

Black Down & Hindhead Supporters of the National Trust

Four Walking Trails Starting at The Devil's Punchbowl Car Park

1) Hidden Hindhead

A well sign-posted but not too demanding a walk taking in both Gibbett Hill and The Temple of the Four Winds each with superb views and on a clear day you will glimpse the London skyline.

This walk is through rare ground-nesting bird habitat. Please keep dogs on a short lead during the nesting season (March to September)

Moderate

Good footwear/walking boots recommended

1 1/2 hours

3.1 Miles (5.0 km)

OS Explorer OL 33

Start: Devil's Punchbowl Car Park GR 890357

1. From the car park proceed north towards the white trig-point identifying the **pink** disc signage (Hidden Hindhead).
2. Follow these signs crossing the old A3 (now grassed over) to reach a paved road where you turn left and follow this in an easterly direction. En route discover the Sailor's Stone and admire the views north across the Punchbowl.

Sailor's Stone

In 1786 a sailor was brutally murdered by three men whilst walking between London and Portsmouth. The stone was erected to mark the spot where this poor sailor met his death.

3. Continue along the paved road ignoring the gateway on your right passing. On your left note the recently recovered old milestone (London 39 miles) and after 30 metres bear right up an ill-defined path that emerges onto Gibbett Hill. Take a rest and enjoy the views.

Gibbett Hill

The Celtic Cross marks the spot where three rogues were hanged for the murder of a sailor on the old Portsmouth Road. Gibbett Hill (272 m) located above the Devil's Punchbowl is the second highest point in Surrey.

4. Looking north from the trig-point head down the ill-defined, but signed path on the right taking care, as when wet, can be very slippery. At the bottom continue straight ahead on a tree lined track eventually emerging at the Temple of the Four Winds. Again take a rest and enjoy the view.

The Temple of the Four Winds

The Temple of the Four Winds was built c. 1910 by Viscount Pirrie, a chairman of Harland and Wolff the builders of the ill-fated Titanic. The Viscount's Witley Park estate included a deer park and many elaborate lunches were held at the Lodge for his hunting friends. The actual temple fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1966.

5. *From the Temple identify the signage which will lead onto a well defined downhill track through coppiced beech woodland eventually arriving at a 'T' junction with a small lake on the right. Turn right following the often muddy pathway through the gateway onto some open ground. Continue uphill meeting a trail, here bear left and proceed downhill to a galvanised gateway and onto an un-paved roadway. Again following the signs proceed uphill ignoring, at the top of the climb, the first gateway on the right but entering Hindhead Common at the second gateway.*
6. *Proceed up the rough track (The Greensand Way). Look out for grazing Exmoor ponies. Towards the top of the incline and to the right, there are excellent views to the East with the South Downs clearly visible and, on a good day, Gatwick Airport can be seen!*
7. *The trail is well marked eventually leaving Hindhead Common via a galvanised gate emerging on to the paved road of your outward journey; cross this and what was the old A3 retracing your steps back to the Punchbowl Car Park.*

After this challenging exertion why not treat yourself to some well earned refreshment at the Punchbowl cafe!

The Black Down & Hindhead Supporters of the National Trust would like to thank Philip Currie for compiling these guides

