

Last checked	Main	Short section	
	7 th April 2023	26 th September 2010	
Current status	Document last updated Tuesday, 11 th April 2023		
<p>This document and information herein are copyrighted to Saturday Walkers' Club. If you are interested in printing or displaying any of this material, Saturday Walkers' Club grants permission to use, copy, and distribute this document delivered from this World Wide Web server with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The document will not be edited or abridged, and the material will be produced exactly as it appears. Modification of the material or use of it for any other purpose is a violation of our copyright and other proprietary rights. * Reproduction of this document is for free distribution and will not be sold. * This permission is granted for a one-time distribution. * All copies, links, or pages of the documents must carry the following copyright notice and this permission notice: <p>Saturday Walkers' Club, Copyright © 2004 - 2023, used with permission. All rights reserved. www.walkingclub.org.uk</p>			
The publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers.			

Petersfield to Liss

Along the Hangers Way

Start: Petersfield station

Finish: Liss station

Length: 16.2km (10.1 miles). For a shorter walk variation, see *below* **Walk Options**.

Time: 5 hours. For the whole excursion, including trains and meals, allow 9 hours.

Transport: Two fast trains an hour run from London Waterloo to Petersfield (journey time: 1 hour). Trains back from Liss to Waterloo run hourly (journey time: 1 hour 15 minutes). Take the train nearest to 9.45am from London Waterloo to Petersfield. Buy a day return to Petersfield. If driving, parking is available at Petersfield station, and Liss is just one stop up the line.

OS Landranger Map: 197 and 185

OS Explorer Map: OL33 (formerly 133) Petersfield, map reference SU743235, is in Hampshire, 25km (15.5 miles) east of Winchester.

Toughness: 5 out of 10.

Walk notes: Much of this walk follows part of the 34 km (21 mile) Hangers Way, a long-distance path that lies within an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The name 'Hanger' derives from the old

English 'Hangra', meaning a wooded slope. The majority of the landscape is unspoilt and remains, as it was several hundred years ago. There are two possible ascents to the top of Shoulder of Mutton Hill, one steep and one gentle. Whichever route is taken, the view at the top is spectacular. The strenuous climb of Shoulder of Mutton Hill aside, this is a walk of gentle gradients apart from one short steep downhill section. Please note that the steeper route up the Shoulder of Mutton Hill on this walk can become slippery in winter.

Walk options: Directions for this shorter circular walk appear at the end of the main walk text.

a) Shorter circular walk: Shoulder of Mutton Hill makes a fine objective in its own right. The short walk allows you to enjoy the spectacular views from its summit on a pleasant half-day stroll, returning to Petersfield station. This shorter circular walk is 8km (5 miles), or 3 hours walking; follow the main walk directions to point [4], then follow the shorter circular walk directions.

WALK DIRECTIONS

[1] [Numbers refer to the map] From platform 2 of **Petersfield station** go through the ticket office and turn left. In 30 metres *turn left onto Station Road and cross the railway line.*

After 120 metres turn right up a tarmac footpath on the left side of a car showroom. In 20 metres veer left following a green and white metal footpath sign, your direction 10 degrees. After 100 metres pass through some concrete posts where the path narrows.

In 350 metres you reach a junction of paths marked by a four-armed wooden signpost. Go straight on to continue on the Hangers Way, your initial direction 40 degrees. In 100 metres *turn left onto a minor road*, your direction 30 degrees.

After 200 metres, where the road curves to the right, leave the road to follow the Hangers Way straight on through a gap (left of a metal fieldgate), your direction 20 degrees. The Hangers Way climbs very gently uphill. In 350 metres you cross the A3 via a footbridge. Turn right once over the footbridge.

Keep on this enclosed footpath, ignoring any turnings off, for 500 metres (with Bedales School halfway along on your left), to reach a one-metre high brick wall to a cemetery on your right. Continue straight-ahead passing **All Saints Church** in the village of **Steep** on the right.

[2] In 100 metres *at a T-junction with a road turn right. In 10 metres turn left* to pass by a double wooden gate opposite the entrance to the church. Veer slightly to the left across a recreation ground, your direction 340 degrees. In 50 metres you pass by a tree with a bench surround on your left.

