

1 Selborne and Empshott

Introduction

The walk includes some steep slopes characteristic of the chalk and greensand hangers. Paths may be muddy at times. There are some short sections of road. Spring flowers and autumn colours are especially good.

Historic Interest

Selborne was the home of Gilbert White, the famous 18th century naturalist. His home, The Wakes, is open to visitors and also houses the Oates Museum. The Lion's Mouth horse trough and fountain which you pass at the start of the walk was presented to the village in memory of Gilbert White.

The Le Court Cheshire Home was the first of its kind to be founded by Sir Leonard Cheshire. It sits on the site of an earlier ancient manor house of Greatham.

Other Interest

There is a choice of pubs in Selborne or alternatively try out the village shop or tea rooms for some well earned refreshments. The field adjacent to the path near Mabbotts (point 4) is managed under a Countryside Stewardship Agreement to encourage wildlife. Public access is permitted.

All routes start from Public Transport. Start Point GRID REFERENCE: SU 742336

1 Start from the bus stop by Selborne Arms. From the village walk south along the B3006. When you see the horse trough, take the footpath on the right hand side alongside the stream. Follow the path heading towards Noar Hill Nature Reserve.

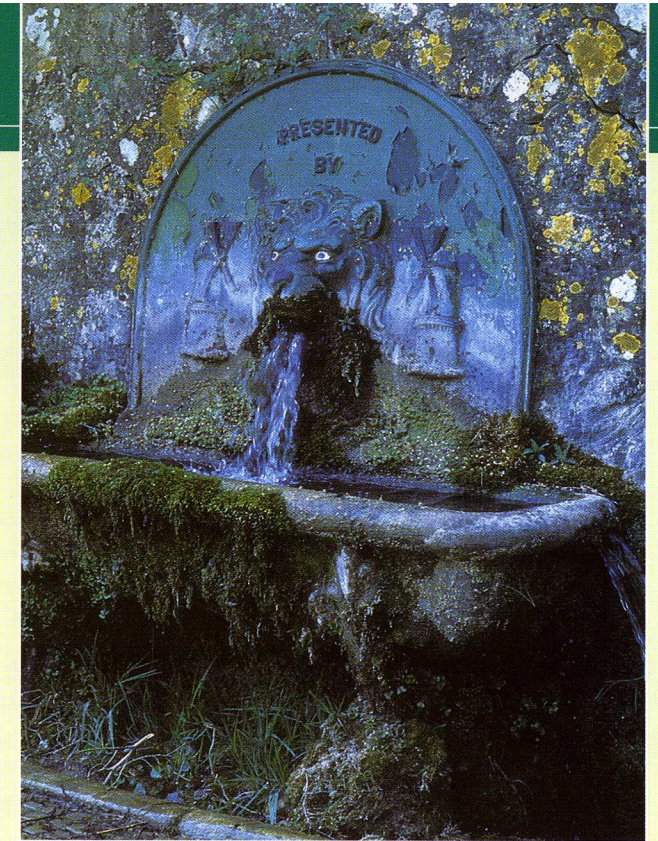
2 At the bottom of the hanger, where you meet the bridleway, turn left following the lower track for just over half a kilometre. About 100 metres past the old chalk pits on the left hand side, take the bridleway to the left and immediately right onto the footpath which runs along the field edge and then turns left across some fields. At the far side cross some stiles.

3 On reaching the lane turn right. Turn left onto the Hangers Way just over the ford. Left at the next lane and right just past the pond, continue along the Hangers Way. In the dell is the source of the River Rother. Leave the Hangers Way here, taking the bridleway, left, alongside the stream to the lane. Turn right.

4 At Lower Green turn left towards Empshott and then first right to Mabbotts. At the farm take the middle track following it down a wooded gully to a metal gate. Then continue across a large field. At the other side go through the metal gate, cross over the Rother, to Church Lane, where you turn right.

5 Cross over the main road and continue along the path through Cott's Shaw and up the hill behind the Le Court Cheshire Home and into an orchard, past an old hop kiln.

6 At the far end of the orchard, go through the deer fence and turn left up a steep path. Halfway up the path bears right into a field and follows the hanger.



Fountain at Selborne

7 When you reach the lane opposite Bradshott Hall turn left. At the top of the hill take the footpath on the left hand side and follow this around the edge of the field until you get to the playing fields. There are good views from here of Selborne Common, which is owned and managed by the National Trust.

8 Having passed the lake, on the far side of the field, turn left along the fence - do not climb over the stile but follow the path along the valley. At the end of the conifer plantation where the path divides take the right hand fork up the hanger slope and into the green lane, past the pond and on to Sotherington Lane where you turn right.

9 A short way up the lane where it bends right, take the footpath on the left hand side and follow this around the edge of the field until you get to the playing fields. There are good views from here of Selborne Common, which is owned and managed by the National Trust.

10 Half way down the hedge of the playing field is a path to the right, take this. At the lane turn left and at the road turn right, back into the village.

- distance approx 13.5km (8 miles)
- time approx 4 hrs