before turning left down the hill. At the end turn right along Hazel Way and after a few yards cross over the railway bridge to reach the station.



Turn left at the station and follow Chipstead Station Parade down to Outwood Lane. Cross here and walk along Court Hill. At the end turn left up Soloms Court Road but after 20 yards turn left along the footpath. When the houses on the left end the path turns to the right to a junction of paths. Walk straight ahead here up the hill.

Soloms Court, built in 1906, was the home of Sir Guy Dawber the architect and artist. In 1926 he helped to establish the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and became its first President.

Continue for about 800 yards until you reach a Banstead Country Walk post just before Park Road. Walk on a few yards and turn left down the wide grassy track which runs parallel to the road. After about 200 yards look out for the footpath sign on the other side of the road and cross. Follow the footpath which crosses another track onto a wider track with posts along its side. As you approach Holly Lane turn left at a junction of paths to cross the road and walk up the track.

Ramblers Rest



Take the middle track which then becomes a path leading into Banstead Woods. Turn left at the post (no.4) passing the wooden sculptures from the Narnia trail. Turn left at the post (no. 2) and just after the sculpture of the lion turn right and cross a stile. Turn right and follow the track through the fields. Pass through one kissing gate and after crossing most of another field fork left down to the Ramblers Rest pub. Walk through the car park. At the road turn right and walk about 600 yards past the old granary and Rumbow Castle Cottage to the Old School House.

The history of the Ramblers Rest (previously Deans Farm) goes back to 1301. The building itself is Tudor and it is thought that there was once a tunnel from it to the black and white Rumbow Castle Cottage (photo below) which was once a public house. 'The Giant Rumboi Castle'. The Old School House, once a farm, was acquired by Mary Stephens in 1746 and used for teaching poor children from the Parish.

Go through the gate just before The Old School House and climb the hill to pass through the gate in the hedge. Head diagonally up the field to the right hand corner and into another field and continue up the left side of that field beside Castle Road. At the top turn left along High Road and make your way back to the car park.

