

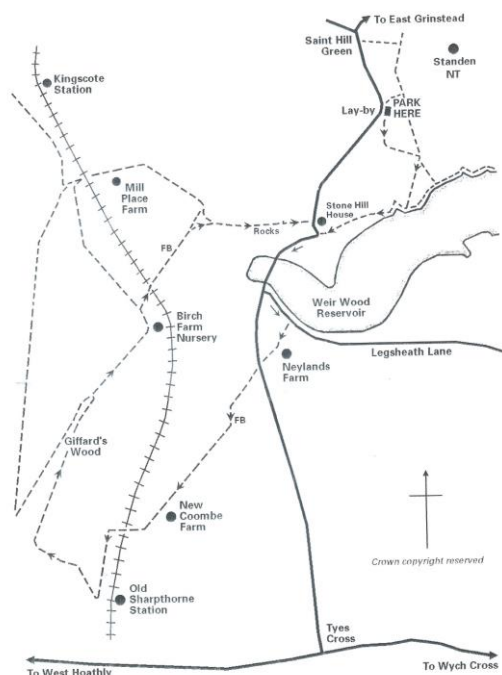
## WEIR WOOD AND SHARPTHORNE

This is a particularly attractive walk as at both ends it gives the very best views across Weir Wood Reservoir and also finest picnic spots in the locality. This it is very photogenic. It passes alongside the site of the old Bluebell Railway station at Sharpthorne, the half-way point of the walk.

**Distance:** 5 miles ( 8 kilometres)

**Map reference:** O.S. Explorer 135, 381349 (*Stone Hill Rocks*)

**Parking:** is in a rough lay-by suitable for two or three cars only, on the Grinstead Lane road about half a mile past Saint Hill Green on your left.



There are wide panoramic views from the car park. To the north towards Saint Hill Manor and through the whole southern arc which includes Weir Wood Reservoir.

### **Directions:**

1. From the lay-by, cross the stile into the field and turn right immediately to pass the map and go through the gate by the footpath sign. Turn left to go downhill to the next similar gate and footpath sign on the left.
2. Follow the path to the left through the wood and meet a footpath T-junction. At this point turn away to the right going downhill towards the water ahead. You will see the stile ahead which will bring you onto the Sussex Border Path round the reservoir fence. Note also the notice board describing Standen Rocks and Weir Wood.
3. Cross the stile and turn right and follow the path to the end and onto Admiral's Bridge Lane which takes you up to Stone Hill House on the right. Go straight on and walk downhill to Whillet's Bridge. Take great care as this is a narrow twisting road and there is no footpath.

4. Just beyond the bridge turn left into Legsheath Lane and walk alongside the water for approximately a quarter of a mile. Up on the right you will see Neylands Farm and below near the road a footpath sign and stile.
5. Go up the right-hand side of the field to the top corner leading past Step by Step school, straight ahead to a footpath sign off the road.
6. Go to the left a few yards along the road past farm cottages, to a stile on the right. Follow an enclosed path through trees. The fields on either side are used by various organisations for camping. The track takes you into Blackland Wood.
7. As you enter the wood bear follow the footpath signs going downhill to pass a pumping station and cross a stream with a wide wooden bridge, then up to a stile and fenced footpath. (Over to the right are the woods you will later pass through, the Bluebell Railway, and below, water works.)
8. Straight ahead is New Coombe Farm and before it, you will see the next wooden footpath sign by a concrete track. Make for this across the field and forward along the concrete track to pass the farm to the left.
9. Continue along the track under railway bridge passing Old Combe House pond on the right, until you reach a rough car park on the left at the site of the old Bluebell Railway station at Sharpthorne.
10. The house opposite the old station was once the Bluebell Inn and a track goes off to the right, and a yard or so off this also on the right an entrance leading onto a wide Forestry Commission track.
11. Follow the track for 1 mile, before turning off to the right just before a left bend, to join a footpath at a footpath sign situated off the bridleway.
12. In three or four yards turn left and follow this (sometimes muddy) path through the wood, keeping straight on to a stile leading into a field. Birch Farm is on your right. (This was Ingwersen's alpine plant nursery.) Keep straight on down the field to a stile into the track to Birch Farm.
13. Turn left for 200 yards to the next fingerpost on your right and again turn off right into a narrow path which takes you up onto the Bluebell Railway trackway and down the other side. Keep forward along a narrow path at first between small trees then across an open field to a footbridge on the right.
14. Once over the bridge turn left to a fingerpost and straight ahead up the fairly steep slope of the next field. There is a finger post on the left by the field boundary but go to the top right-hand corner towards another fingerpost and pass through a gate into an enclosed track on your right.
15. The track passes along the top of rocks where climbers often practice. The track passes several small paths going off to the right between the rocks and it may be pleasant to take one and walk along the foot of the rocks to get better views of the reservoir below
16. Turn left along this busy narrow road for about four hundred yards to the lay-by on the right.