

The Three Horseshoes Walks

(Printed copies available at the bar)

These walks have been produced for Thursley Parish Council to celebrate the re-opening of The Three Horseshoes Public House in 2004.

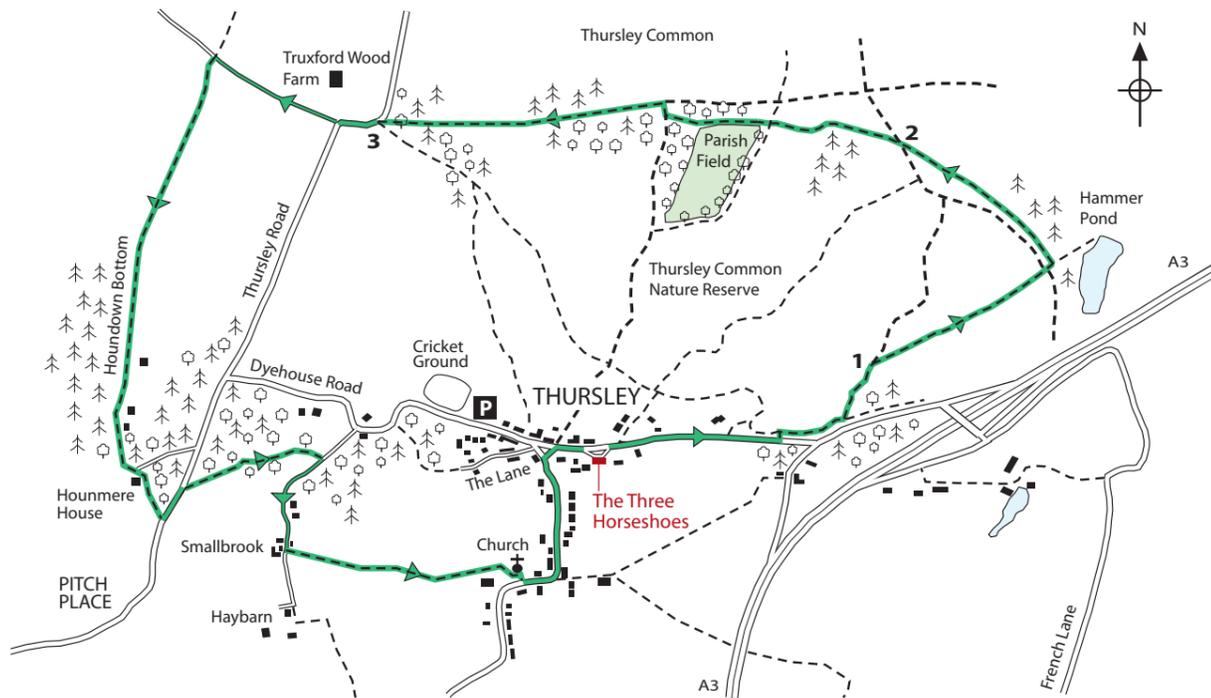
Walk A is 4 miles long and gives superb views across Thursley Common which suffered a major fire in 2006.

Walk B is over 7 miles long and includes a crossing of the A3, some gradients and a visit to the Hindhead Tunnel Viewing Platform. This walk is not suitable for children. Waterproof boots are advised.

There are a number of short cuts back to Thursley on both walks.

Start from The Three Horseshoes although you can park to the right of the recreation ground at the other end of the village 200 yards away.

Thursley (Thor's field) has Saxon origins and once had a thriving iron industry. In the churchyard is the grave of an unknown sailor murdered in 1768. His assassins were hung in chains on Gibbet Hill, Hindhead. The chains were made at what is now Forge Cottage, opposite the recreation ground. The architect Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869 - 1944) spent his childhood here and undertook his first commission in Thursley aged 19.



Walk A

Turn right along the pavement from the Pub car park, past Folds-down House, ignore footpath sign and continue until reaching a Thursley National Nature Reserve sign. Turn left onto the common and immediately right onto a wide path. After 150 yards turn left onto a Public Bridleway.

