

Odiham, Hook and Greywell walk, Alton Walking Festival 12 May 2020

Start the walk at the Basingstoke Canal Car Park at the end of Colt Hill, off London Road in Odiham: RG29 1DH, grid reference SU747516. Walk towards the canal and turn right onto the towpath (heading west).

At the second overbridge turn right onto a track leading up to Lodge Farm. This goes over the A287 on a footbridge and through a small industrial estate. Go past the farm buildings and continue across a field into a small area of woodland adjacent to the M3 motorway. Follow the path to the right until after a short distance it leads across a footbridge over the motorway, reached by a long circular ramp. Continue across heath land, and then along a more formal path. Immediately after going under the railway line, turn left onto a path and continue along a residential road called Wild Herons, reaching Griffin Way South (B3349) where you turn right and cross the road, then take the first left into Quince Tree Way and first right into Wheeler Hill. There is a footpath on the left a short way along Wheeler Hill. Take this and continue more or less straight ahead until you get to a roundabout in the centre of Hook where the A30 (London Road) meets Station Road. Along this stretch you pass through urban green space, past Hook Infant School, some housing areas such as Band Hall Place, and cross Church View.

Follow the A30 westwards (it has a good pavement) for nearly 1 mile until just after it crosses the railway line. There is a minor road on the right (Morris Street) that leads to another fairly minor road called Old School Hill. Cross this and slightly to the right (almost opposite) is a path that leads eventually past the side of the Basingstoke Country Hotel. Emerging back onto the A30. Cross the road and take Heather Row Lane that is slightly to your right. Continue past Heather Rabbit Nursery and across the M3 motorway. Immediately after crossing the M3, take a path on your left through fairly dense woodland. After about 400 yards you get to a bit of a clearing and turn right onto a wider track. Beware this section can be a bit muddy. Continue through pleasant woodland in a southerly direction, reaching meadows in Greywell Hill Park. Turn left here and follow tracks through woodland to reach Hook Road, just north of the Fox and Goose in Greywell village. (Sorry it is hard to describe this section in words so please follow the map). This is an excellent pub if it has reopened following the Corona Virus emergency. Turn right towards the Fox and Goose. Immediately before the pub (if not stopping there!) turn left into Deptford Lane. Almost immediately there is a footpath on the left that leads up to the portal at the east end of Greywell Tunnel, now the end of navigation on the Basingstoke Canal. You then take a long walk along the canal towpath back to your starting point. Be sure to stop to view the remains of King John's Castle, the ruins of a 13th Century Hunting Lodge. This stretch gives you a chance to relax and enjoy tranquil countryside.