Follow the footpath gently downhill through a wood. In 250 metres at the bottom of the hill, go through a metal kissing-gate and over a plank footbridge,

to follow a gravelled footpath along the left-hand edge of a field, with a ditch stream and woodland on your left. (Ahead to the right you can see the wooded slopes of Shoulder of Mutton Hill, which you will be climbing.)

After 300 metres go through a metal kissing gate to turn right onto a lane.

In 120 metres *where the lane curves to the right, continue straight ahead up a footpath between a waterfall and a house called Mill Corner.* In 30 metres you cross a (second) stream, and go up three steps to *turn left at a path T-junction.*

After 40 metres you pass a conservation viewpoint hut on your right, (and pond beyond). You are now in Little Langleys Nature Reserve. In a further 70 metres the path veers right with a large pond on your left. After 150 metres the path turns sharp right and in 30 metres, sharp left. After a further 190 metres cross a stream via a footbridge. *Turn right up a tarmac driveway*, your direction 340 degrees.

In 180 metres you reach a road T-junction. [3]

At this point you have two choices: **(i)** Take the steep ascent of the Shoulder of Mutton Hill, or **(ii)** take a 1km longer but gentler ascent of the Shoulder of Mutton Hill.

(i) For the steep ascent: *Turn right down the lane. After 20 metres turn left* to take a footpath that goes uphill, gently at first, your direction 330 degrees.

After 180 metres go through a gap in the fence and at a three-way path junction, *take the middle of three paths, the one going steeply uphill.* After 30 metres there are some steps followed by a wooden barrier. The route continues steeply uphill on a wide grassy path.

In 320 metres you reach a bench and a stone dedicated to the memory of the poet **Edward Thomas**. Behind you are spectacular views of the South Downs.

Continue uphill through beech trees for a further 180 metres to reach a wooden horse blocking barrier with a green Hangers Way waymark. Continue up for a further 20 metres to pass by an Ashford Hangers National Nature Reserve sign on your right. Rejoin the route at [4] below.

(ii) For the 1km longer but gentler

ascent: *Turn left initially up the lane,* your direction 210 degrees. In 200 metres you pass by an old timber-framed building called Bees cottage on your left, now with a 3 metre-high brick wall to your left. In 80 metres, at the end of the brick wall, you pass by Old Ashford Manor, also on the left.

In 70 metres *where the lane turns to the left, fork right onto a bridleway* with a stream to its right and an open field to its left. After 120 metres you pass by a footbridge off to your right, your direction 290 degrees.

In 100 metres ignore an unmarked path forking up to your left. After a further 300 metres veer left steeply uphill to follow a Hangers Way arrow on a post.

80 metres further on, follow the Hangers Way as it turns right, doubling back steeply uphill. A red tipped wooden post is to the right of the path. Continue uphill with panoramic views of the South Downs to the right. Ignore any paths going down.

After 1 km you reach a junction of paths with a wooden horse-blocking barrier on your right with a green Hangers Way waymark. *Veer left uphill.* In 25 metres you pass by an Ashford Hangers National Nature Reserve sign on your right.

[4][At this point, you can take option **a**), the **Shorter circular walk** back to Petersfield by following the directions at the end of this main walk text.]

Otherwise, **to carry on with the main walk,** *veer left,* your direction 320 degrees. In 70 metres at a two-armed signpost *at a T-junction with a car-wide*

track, turn right following the Hangers Way, your direction 70 degrees.

After 140 metres turn left through a wooden kissing gate and go downhill, following the left-hand edge of a field, your direction 340 degrees. In 50 metres, at the corner of the field, follow the footpath to the right and downhill through woods, with a fence on your left. After 120 metres go through a wooden kissing gate (with a normally locked wooden gate to its left) to continue downhill. After 180 metres go through another wooden kissing gate marked with a Hangers Way green arrow, to continue downhill, your initial direction 10 degrees.

In 40 metres go through another wooden kissing gate into a wild overgrown field, and go steeply downhill on a wide grassy path. The church in the village of Hawkey can be seen ahead in the distance. After 150 metres at the bottom of the field go through a wooden kissing gate, to go down the fenced-in right-hand edge of this next field.