1 After 150 yards bear right along a narrow but soon to broaden grassy path. Continue downhill to the crossing with a wide sandy track. Ahead is Hammer Pond where the last iron forge in Surrey was built in 1610. Beyond the crossing immediately turn left onto a narrow path parallel to the wide track.

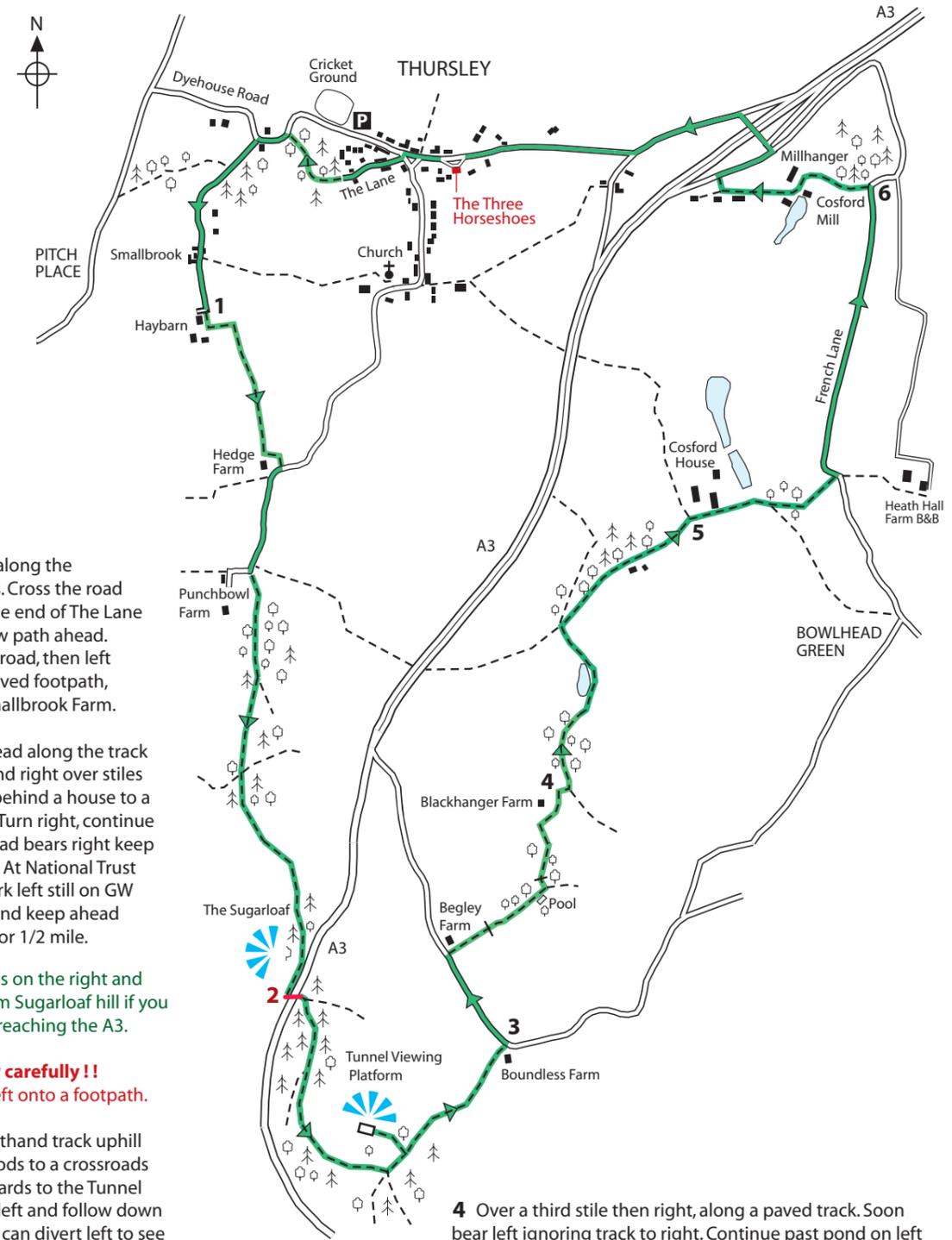
2 At the next crossing of the wide track go straight ahead and again at the next crossroads into a lightly wooded area on a grassy path. The boundary fence of the Parish Field is on your left. Continue outside the Parish Field through a wooded area. At the T-junction with a major path turn right then immediately left onto a wide track. Ignoring paths to the right, follow the track for 1/2 mile past metal gates to the road.

