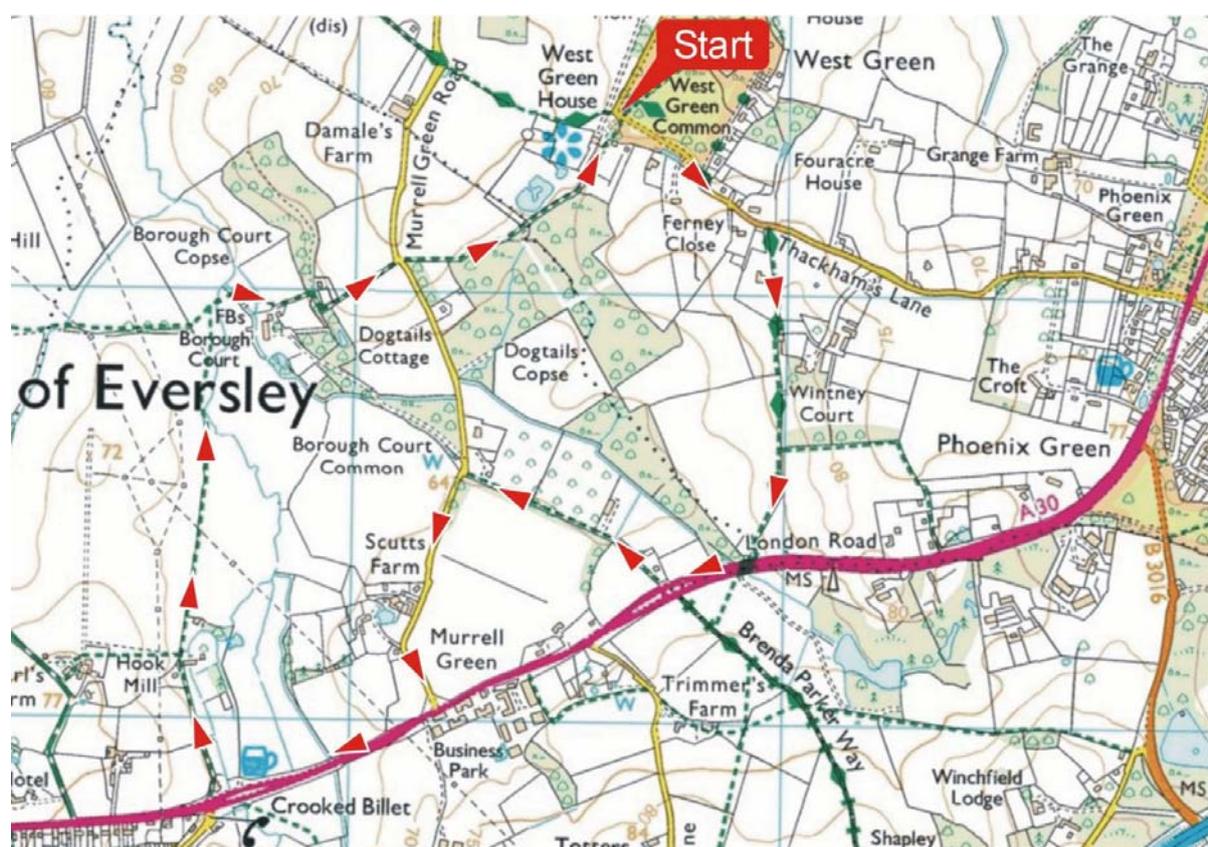


## West Green, Murrell Green and the Whitewater Valley Walk

Approx. 3½ – 4 miles

1½ – 2 hours

Start the walk near West Green House, and walk along Thackham's Lane towards Phoenix Green. Look for the entrance to "Hunter's Hill" on the right. Just to the left of the drive is a narrow public footpath which runs alongside the house. This path can be overgrown at times. (If so, please inform HW Parish Council Tel. 01252 845152) Once past the house the path takes you along the ridge of a small valley, passing Wintney Court to the left and leading down to the busy A30. Once in open country look out for deer. On your left you will also pass a World War 2 pillbox. On reaching the A30, turn right towards Murrell Green, turning right again on the public footpath just past the first house you come to. Go immediately left over a stile then right after the house to get back onto the track. There is no right of way through the garden of the house. This path will take you past some paddocks and stables to the right and another pillbox to the left into an old orchard (beautiful in Spring when the trees are in blossom). The path leads out alongside Park Lodge onto the Borough Court Road.



Turn left towards the A30 once more, passing yet another ivy-clad pillbox on the left. Turn right on the A30 towards Hook until you arrive at the Crooked Billet public house. If it's time for a break, enjoy some refreshment. If the weather is fine there is a garden alongside the River Whitewater complete with ducks and watercress growing in the clear water. Immediately to the left of the Crooked Billet you will see the public footpath which for a while runs along the tarmac drive leading to the old water mill, now converted into a private

house. Do not go right into the mill house grounds. The footpath runs through a very narrow gap between a cottage on the left and the mill house gardens. At the end of this path keep to the left hand side of the open field ahead.

You are now in the Whitewater Valley. The path will lead you towards the river. Where the path meets the river go through the gate (it can be very muddy here if there has been much rain) and walk alongside the stream. You will see Borough Court and its gardens and paddocks to the right. Pass the house and turn right before the gate, cross the wooden bridge which has a hop-over at either end then over the stile opposite to the left into a tiny paddock. Proceed up through a series of gates to the side of the house along a wide farm track between fields. At the top, skirt the horse manege and go straight ahead along the track to Borough Court Road.

Immediately opposite you will see the footpath which will lead you down round the back of West Green House via a bluebell wood to your starting point.

### **Editor's Note**

Stout footwear is needed for this walk. The ground is very rough in places and some paths can be wet and muddy. Long trousers and sleeves are recommended for the Hunters Hill stretch in high summer. A most enjoyable walk, though, and The Crooked Billet a perfect spot for refreshment. *This walk could also be started from The Crooked Billet or the nearby lay-by.*

The walk was devised by David Dye in 1993 for the Hartley Wintney Preservation Society and first published in the Autumn edition of The Hartley Row Journal, the Society's magazine. We are very grateful to David Tunnell of the U3A walking group for his help in checking the route and bringing it up to date (May 2016).