In 180 metres *at the bottom right corner of the field turn right down a car-wide track,* your direction 30 degrees. After 200 metres *you come out to a lane. Turn right and after 10 metres turn left* to continue on the Hangers Way footpath, your direction 20 degrees. After 300 metres *fork left down towards a stile and wooden footbridge,* your direction 30 degrees. After 50 metres cross over the stile and plank footbridge, and in a further 40 metres cross another stile (flanked by two plank footbridges) to *turn right along an indistinct footpath through a clearing in an easterly direction.*

After 250 metres now alongside the edge of a wood on your left, go over a stile. Follow the footpath as it comes out into the open and through a dip; to go uphill and cross over a stile after 130 metres. In 160 metres you pass a signpost on the right next to a house. In 40 metres go over a stile to go gently up a fenced in path.

After 300 metres at a footpath signpost pointing back, which indicates a path to Steep and Petersfield, *the path joins a tarmac lane*. Continue up the lane and in 200 metres turn right at a crossroads. The suggested lunch stop, the **Hawkley Inn [5]**, is 100 metres on the left .

Coming out of the pub, turn right down the road. In 100 metres at the junction next to Hawkley Place follow the Hangers Way signpost straight on to pass by the village green on your right. At a metal road signpost *veer left for Oakshott/Priors Dean/Wheatham*. In 50 metres turn right at a wooden bridleway signpost along a narrow concrete road. In 100 metres you pass to the right of three garages. The path now becomes a bridleway with a hedgerow on your right and a field on your left.

After 300 metres you *enter a wood to turn right* to follow the Hangers Way, indicated by a three armed wooden signpost. (You can see Hawkley church off to your right in the distance.) The footpath runs along the right-hand edge of the wood with open fields to the right. Continue on this footpath, with fine views to your right.

In 400 metres the path joins a crossing track. Veer right, your direction 300 degrees. After 600 metres, *where the path forks, take the lower right fork*. In 30 metres ignore a footpath to the right. In 300 metres you emerge from the wood with a fence on your left and a field beyond, now walking downhill, your direction 350 degrees.

[!] In 100 metres *at a three way path junction [6]*, as marked by a wooden three-armed signpost, *veer left down some steps*, across a stream and up some steps. In 40 metres go through a wooden gate to go up across a field towards a wooden gate (between metal fieldgates) in the far corner, your direction 10 degrees.

After 200 metres go through the wooden gate into the next field to continue along its left-hand side, with a wooded

boundary, your direction 80 degrees.

After 200 metres *at the left-hand corner of the field, go through a wooden kissing-gate to turn left up a lane passing by a pond* on your left-hand side, your direction north.

In 180 metres and 40 metres past the brow of the lane, turn right to go through a metal kissing-gate. Follow the Hangers Way along the left-hand edge of the field. After 200 metres go through a metal kissing-gate (left of a metal fieldgate). Continue straight ahead down across the field along a wide fenced-in path, your direction 65 degrees.

In 220 metres go through a metal kissing-gate to the left of a car-wide field exit. In a further 20 metres you reach a lane and a ford **[7]**.

Turn right, crossing the ford by a wooden plank bridge. Leave the Hangers Way at this point to continue up the lane. In 250 metres you pass by Quarry Farm on the right. Continue for a further 60 metres to *turn right up a tree arbour'd byway*, (marked by a wooden post).

After 400 metres at a T-junction with a lane, turn right downhill. [!] In 70 metres *turn left along an enclosed footpath*. In 20 metres cross a footbridge over a stream, and in a further 30 metres go over a stile to veer left.

In 40 metres go over another stile next to a metal fieldgate. Continue straight ahead on a wide grassy track along the upper right side of the field, your direction 100 degrees. After 140 metres go over a stile up to the right of a metal fieldgate. In 150 metres go over a stile (left of a metal fieldgate), now with a fence on your right. In 130 metres (having entered a wooded area) go over a stile to continue straight ahead.

In 60 metres go through a wooden kissing gate and over a stile to emerge from the wooded area. *Turn sharp right to follow a car-wide grass track byway along the upper right side of a field*.

