

THORPE & CALLOW HILL

THIS WALK TAKES IN MANY WOODED AREAS AROUND THORPE AND CALLOW HILL. THE ROUTE IS BEST WALKED AFTER A DRY PERIOD OF WEATHER. PARK AT THORPE GREEN IN THE CAR PARK NEXT TO THE ROSE AND CROWN PUB. MAP REF. TQ011680. NEAREST POSTCODE TW20 8QN. 5 MILES EASY.

Walk away from the Rose and Crown Public House, along the edge of Thorpe Green, parallel to Green Road, towards the motorway bridge. Pass under the motorway, cross the Thorpe By-pass with care and continue along Green Road in to the village of Thorpe. As a point of interest, past the first turning on the left, a footpath between a fence and a hedge leads to a small recreation ground, the Frank Muir Memorial Field. The late writer, entertainer and broadcaster lived in the village for many years. Follow the road through the village passing the Post Office and War Memorial. There are a number of attractive old houses to spot along the roadside. On reaching the Red Lion Public House, a short optional detour along Coldharbour Lane leads to the quaint parish church. Continue past the Red Lion, the road then swings to the left, then right. Just before the 40 mph and bus stop signs, turn left down a track, signposted public footpath to Prune Hill. The track soon narrows to a path, continue to and pass through the kissing gate at the end, and turn right down the lane.

Cross the main road and climb over the stile slightly to the left. The bridge leads over the M25. Bear to the right along the footpath and follow the path away from the motorway through the wooded area. Cross a narrow footbridge across a water-filled ditch and follow the edge of the field. Pass through a kissing gate; turn left for 20 metres, cross Stroude Road and walk down a footpath into a wooded area. On reaching the open field, head across it towards some cottages over to the right. At the top of Egham Hill, you may catch a glimpse of the magnificent building of the Royal Holloway College. Pick up the footpath again at the stile between two of the cottages. Cross the stile, turn right at the track and left on meeting Whitehall Lane. On the right are the offices of Procter & Gamble. Turn left down a footpath immediately before the rail crossing, signposted to Bakeham Lane and Callow Hill. Pass through the kissing gate and cross the railway with care. Follow the footpath along the wooded edge of the field.

At a footpath crossroads, continue straight on (signposted Public Footpath 42 to Callow Hill). After 30 metres, bear right over a stile between two fine oaks. Then go left, crossing a muddy stream. The footpath continues through woodland for approximately half a mile. After an area of tall pines the path emerges in the car park of the Rose and Olive Branch Public House.

On reaching Callow Hill, cross the road and turn left to walk uphill. As the road swings to the right, take the footpath along the track on the left just before 'Corner Wood'. On reaching the road, turn left past 'Merlewood' nursing home. After 'Gorse Hill House', the bridleway bears off right between two lines of boulders. Follow the route across a road by the entrance to the thatched 'Hollow Lane House', signposted to Stroude Road. Follow the bridleway downhill. Go across the railway line and along the track to reach Stroude Road.

Cross the road and turn right. Take the first road on the left, 'The Lane'. On the left is the access to Stroude Road Allotment Site. Continue straight on down the track and follow the route as it passes around the boundary of a field. There is a view of the tower of the old sanatorium building on the right. Pass over a wooden bridge and the footpath widens to a track. At the end of the track turn right, follow the track, turning right once more on meeting the tarmac road. The open field on the left is Thorpe Green. There is a magnificent old oak just near the tennis courts. Follow the road to 'Oak Cottage', a quaint thatched property on the right. Cut across the grass to reach your starting point in the car park.