3 Turn left along the road then, in 50 yards, turn right along the lane by Truxford cottage. At the crossroads turn left along a broad track towards Houndown. Continue straight ahead for 3/4 mile then after a left hand bend turn right behind Hounmere House and uphill to Thursley Road. Turn left and cross the road, after 50 yards bear right onto a footpath.

Cross over two streams then right into the lane to Smallbrook Farm. Turn left opposite the buildings, through a gate and continue across a field along the path to Thursley Churchyard on Greensand Way.

Look out for an unusual memorial designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and also the grave of the murdered sailor.

Turn right just before the church and left onto the road. Continue along the road. Prospect Cottage on the right, once the Village Institute, was designed by Lutyens in 1901. At the triangular clump, Street House, the boyhood home of Lutyens is on the left and The Corner, opposite, was his first commission. Turn right to return to The Three Horseshoes or left to the recreation ground.



Walk B

From the Pub, turn left along the pavement for 100 yards. Cross the road and into The Lane. At the end of The Lane continue along a narrow path ahead. Turn left on the tarmac road, then left after 60 yards onto a paved footpath, continue uphill past Smallbrook Farm.

1 At Haybarn, keep ahead along the track (Greensand Way), left and right over stiles and along field edges, behind a house to a junction with the road. Turn right, continue uphill and where the road bears right keep ahead on a broad track. At National Trust sign bear right. Soon fork left still on GW ignore crossing tracks and keep ahead uphill on a stony track for 1/2 mile.

The Devil's Punchbowl is on the right and there are fine views from Sugarloaf hill if you divert right just before reaching the A3.

2 At the A3 cross very carefully !! and diagonally to the left onto a footpath.

Very soon, take the righthand track uphill and follow through woods to a crossroads where there are signboards to the Tunnel Viewing Platform. Turn left and follow down hill. After 150 yards you can divert left to see the Hindhead Tunnel construction. Retrace your steps and continue downhill to the road at Boundless Farm. You are half way at this point.

3 Turn left on the road to Begley Farm where you turn right beside the gate into a field - this can be wet !

Cross to a gate leading to a track ahead. Further to the right is a disused swimming pool. It has an atmosphere of bygone days and is the site of an earlier farmhouse and well. Beyond, turn left and over a stile into a field.

Note iron gates with star, erected by Lord Pirrie, denoting the White Star Shipping Line which owned the Titanic.

Continue across the field between an oak tree and a stream. Over two stiles and past a house on the left.

4 Over a third stile then right, along a paved track. Soon bear left ignoring track to right. Continue past pond on left and note dramatic gorge on right. At crossroads of paths turn right on a footpath with a field to your right.

5 At a T-junction turn right along the tarmac drive (GW) in front of a house. Over a stream, fork left on GW. Continue uphill on GW, ignoring paths to right and left, over three stiles then left along the road.

6 In 1/2 mile turn left onto a public bridleway where the road bends to the right. At the bottom of the hill ignore a track to the right and continue ahead between the house and Cosford Mill, then past a farmyard on the left. Turn right onto a tarmac track and immediately right at the T-junction. Turn left across the bridge over the A3.

Turn left on the pavement towards Thursley to return to The Three Horseshoes.