

Points of Interest

PHILPOTS QUARRY

This is a family business that has been making bricks and architectural ceramics since Victorian times. William Tribe Lamb founded the business over 100 years ago and remained an active partner until 1914. The fifth generation of this family are now actively running the business. They provide a range of traditional and custom-made products, some of which are on show just off our route. Sir Winston Churchill bought nearby Chartwell in the 1920s and embarked on substantial building work. He had great difficulty finding bricks to match the old ones and a young member of the Lamb family created a good match. Sir Winston developed an interest in bricklaying and in 1928 was made an honorary member of the local Bricklaying Union.

This quarry, with Hook to the south, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the geological importance of the local sand and clay. Many fossils have been found and dinosaur bones are frequent in the sandstone, including a headless skeleton of *Iguanodon*.

WAKEHURST PLACE was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1963 and is leased to the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. The present house was built in 1590 by Edward Culpeper - a distant relative of Nicholas, the famous herbalist. The estate passed through many hands before being bought by Gerald Loder (later Lord Wakehurst) in 1903. He and his head gardener, Alfred Coates, spent more than 30 years developing the garden, in particular planting many trees and shrubs. The last owner, Sir Henry Price, made his fortune making off-the-peg suits and was known as the 'Fifty Shilling Tailor'; he and his wife continued to develop the garden.

The garden is now internationally important, not only because of the collection of plants, but also for the scientific research into plant conservation which is conducted here. In 2010 the Millennium Seed Bank reached a milestone, conserving the seeds of 10 per cent of the world's plants; it is now working towards conserving 25 per cent by 2020.

Country Walks from Gravetye Manor



compiled for
Gravetye Manor
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No. 2 'The Kew Walk'

The Kew Walk

This is a linear walk of 5.5 km (3½ miles) each way and will take 75 - 90 minutes in each direction. It affords an opportunity to visit Wakehurst Place and the Millennium Seedbank. There is an option of returning to the hotel by taxi.

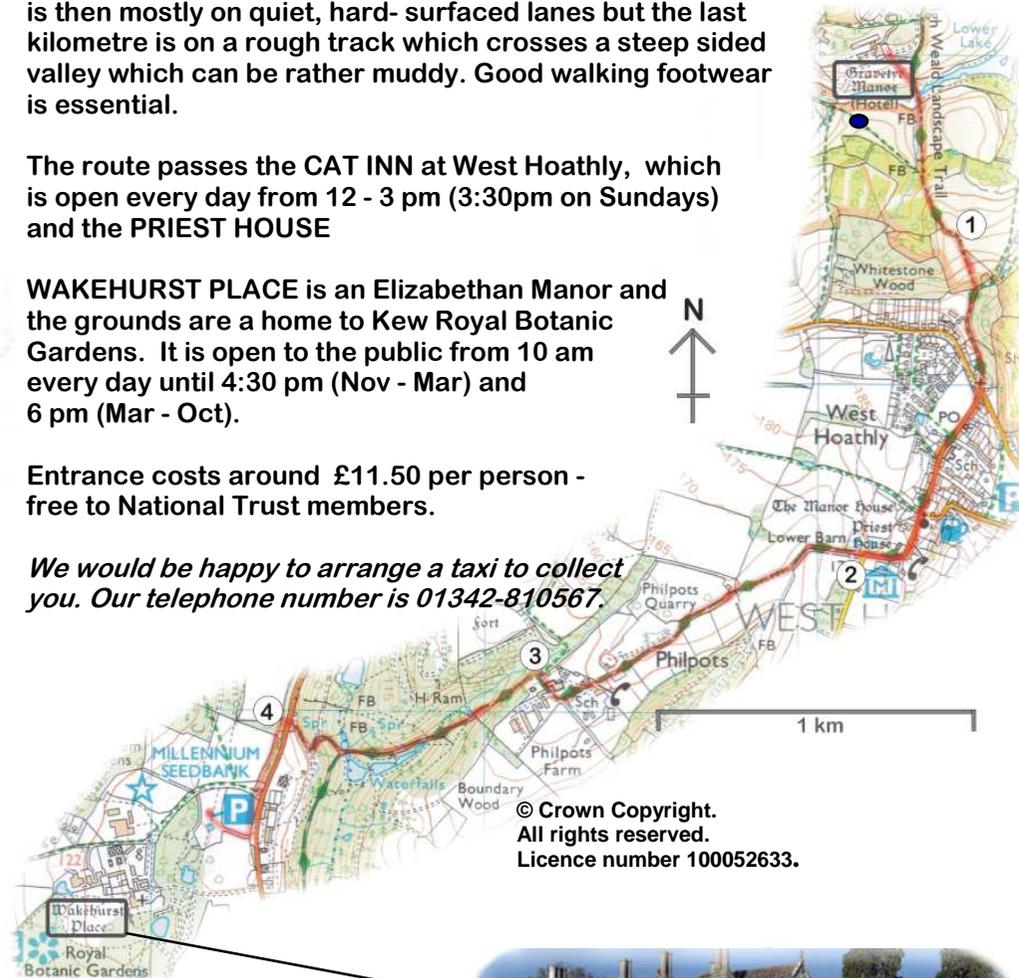
After a climb up to the village of West Hoathly on a forest track, the route is then mostly on quiet, hard- surfaced lanes but the last kilometre is on a rough track which crosses a steep sided valley which can be rather muddy. Good walking footwear is essential.

The route passes the CAT INN at West Hoathly, which is open every day from 12 - 3 pm (3:30pm on Sundays) and the PRIEST HOUSE

WAKEHURST PLACE is an Elizabethan Manor and the grounds are a home to Kew Royal Botanic Gardens. It is open to the public from 10 am every day until 4:30 pm (Nov - Mar) and 6 pm (Mar - Oct).

Entrance costs around £11.50 per person - free to National Trust members.

We would be happy to arrange a taxi to collect you. Our telephone number is 01342-810567.



Route Directions

From the main steps turn right to pass under the pergola and through the wooden gates. Turn half left following the sign 'to the lakes' down the grassy track away from the house. Near the bottom of the hill pass through the ornate metal gates and turn right on a broad crossing track. Cross the stone bridge over the stream and keep to the iron fence on the right to pass through a kissing gate. Follow the footpath fingerpost up a small embankment and then keep right of the gorse bushes to reach a stile into the woods. Continue uphill to a plank bridge leading to a large open field. Follow the tree line on your right uphill for 150m and pass through a gap between two holly bushes ①. Continue uphill in much the same direction across an open field towards the trees. Pass through a gap besides a stile and join a broad sunken track to continue uphill. On reaching the main road besides West Hoathly Garage cross carefully over into North Lane and walk into the village.



Pass the Cat Inn, the church & Priest House and on reaching the Bowls Club ignore the lane going left ② and go straight ahead towards Philpots Manor School. After 1km reach the school and follow a brideway sign besides the main building which leads to a narrower track heading steeply downhill into the woods. The rough track swings almost immediately left ③ and drops steadily to the valley floor.



Cross the watercourse and continue ahead besides the tall bamboo to reach a crossing drive and turn right. In just 50m turn left off the drive onto a narrow path going steeply uphill. This brideway twists and turns its way up to meet the main road ④. Cross carefully over to the grassy bank and turn left. Follow this raised bank towards Wakehurst Place, crossing straight over the first drive at gate No.3 and in a further 75m enter the main car park.



There is much to see and a choice of two cafes and you should allow at least two hours for your visit, or even longer if staying for lunch and planning to also visit the millennium seed bank.

To return to Gravetye the only viable walking route is the one described. Pause at each junction to make sure you are returning whence you came !