In 100 metres go through a metal fieldgate. Continue up the now tree arbour'd car wide byway, your direction 230 degrees. After 500 metres having emerged from the arbour, keep straight on at a junction of paths.

[!] In 140 metres *where the track curves to the right, fork left [8]*, climbing up over tree roots to emerge into the corner of a field. Go straight ahead along the left-hand edge of the field, your initial direction south. *After 400 metres turn left through a metal fieldgate* with a pond to your right.

In 20 metres turn left up a tarmac lane. In 80 metres you pass by a stables called Uplands on the left. In 200 metres you go steeply downhill. After 280 metres you pass by a house (with a pond below) on the left.

In 60 metres *at a wooden footpath signpost, turn right up a track leading to a field.* Go through a metal gate (right of a metal fieldgate) into the field to go along its left-hand edge. In 180 metres follow the footpath as it turns sharp left downhill. In 70 metres you pass by a car-wide entrance to a farm on the left. In 30 metres *go through a wooden gate*, down some steps and through another wooden gate into a field, to then *turn right down across it* (towards its bottom right-hand corner).

After 280 metres, at the bottom right-hand corner of the field, go through a metal gate (left of a metal fieldgate). *Turn left onto a car-wide track*, your direction 50 degrees.

[!] *In 200 metres turn right* to go along a fenced-in footpath. After 160 metres cross over a plank bridge to follow the path round to the right. In 30 metres turn right across another plank bridge. **[9]** *Turn left over a stile to follow a wide fenced-in path along the left side of a field*, your direction 130 degrees.

After 200 metres, in the left-hand corner of the field, cross over a stream flanked by two (normally open) metal fieldgates

(else cross stiles to their side. Continue up a wide fenced-in path, your direction 100 degrees. In 40 metres, as the fence on the left veers off to the left, continue straight-ahead alongside the fence on your right. In 100 metres, cross over a stile and a three-plank footbridge and another stile, to continue along this narrow field.

In 150 metres cross over a stile (right of a metal fieldgate), and *veer left to follow a shingle car-wide track.* After 200 metres cross over a stile (right of a metal fieldgate) into the next field, cutting off the right-hand corner of the field, your direction 80 degrees. In 180 metres cross a stile between two metal fieldgates and continue along a fenced-in car-wide earth track along the left-hand side of a field.

In 200 metres go through a wooden gate and *cross the A3 over a humpback footbridge.*

Once over the bridge turn right through a wooden gate after 20 metres. *Turn left along a fenced-in path on the left-hand edge of a field.* In 100 metres continue straight ahead to come out onto a tarmac lane, with a church to your left. **[10]**

At the car park for Liss cemetery turn right down a car-wide shingle path with the cemetery on your right, your direction 190 degrees. In 140 metres the path narrows as it joins a fence on the right. In 40 metres ignore a stile on your right as you pass by some houses on your left and come out to a road after 100 metres.

Cross the road and go straight ahead, with a car park on the right and cottages to the left. In 30 metres you come to a wooden footpath sign. *In 10 metres veer left up a car-wide track underlaid with bricks.* In 30 metres continue along an enclosed footpath (further on the tower of Liss Church comes into view).

In 350 metres the footpath meets a road which you cross. Continue straight on through a metal kissing gate and down along the footpath leading to the church. In 250 metres *turn left in front of the*

church door to leave the churchyard of **St Mary's** after 60 metres. Turn right onto the road [11].

Liss station is 250 metres on the left. For tea options, see **Lunch & tea places**.

Walk options

a) Shorter circular walk

Follow the main walk directions until point [4]

Passing by the Ashford Hangers Nature Reserve sign, *turn immediately right along a broad track through woods*. In 80 metres you pass by a red tipped wooden post on the left.

In 100 metres, as you approach a wooden barrier with a no cycling sign *turn left going gently uphill*, your direction 40 degrees. After 50 metres the path curves to the right and goes downhill, your direction 120 degrees. After 250 metres you pass a wooden barrier. In 10 metres, at a T-junction, *turn right along the edge of the wood*.

In 200 metres you pass by an Ashford Hangers National Nature Reserve sign. After 200 metres ignore a path which joins from the right. Keep straight on, ignoring any turnings off.

