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15 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2014	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	
Current status	Document last updated Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016		
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## Farningham Road to Sole Street Walk

**Length:** 17.2km (10.7 miles)

Farningham Road → Green Street Green: 5¾km → Southfleet: 3¾km → Nash Street: 5km → Sole Street station: 2¾km

**Toughness:** 3/10

**Map:** Explorer 162, Landranger 177.

### Walk description

A walk of contrasts, urban sprawl, housing developments, busy roads, and then once or twice you are caught by what it may have been like a hundred or more years ago, coming across the Wheatsheaf pub, passing by Chapter House Farm. Alas all too brief glimpses into the past before you return to present day reality. On a more positive note, there are plenty of good pubs along the way to wash away any feelings of melancholy.

### Transport

Trains from Victoria to Farningham Road; journey time 45 minutes. Buy a day return to Sole Street. Suggest departure from Victoria at around 10.00 am if you want to stop for lunch halfway through the walk at either The Ship Inn (Southfleet) or Manor Farm Barn.

## **Pubs**

The Ship Inn, Green Street Green Rd, Kent DA2 8DP. Tel. 01474 709168

[The Wheatsheaf Public House](#), Highcross Road, Kent DA13 9PH - currently shut.

[The Ship Inn](#), Red Street, Southfleet, DA13 9NS. Tel. 01474 833238.

[Manor Farm Barn](#), New Barn Road, Southfleet, DA13 9PU. Tel. 01474 834 967

[The Railway Inn](#), Sole Street, DA13 0XY. Tel. 01474 814375

## Walk directions

Exit the London train platform down a tarmac footpath (FP). In 50m you come out into a field and turn sharp left, W, up along its left hand side (LHS). In 420m, turn left across a bridge high over the railway line to go along a farm track. In 100m turn left and follow the edge of a field, to go to the right of a small wooden pylon pole (by corner fencing) and go across the main field passing under an HV (high voltage) cable, 140°. (In muddy conditions you can follow the new concrete car wide track along the edge of the field.) In 150m turn left down the right side of the field, initially along the new concrete track. In 300m cross a main road and turn right. In 20m turn left down a road & in 7m turn right along a FP & in 10m fork left, 160°, down a gravel FP. At the bottom go past some metal blocking barriers and veer left along a tarmac FP across a park, 130°.

In 280m go past a small utility block on your right hand side (RHS) to enter a small car park (CP) & turn left across a river. In 60m you come out to a road and continue up ahead and follow the main (Horton) road round to the left after 70m. In 130m by the entrance to a churchyard on the left, turn right up some steps to follow an upper path alongside the road. In 70m turn left & turn right to rejoin the road. In 80m cross over Jacobs Lane and fork right through a kissing gate (KG) to go up across a field, 70°.

In 350m cross a lane and go through a metal KG, to continue in the same direction across the next field. In 250m go through a metal KG into the next field to continue across it in the same direction, going under an HV cable. In 260m go through a metal KG to cut the corner of the next field to go through a metal gate and a metal KG into the next field. Continue in the same direction. In 120m go through a metal KG and veer left up across the next field, 45°.

In 180m go through a metal KG, cross a lane and go right of a double metal field gate(FG), to go across a field, 20°. In 170m, cross a bridge high over a railway and continue on a farm track along the RHS of a field. In 300m go past the buildings of Gills Farm to then cross over a lane. In 50m, where the farm track curves left, continue ahead. After 160m at a line of tall thin trees, fork right (not the path alongside the trees!) down across the field, 50°. In 200m go over a cross paths to continue in the same direction (initially) slightly up, aiming for a gap in the far side of the field (30m left of a double wooden pylon pole). In 450m cross into the next field and veer right, 70°, across the field to Green Street Green.

In 280m go through a gap next to a wooden pole with a gray electrical box on it, to go between houses to then turn right along a gravel road parallel to the main road on your left. In 180m cross the main road to continue in the same direction

along a wide grass verge. In 100m cross Sandbanks Hill to go across a green to reach The Ship PH (Freehouse) after 160m.

Coming out of The Ship Inn, turn left, along the LHS of a wide verge. [!] In 160m turn left - marked by a concrete FP marker - over a stile, to go along a fenced in FP on the RHS of a field, E, - can be overgrown in summer - take care with footing. In 160m cross a stile and go along the RHS of a field. In 270m at the RH corner, go through a metal gate into the next field. Go up across this field, in SE direction just to the right of an HV pylon in the distance - aiming 30m to the left of the 3<sup>rd</sup> wooden pylon pole along the far side of the field. (On the ground it may be easier to skirt round the edge of the field - although FP marked on map across field, FP not made up. So go along the left side of the field. In 120m at the corner of the field, turn right to continue along the left side of the field marked by a small pylon cable run, 170°, for 200m. Starting from this corner, with the first wooden pylon pole behind you pass by the next (2<sup>nd</sup>) pylon pole and 30m before the 3<sup>rd</sup> pylon pole you at the indistinct field corner of the adjacent field.)

