

HOLMER GREEN WALKS

Walk 8: Holmer Green to Penn Church, via Penn Wood

Destination: Church in a pretty setting, with benches overlooking the headstones

Distance: 5.8 km each way (total 11.6 km or 7.25 miles)

Ascent: 15m descent, 40m ascent and return

Return: Mostly the same way, so **make sure you memorise where you have come from at each junction**. If you get lost keep walking NORTH-WEST till you find somewhere you recognise – remember: your shadow points north for much of the day

Start: **Holmer Green – Lynford Parade** shops

1. **From the shops**, set off down the hill towards the pond, **turning right** into Earl Howe Road at the crossroads. Continue on for 250m, passing the Earl Howe pub on the left, and **turn left** into Hogg Lane.



2. Walk to the end of Hogg Lane (350m) and **bear right** at the footpath sign to which a dog waste bin is attached.



3. Just a few steps along the path there's a gap on the right where you can enter the field and walk parallel with the footpath. Make for the farm buildings in the distance. The path eventually squeezes between the hedge and the first building, crosses a farm area (Blairavon Farm) and arrives at a road (Sheepbarn Dell Road, 500m), here **turn right**. WITH GREAT CARE follow the road to the A404, ignoring the road on the left signposted Beamond End.

4. Go straight across the A404, then cross a small parking area and go through the gate into Penn Wood. Keep an eye on the field to the right, and where the field ends (after 100m) at a footpath junction **take the right fork** (not sharp right) at the footpath marker post just after a large tree in the path.



5. After another 50m at a public footpath sign the path forks again, here **bear slightly left**.
6. Follow this path for 1km (15 mins). You may spot a pond on the right with a bench facing it. After a while, at another fork keep straight on to emerge at a small parking area, **turn left** at the road and follow this road to the T-junction, alongside the grassy area on your left.
7. **Turn right** at the road junction, passing Penn Street Village Hall on the right and keep on the road, past some smart offices and the Hit or Miss pub on the left. After 200m after a white house on the right and before 40mph speed limit signs, take the public footpath **to the right**. Cross over an open field and pass through an unsignposted gap into the woods opposite.



8. After 350m the path emerges through a gap in the laurels onto a tarmac drive (to Penn House), **turn right here**. Follow the drive for 150m and take the drive **to the right** opposite Garden Cottage. Keep in this direction for another 300m, the drive becomes a path at a row of wooden posts and enters some woods thick with rhododendron and laurel.
9. After a few metres the path forks at a public footpath post, take the **left hand** fork. This is a broad path with laurels both sides.



10. The path starts to go downhill and the woods open out. **IGNORE** unsignposted paths to the left. The path descends steeply, at a gate continue right downhill to the road ahead (Gravelly Way), here **turn left**.
11. Immediately **cross straight over** and go through the gate opposite.



12. This is a permissive path and is evidently part of the Penn House Estate Walks. Keep to the edge of the field with the hedge on your right, parallel with the road.
13. After 150m you come to a junction with a public footpath with many routes marked on the post, **turn left** here across the field, towards the woods.



14. Just inside the woods the path forks right, and

a few steps further **forks right** again up the hill. The path is broad, and at a crossroads of footpaths (300m) go **straight on** towards the exit of the woods and open ground.

15. At the exit of the woods, at another crossroads of footpaths, go **straight on** again, across the field. The footpath goes downhill, crosses another footpath at the bottom, then goes up the other side (500m).



16. Enter the woods alongside the footpath marker. **IGNORE** an unsignposted path on the left and go uphill inside the right-hand edge of the woods with field visible beyond.
17. The path then bears left further into the woods, and comes to an unsignposted T-junction of paths where you **turn right** – you may want to stop and note the layout for the way back (although it doesn't matter as the two paths join up again near the field entrance of the woods).
18. After a few steps the path forks, you can either keep to the footpath or **turn right** into a grassy pub overflow car park. Then through the tarmac pub car park, and at the main road (Church Road) **turn right**. Pass the Crown pub on your right and war memorial on the left and continue a little way along the pavement.
19. The church comes into view, cross over, through the lych gate and take the gravel path on the right-hand side of the church, which leads into a walled garden where there are more benches overlooking the headstones. The church also has a porch with benches inside if it's raining.



20. Return to Holmer Green the same way.

Maps

<https://www.streetmap.co.uk/prf.srf?x=491800&y=196100&z=115&sv=491800,196100&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=prf.srf&searchp=s.srf&dn=710&ax=491800&ay=196500&lm=1>
<https://streetmap.co.uk/prf.srf?x=491500&y=194300&z=115&sv=491500,194630&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=prf.srf&searchp=s.srf&dn=685&ax=490500&ay=197500&lm=1>