[!] In 600 metres, as a field comes into view through the trees on the right, *turn right [A1]*, over a stile and walk straight ahead down a beech tree lined path. In 100 metres the trees end, and after a further 100 metres, go over a stile and *turn right down a road*.

[!] In 400 metres, after a section of the road that is shaded by trees, *turn left at a footpath sign* (which in summer can be overgrown) to go along the left-hand edge of a field.

In 100 metres the path enters woodland and goes downhill. In another 120 metres go over a stile and straight ahead to a telegraph pole in 25 metres. *Veer right*

to follow the telegraph poles for 100 metres towards a stile. Go over the stile and turn left with the field on your left and woods to your right, your direction 140 degrees.

In 80 metres veer right and keep straight on along the left-hand field edge, your direction 130 degrees. In 130 metres cross another stile and *turn right down a stony car-wide track* passing farm buildings on your left. In 100 metres *the path goes down a short slope into woods*.

[!] After a further 50 metres take the *right hand fork [A2]*, indicated by a yellow arrow on a tree, your direction 190 degrees. After 50 metres, with a house on your left, *veer right up some steps* and go over a stile. Walk diagonally across the corner of the field, your direction 230 degrees.

In 50 metres cross over a stile and in a further 100 metres cross a plank over a ditch. Continue through the woods for 500 metres. Cross another plank over a stream. *Turn right almost immediately over a very small brick bridge*.

Go uphill on this car-wide track. In 150 metres you reach a T-junction, passing a driveway to The Grange on the right. (Note: The road on the left which leads to the Harrow Inn is private.) *Thus, turn right* and, after 30 metres, pass by the gated entrance to The Grange on the left.

In 10 metres cross a gravel drive to a fieldgate and a footpath sign. Go through the gate. *Turn left along the left-hand edge of the field*. In 100 metres veer left at a footpath sign. In 10 metres *turn right to cross a stile, and over a second stile after 10 metres*. Keep to the right-hand edge of the field, your direction 220 degrees. In 100 metres at the field corner, cross over a plank bridge, to go through a kissing gate and uphill through woods.

After 120 metres you reach a lane.

[For lunch at The Harrow Inn, *turn left along this lane*, initially south. After 400 metres at a crossroads, turn left for the

Harrow Inn. After lunch retrace your steps to pick up the directions below.]

Turn right along the lane. In 100 metres you pass by *All Saints Church on your left [2]* and immediately turn left to rejoin your outward path. You are now retracing your steps back to Petersfield. Follow the narrow fenced footpath for 500 metres ignoring any turnings off. Turn left to cross the footbridge over the A3.

Continue down the fenced-in path for 350 metres to go through a wooden kissing gate frame, to continue along a minor road. In 200 metres, *just before a stone wall starts on the left, veer right* up a stony tarmac track for 100 metres. At a junction of paths go straight on, your direction 210 degrees.

[!] In 10 metres fork left onto the *Hangers Way*, bordered by a wall on the right. After 350 metres you go between some concrete posts, and after 120 metres reach the main road. Turn left for 120 metres, to reach **Petersfield station** on your right. For the town centre pass by the station and in 250 metres turn right down Chapel Street for the **Brewers**.

Lunch & tea places

The Hawkley Inn (01730 827205), Hawkley. Slightly less than halfway into the walk, has a garden and serves home cooked food until 2pm at weekends. Booking is advised. This is the suggested lunch stop for the main walk.

Whistle Stop Hill Brow Road Liss GU33 7DS. (01730 892202) Local pub.

Harrow Inn Steep, Petersfield, GU32 2DA (01730 262685). This pub with a garden has been described as 'one of the finest traditional country inns in England dating from the seventeenth century'. It is the suggested lunch stop for the shorter walk option.

The Square Brewery, 7 The Square Petersfield GU32 3HJ (01730 264291)

The Old Drum, 16 Chapel Street, Petersfield, GU32 3DP (01730 300544). **Open** 10am-3pm, 5 -11 pm Mon-Fri; Sat 10am-11pm; Sun noon-5pm. **Food served** noon-2pm; -2.30pm weekends. 6.30-9.30pm Mon - Sat.

Picnic: Shoulder of Mutton Hill is a good picnic spot, with magnificent views.