In 230m at corner of adjacent field, turn left along a field boundary towards the corner of some fencing, E. In 150m at the corner fencing continue along the LHS of the field. In 220m at the left hand corner of the field, turn left through a metal gate to follow a FP for 15m to then cross a tarmac track (with stables on your right), to then cross a stile (left of a metal FG) to go along the RHS of a small field. In 70m go through a metal gate to veer left across a small field. In 60m exit the field over a stile (left of a metal FG) and turn right along the road.

In 70m you reach the now closed Wheatsheaf PH on your LHS. In a further 25m at a cross roads turn left, N. In 30m fork right along a FP, across a field aiming for a gap in the hedgerow 50m to the left of the nearest HV pylon pole, 50°. In 220m cross into the next field and continue in the same direction under HV cables. In 240m on the far side, turn half left along the RHS of a field (with a railway embankment up to the right). In 120m, turn right under the railway. On the other side, turn half left along the field boundary towards 2 HV pylon poles, 80°. 130m past the 2<sup>nd</sup> pylon pole, at a cross paths, turn left, N. In 160m turn right, E, (under HV cables), to follow a wide farm track along the left side of the field. In 270m, 70m from the field corner, turn left to go along an enclosed FP, which can become overgrown in summer. In 250m at a FP T-junction, turn right to reach a churchyard after 50m. In 120m exit the churchyard and veer left, to reach a cross roads and **The Ship Inn** after 60m.

Coming out of The Ship Inn, turn right down Warren Road. In 180m at a dip, turn right, off the road and fork left up to a field corner, SE - may find it easier to follow the edge of the field. In 130m cross into the next field, to continue in the same direction across this next field, and in 150m go diagonally across a CP / scrapyard and waste ground to its far upper corner. In 80m exit the CP.

- ➔ **Manor Farm Barn PH** continue in the same direction for 50m, to then turn left along a fenced in FP. In 40m turn right over a stile for the Manor Farm Barn PH. After lunch, retrace your steps: cross a stile and turn left for 30m and veer right for 50m. Just at the point where you cross over into the CP, turn left (marked by a FP post).
- ➔ If not stopping turn right (marked by a FP post).

To go down across a scrappy field, 250° - probably easier to follow right side of this field. 20m before a house fork right down some steps into the next field, to go down across it along a FP (going under some small pylon cables), N. In 100m go down some steps and turn right down along a road. In 80m pass by Chapter Farm House, to then turn left along Brakefield Road. In 400m with some double metal FGs on the right, fork left off the road to go across a field, SE. (Depending on the time of year, it may be easier to skirt round the left edge of the field - although the FP is marked across the field on the map.) In 300m at the far corner, cross into the next field and veer left across it, 120°.

In 320m exit the field over a stile and continue in the same direction over a small uncultivated field to exit after 100m, (just to the left side of a house). Cross the road and veer right across a large field, 150°. In 700m at the field corner, go over a stile and continue along an enclosed FP, 170°. In 40m cross a stile and another in 50m, to then go along the left side of a back garden and exit over a stile to go along an enclosed FP and in 80m come out to a cul-de-sac (Yew Tree Close). In 140m at a T-junction with a road, turn left to go in an easterly direction for 1.2km to then cross a main road and go along Nash Street. In 250m follow the road round to the right to join the Weald Way(WW). In 270m at cross paths, turn left (WW) down an enclosed bridleway through a wood.

In 160m at a dip in the path. Either: continue on WW - skip section in the box and rejoin directions following.

OR recommend:
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Fork left, 60°, on a FP to leave the WW. In 30m go through a metal gate into a field and turn right, along the RHS of the field bordered by the fenced in wood. In 250m go back into the wood through a metal gate. In 5m ignore a right turn (unless you want to rejoin the WW), and in a further 45m you come out into a field to go up across it, 100°, towards a wood. (Ignore a path forking to right after 30m.) In 220m follow the FP into the wood. In 35m come out of the wood into a field to go across it, 140°, towards a small garage in the distance - 50m to the right of a house. In 180m cross a lane and stile (to left of a metal FG) into a small field.
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In 40m cross a stile and turn half left, E, to go through a series of fields, passing through horse blocking gaps in fences along the way, E, to then reach a gap in the fence to the left of a metal FG. **[!]** Do not go through the gap but turn right to go along LHS of the field, 170°. In 220m at LH corner of the field, go through a horse blocking barrier into a wood. In 150m come out of the wood onto a gravel lane. In 60m you reach a tarmac lane and turn right.

In 40m turn left through a KG to rejoin the WW through a wood for 240m.

At a path T-junction turn left for 20m to come to a road and turn right. In 400m at a T-junction with a main road, turn right to cross over a railway bridge for the Railway Inn ahead.