

# HOLMER GREEN WALKS

## Walk 2: Holmer Green to Whielden Lane Picnic Site, Winchmore Hill

**Destination:** Abandoned picnic site with 1½ still usable picnic tables in a very pretty setting.

**Distance:** 5.0 km each way (total 10.0 km or 6.25 miles)

**Ascent:** 25m descent, 45m 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. Pass Penn Street Village Hall on your right, and at the junction take the public footpath on the opposite side of the main road.



8. This is narrow path with an industrial estate on the right. Then through a gate, keeping in the same direction, cross a field parallel with the fence on the right. Through another gate and into a very large open field, make for the woods.
9. On the far side of the field **DO NOT** enter the woods but **take the path on the left** that goes down the track, skirts round and up to the right, keeping the woods close to you.
10. The path heads towards a row of pylons in the distance and starts to narrow. After 800m, after the power cables and farm building on the right, take the path **sharp right** (the A404 is close at this point), a signpost on the left points the correct direction to a path with the field boundary on the right and a gate and woods in the distance. Then back under the power cables.



11. At the gate enter the woods, following the footpath sign, turning left as you go. Follow this path gently downhill for 200m inside the edge of the woods. At the bottom of the hill, you meet a track, **turn left** (in the opposite direction to the footpath) – this section is no longer a public footpath but is part of Penn House Estate Walk 5 and is quite accessible.



12. Keep on the track for 300m and where it meets a road (Whielden Lane), **go straight across**, then **immediately left** through a disused gate parallel to the road – this footpath leads into the picnic site.
13. Over a little bridge, and after 200m through the woods you arrive at the picnic site.



14. To return, retrace your steps completely, OR return through the picnic site woods, but at the footpath junction **go straight on** up the steps. Follow the path along the field edge alongside the road for 200m, where it brings you out onto the road to a short section of pavement. Continue along the road for another 500m passing several rows of houses on the left, past a sign to give way to oncoming vehicles and a bus shelter on the right.
15. Opposite Nelson Close on the left take the footpath **on the right**. This leads along a narrow path (there is a better path inside the field on the right), through a gate into another field, then through another gate and into the woods. The path proceeds just inside the woods and after a makeshift bridge, emerges (400m) from the woods at a gate. Keep in the same direction (left-fork footpath ahead), which is then back the way you came. At Penn Street you can stop for refreshments by the cricket pitch, where there are a couple of benches.

## Maps

<https://www.streetmap.co.uk/prf.srf?x=491800&y=196500&z=115&sv=491800,196500&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=prf.srf&searchp=s.srf&dn=710&ax=491800&ay=196500&lm=1>  
<https://www.streetmap.co.uk/prf.srf?x=492970&y=195350&z=115&sv=492970,195350&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=prf.srf&searchp=s.srf&dn=710&ax=491800&ay=196500&lm=1>